



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 65

Sunday 30th May 2021

Hope and Remembrance

Although Covid-19 may still be with us long into the future, but managed with annual vaccinations in the same way as flu, we hope our country will move towards the end of Covid restrictions and as we return to what used to be considered 'normal' lives the time will come to remember the lives this virus took.

Hope and remembrance have always been a part of the life of a Christian. In Psalm 62:5 it is written 'Find rest my soul in God alone; My hope comes from Him', and in Romans 12:12 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer'.

As we join around the Lord's table we do so in Remembrance. On the night Jesus was betrayed He broke bread and said, 'This is my body which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of me', and He took the cup and said, 'This is the new covenant in my blood, do this in remembrance of me'. We remember His sacrifice and death until He returns.

We give thanks for many people's skill, dedication, and care during this pandemic, for the scientists whose skills have produced vaccines, for doctors, nurses and others who have cared for those who have suffered and died from Covid-19. They should be remembered in our prayers as the country moves forward.

Those of us who have been fortunate not to have experienced the illness at first hand, or death of family or friends from it, should be grateful to God, and remember those who have.

In the seventeenth century one of the major causes of death in the country was smallpox. The Maplesden Monument in St Michael's Church at Bishops Stortford remembers the deaths of the whole family who died from smallpox including six children aged 5 to 20 years in 1684 and a seventh in 1685. It also records that the youngest daughter died in 1686 at the age of 4.

Today the **Remember Me** online book of remembrance has been set up for all those who have died in the UK as a result of Covid-19, where the names of people who have died can be submitted. Photographs and entries written by their loved ones can be viewed by all. St Paul's is also fundraising for a national memorial to be built at the cathedral. It will form a new entrance with a portico engraved with the words 'Remember Me' and provide space for contemplation in memory of those of all faiths, or none.

The Dean of St Paul's has written on the website of the book of remembrance 'Every person is valued

and worthy of remembrance.’ ‘In the pages of this book we can record and remember those who have touched our lives. We can share our sorrow, and also our thanks for all that those we loved brought to our lives and the lives of others. As a community we can in this way express our compassion and support for those who suffer loss, and remember the sorrows and sacrifices of others’, and the Bishop of London has written ‘May those who have died be embraced into new life by the God who is no stranger to suffering. May we too find healing and strength in that Love.’

Our hope, healing, and strength can be found in God’s love. Jesus knows the names, and values each person, who has suffered, continues to suffer, or died during this pandemic.

There are two sides of the coin of remembrance – Remembering, and Not Forgetting.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster has written this prayer on the website ‘Lord we commend to your love and mercy those who have died. Their names have been placed lovingly in this Book of Remembrance, that they never be forgotten but held always in our prayers.’

Memories can be short, and we can easily forget. In time most of us may forget the lockdown restrictions as the busyness of life once again takes over. But as communion services are regularly held in churches throughout the nation to remember Jesus death it is fitting that a national memorial should be erected in God’s house at St Paul’s Cathedral to remember those whose lives were taken by Covid-19.

They must not be forgotten!

Peter

The online book of remembrance can be seen at www.rememberme2020.uk.

In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear;
And safe in such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?

Green pastures are before me,
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where the dark clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
My path to life is free,
My Saviour has my treasure,
And He will walk with me.



Recordings of Services
are available on the web:



www.facebook.com/lutonbaptist/



www.kimptonchurch.co.uk

