

Service for Week 27th Oct - 2nd Nov

2025 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, today we remember all your saints. From the words of the old hymn.

For all the saints who from their labours rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed. Thy name O Jesus be forever blessed.

Alleluia!

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
Yet we are one in Thee,
For all are Thine.*

Alleluia!

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,.....

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 6:27-31

Jesus said "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Reflection

It was Halloween on Friday 31st but do you know what Saturday 1st November was? –it was All Hallows Day –. All

Hallows is old English for those who are 'Holy or sanctified' and it is called now- All Saints Day.

Also, at this time our Hindu friends celebrate Diwali which is a festival that celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. But for us, after the ghouls and ghosts and nonsense of Halloween –it is good to remember that those that have died do not come back to haunt us but are made Holy and are at peace with God.

In the Anglican church, we have many Saints. Saints which we had prior to the Reformation which are now remembered on particular days of the year and in our church names such as St Nichollas, St John's and St Christopher. The Roman Catholic church has many Saints remembered on particular days of the year and still make some special people Saints today. The most recent was when the new Pope Leo XIV declared Carlo Acutis, a teenager, the Catholic Church's first Millennial- Saint Acutis. Born in 1991 in London and raised in Milan, he grew up immersed in computers, and taught himself to build websites. Instead of using this gift to chase fame or fortune he created a multilingual website cataloguing miracles — an online project that remains a comprehensive resource. He died of Lukemia at the age of 15.



The Methodist Church doesn't really have particular 'Saints'. They remember the apostles in some of their church names and they do respect and remember all those who have lived the Christian life.

Remembered particularly are those who have brought about change in the world through living out their Christian faith, and especially those who have died because of their faith in Jesus Christ. The apostle's creed that we often say together mentions the 'communion of saints' and sometimes in Holy communion services we say the words 'Therefore with saints and angels and with all the choirs of heaven, we join in the song of eternal praise.'

But if we go back to the bible the original meaning of saints was – Christians living out their faith through their lives. The apostle Paul writing to the early church in Rome started his letter with the words– To all who are loved by God and called to be saints. By the word 'saints' he was referring to all Christians who are 'set apart' by God and made holy through the Holy Spirit. Saints were believers who lived a Christian life and through their faith, helped and cared for others. They also passed on to others Jesus's teachings and how God wants us to live.

There may have been people like that in your lives in the past and perhaps still are, who have helped and guided

you through life. Just as there may have been people who have influenced and guided us on our Christian journey then I would suggest that all of us whatever our situation or health –we really do have the ability to change other people's lives through how we are, how we interact with each other and what we do as people.

Whoever we come into contact with in our lives – family, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, friends, visitors, carers and staff– we can influence people's lives through how we are- by our care and interest in them, by our attitude and most importantly by offering them our own spiritual comfort and guidance for the next leg of their journey. Because we are all a part of this communion – 'this fellowship' of saints- which is the spiritual fellowship existing among all Christians, both living and dead. Doing as Jesus asks us to - To love our enemies, helping one another and treating others as we would like them to treat us.

In that way we can all try to be like 'Saints' in God's eyes.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, encourage me through all who have gone before me, so that I, in turn, may encourage those who travel after me, along the way of Christ.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.