

A note from the new Chaplain of St George's

We had hoped that arriving in Iper at Armistice would be both memorable and eventful. In the end, with lockdowns in both the UK and Belgium, it was memorable for the wrong reasons and there were none of the usual well-attended public events. A sole bugler played the Last Post at the Menin Gate and four brave bell ringers rang at St George's. Earlier on Armistice Day I was privileged to help lead a streamed service from Talbot House in Poperinge with an act of Remembrance and the lighting of the ToCh lamp. If you missed them and are interested you should be able to find them online.

Necessarily contact with the congregation of St George's has been limited to email, telephone and Zoom - which at least helps put faces to the names. Still we are grateful for the welcomes that we have had and for the help and assistance that has come our way (you know who you are!) to help us settle in. Even the necessary admin like getting a Residency Card and a Bank account is proving to take much longer than usual. As in the UK there is uncertainty about whether the lockdown will be ended in December and any Christmas Services will be possible.

The new house - a large town house 200 metres up the street from the Church, is getting sorted slowly as boxes are unpacked and we find places for all the stuff we couldn't throw away before the move! It's a nice house, with room for visitors - but getting used to town noise after rural Sedbergh might take a little time.

Thanks to all who wished us well as we arrived in Ieper. We look forward to getting to know you when we can and discovering together how St George's can be a place of remembrance but also of healing reconciliation and peace. Please pray for us, as we shall for you.

Padre Andrew and Lorraine McMullon

A Prayer of Approach

We come to you,
people who are hungry, people who are thirsty,
strangers, imprisoned, exposed,
knowing that you have come to us, too, in these same guises.
In our brokenness, welcome us.
And open up our defences as we come to you,
O Lord of many guises. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

For the times when we are sick: **may we have healing.**
For the times when we are isolated: **may we have company.**
For the times when we are oppressed: **may we have justice.**
For the times when we are exposed: **may we have dignity.**
For the times when we are mistreated: **may we have humanity.**
For the times when we are ignored: **may we be heard.**

For the times when we ignore, or isolate,
or oppress, or expose or mistreat: **may we change. Amen.**

A Personal Prayer

Lord, sometimes I am tired,
or I'm preoccupied with other demands.
Help me take time, help me make time, for kindness,
so that rush can take its lower place,
and kindness can rise up.
Because you had much to do -
but made time anyway. **Amen.**

If you have any notices you would like included in this weekly sheet, please email the Chaplain at YpresPadre@outlook.com

or Tel: +32 (0)493 306920 - Rev'd Andrew McMullon

During the present lockdown, there are no Sunday services and St George's Church remains closed.

You are invited to join with the video worship for Ghent - ask the St George's Chaplain if you want to be included in the email information for this service.

Prayers of the Day

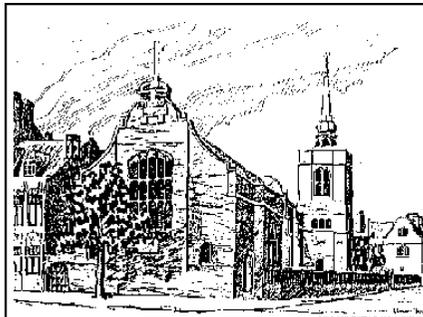
God our Father,
help us to hear the call
of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. **Amen.**

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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a copy of this onto others
or send by email.*

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St George's Memorial Church Ieper

NOVEMBER 22nd

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

Ezekiel 34.11-24; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46

Copy and paste readings into the online Oremus Bible here:

<https://bible.oremus.org/>

The Shepherd King

Once again the gospel from St Matthew brings a note of judgement often seen as out of favour in today's church. Yet it is a message we all need to hear and heed. Note that the separation of sheep and goats isn't merely about inherent morality - people who manage to remain 'good' in character and lifestyle, but rather also about how people have responded to the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the needy with compassion and acts of kindness. Note too that the King whose Glory we celebrate on this 'Christ the King Sunday' is not some authoritarian monarch merely wielding absolute power - but a Shepherd King, rescuing and gathering his scattered sheep:

*'seeking the lost, bringing back
the strayed, binding up the injured,
and strengthening the weak'.*

Our King sets us the example
of service and compassion
that we are called to follow.



'Sharing God's Peace for all Nations through the Gospel.'