

Park [life]

NOVEMBER
2018



Joint Prayer Meetings

Following the success of our first joint prayer meeting, we will be hosting a monthly time of prayer on Fridays at 7pm with the Portuguese congregation.

All are invited and encouraged to attend. The next one is **Friday 9th November**.

Welcome to Park!

If you're joining us on a Sunday then you'll probably notice the service is a bit more informal that you might expect; so please participate in as little or as much as you feel comfortable with.

Both our English and Portuguese services involve a mixture of singing, prayers, Bible-centred teaching and sharing. As part of our worship we also include an offering which sustains the work of the church and the organisations we support.

Junior Church sessions are open to all children and are held downstairs in the Hall. All volunteers are DBS checked and will accompany the children downstairs at the appropriate time in the service and bring them back upstairs afterwards.

Please also join us following the service for free tea, coffee & biscuits in the hall as we spend time getting to know each other more.

Just
pray

1. Pray for our Church AGM on 14th November, especially for the election of new trustees, including a new Church Secretary.

2. Pray for peace across the world as we commemorate the centenary of World War One. Pray for the gift of diplomacy and wisdom for world leaders.

3. Pray for The Living Room community following the death of Andy, one of our regular visitors. Pray for the Council to recognise the extent of rough sleeping in the town and to act upon it.



Coming up on Sundays...

November

Sunday 4th	Rev. Peter Timothy	Season of Giving 4: Giving Your Money
Sunday 4th	Rev. Graeme Ross	Joint Baptist Churches Service (6.30PM)
Sunday 11th	Rev. Beth Powney	Remembrance Day Centenary (9:30AM)
Sunday 18th	Peter Lyle	Matthew 8:18-23 The Cost of Discipleship
Sunday 25th	Rev. Peter Timothy	1 Samuel 8:1-18 <i>inc. Communion</i>

December

Sunday 2nd	Rev. Peter Timothy	Advent 1
Sunday 2nd	Rev. Peter Timothy	"Blue Christmas" Service (4.30PM)
Sunday 9th	Rev. Derrick Hill	Advent 2
Sunday 16th	Rev. Peter Timothy	Advent 3 Family Service <i>inc. Communion</i>

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY - Follows morning service on 16th

Sunday 23rd	Rev. Peter Timothy	Advent 4
Sunday 23rd	Rev. Peter Timothy	Carols by Candlelight (4.30PM)
Tuesday 25th	Rev. Peter Timothy	Christmas Day Family Service (10AM)
Sunday 30th	Rev. Peter Timothy	Testimony Service

CONTACT US

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Remembrance 100

As the nation stops to remember 100 years since the end of World War One, Peter reflects on the nature of remembrance and peace...



My childhood memories of Armistice Day involve images of Chelsea pensioners slowly walking in their bright red uniforms to place a wreath at the Cenotaph in London.

These veterans of World War One held an almost mythical aura in my mind; living relics of history. Through watching their annual march and observing their silence, I felt somehow connected to their lives and their traumatic and heroic experiences.

As the years went by these soldiers gradually decreased until none were left. Now it is the WWII veterans who are held in that same venerable esteem. As a minister I consider it a great privilege to have pastored several of these humble and unassuming heroes in their final years.

This month we commemorate 100 years since the end of the Great War, and it is right that we honour those who fought for our country, and the many who gave their lives in the process - including 28 young men from Park.

We may disagree with some of the justifications behind war, but that should not prevent us from recognising bravery, duty and sacrifice. One of the most popular ways of doing this is by wearing a poppy.

The poppy has become such a powerful symbol of national pride, but in recent years this pride has been tinged by a minority

who aggressively demand universal allegiance to it, or else be labelled 'unpatriotic' or 'disrespectful'.

Needless to say this misunderstands what the poppy represents. Freedom of choice is something many gave their lives to preserve and that continues through whether we choose to wear a poppy every November.

I have chosen to wear both a red and a white poppy - the latter a symbol of peace worn since 1933. I do so to remember and honour the dead, but also to lament the tragic loss of life through war and to recommit myself to being an advocate for peace in my life and my community.

As a Christian I believe the words of Isaiah describing Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", but yet peace seems so elusive in our world, despite our prayers and petitions to God. I wonder whether our predecessors also struggled with this as they lined up in muddy trenches, freezing ships and hovered overhead through cloudy skies?

Ultimately I am reminded of Jesus' words in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." The resurrection makes this possible and as those who serve Christ, we are part of his plan to bring peace to our world. So may we be peacemakers who remember the past but also bring hope for the future.



Coming Up at Park...

Dinner & Games Evening!

Friday 23rd November, 6.30pm

Our next social event will be a family-friendly dinner and games evening at the church. A two-course meal of jacket potatoes and slow cooker food followed by cakes will be served and there will be a mixture of team and table games for all ages.

This is a **free event** so please take the opportunity to invite CAP clients, friends and those who might enjoy a fun Friday night. A sign-up sheet will be on the Information Table at church from 11th November. Please speak to Nick Symeou for more details.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 11th November, 9:30am

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and to recognise this we are working with St Nicholas' Church and GY Borough Council to support the service at the war memorial in St. George's Park.

Our own service will take place at the earlier time of 9.30am. Those who are able will then go to the park to observe the act of remembrance. We will then be inviting the civic party back to church for refreshments.

We would like to offer homemade cakes for the event, so please speak to Judith Gilbertson if you are able to help in this way or would like to volunteer.

Joint Prayer Meeting

Friday 9th November

Our next joint prayer meeting with the Portuguese congregation is Friday 9th November at 7pm. We will meet upstairs in the church and all are welcome as we pray for the life and future of the church and our community.

Soul Sisters

Monday 12th November, 7pm

The next 'Soul Sisters' event will take place at church and will involve making plans for creating CAP Christmas hampers and gifts for this year's 'Get in the Picture' event.

Soul Sisters is open to women of all ages. Please see Denise Jackson for more details.

The Living Room

We will once again be hosting the winter night shelter on Sunday evenings from Sunday 25th November to the end of March.

We are looking for new volunteers to help with the shifts and would like volunteers to prepare a hot meal and dessert for the visitors (around 12 people) each week. If you are interested please sign up using the sheet on the Information Table.

What's a "Blue Christmas" Service?

Last year we held a short service to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. Sometimes called a "blue" service in recognition of the difficult emotions that can surface especially at this time of year (and thanks to Elvis!) We meet for a short reflection and prayers and there is an opportunity to light a candle and to write the name of the person you are remembering on a simple tree decoration that you can then take home. There is time to be silent and reflect, and those who attended last year gave positive feedback on the experience.