

'We Will Remember Them'

You will hear this sentence, this salutation, many times this November. I am certain that you will say it yourself, most likely on the 11th or 12th. But I wonder if you know where it comes from or who wrote it.

The four words are a single line in a seven stanza poem entitled 'For the Fallen' written surprisingly when the WW1 was only a few weeks old. It first appeared in 'The Times' towards the end of September 1914. It was not written by a soldier who had experienced war at the front, as many war poems were, but by Laurence Binyon, a 45 year old academic working at the British Museum. Binyon composed the poem whilst walking in Cornwall having heard the news of the fighting at Mons.

Having read the poem many times it is the three stanzas, 1, 3 and 4 that I remember best, they capture the very essence of the work and I quote:

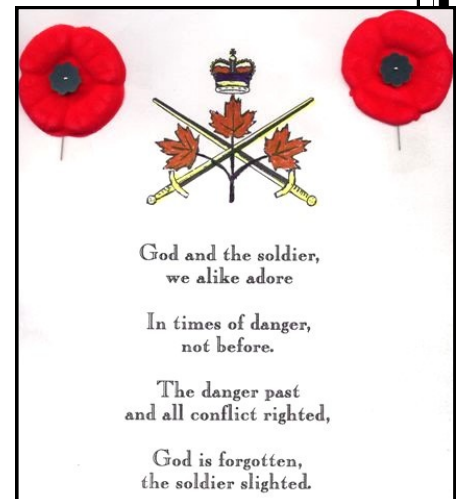
*With proud thanks giving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and the morning,
We will remember them.*

The last quoted stanza is easy to remember as all words are monosyllables and have a very simple rhythm. Say them aloud and see what I mean.

Binyon was too old to serve in the ranks but did volunteer for work as a medical orderly with the French medical services witnessing the worst of Verdun. After the war he continued to work at the British Museum. On retirement he was appointed professor of poetry and literature at Harvard and then Athens. He is honoured with the other war poets in Westminster Abbey.



Brian

Well Done:

Florence has achieved a Blue Peter badge for her reading. She wrote to the programme to explain how much she had enjoyed reading the BFG and they sent her a Blue Peter Book Badge designed by Sir Quentin Blake.

She also sent a drawing which she sketched and completed in watercolour.

She has also applied for the music badge as she has shared how much she is enjoying learning to play the piano.

Watch this space!

Blue Peter Update:

Earlier this week there arrived the long awaited Music award. This badge, designed by Ed Sheeran, followed Florence's letter explaining her love of music.

She is learning to play the piano and had to submit a report from her music teacher.

She is also a member of Songbirds. A collection of school choirs who perform at the Victoria Hall twice a year.

Well done Florence!

Judith

Family Service:

I don't usually pick out particular services because I enjoy them all in different ways, but I feel I have to congratulate Julia and Claire on Sunday's service. It was the first time that they had ever taken the whole service indoors on their own. Kath was having a day of Rest and Recuperation and so they were left to their own devices and what a great service it was! (Kath, you have taught them well!) As usual for a family service, Dave was at the keyboard, never a dull moment when he's in charge of music, and Grace was doing her thing on the computer keyboard (for once the computer behaved itself)

Julia opened the service, Florence, Wilf and Fred carried the cross, candle and Bible to the altar and I had "happy birthday" sang to me. Claire and Wilf performed a little comic drama about the theme of the service - "Hypocrisy" That definitely raised a few laughs especially Claire swigging booze behind Wilf's back.

Claire presented the talk during which we had a brief visit from Keith and friend, the interruption Claire handled perfectly and continued with her talk undaunted, and very interesting it was too.

Judith and Florence read the prayers beautifully and Flossie and I took the collection. She's perfectly capable of doing it on her own, but I like doing it with her.

Julia summed everything up and we joined Kath and Peter on refreshments (I'd bought cakes for my birthday)

All in all a really good family service closed off with a rousing chorus of "You shall go out with joy" which we definitely did!!!!



CHRISTMAS IN BAGNALL

BAGNALL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2023

FROM 12PM
THE VILLAGE HALL, BAGNALL

Community Christmas Fayre

Saturday 2nd December at 12noon.

We need your help (as usual!)

There will be a **hamper**—the list will be in the tower along with the box to put your donations in.

Brian and Val are collecting bottles (We won a bottle of gin last year) All shapes, sizes and contents for the **bottle tombola**.

There will be a **cake and preserve** stall, so get baking and jamming.

Refreshments will be available so we need small cakes or large cakes to cut.

Grace is collecting filled **jam jars** so put your thinking caps on. Jars are available at church.

This is our big fund raising event so please help as much as you can.

Prayer Corner:

Grant peace, O Lord, across our
strife torn world,
where war divides and greed and
dogma drive.
Help us to learn the lessons from
the past,
that all are human and all pay the
price.
All life is dear and should be treated
so;
Joined, not divided, is the way to go.

This is the first verse to a hymn
written in 2009 in aid of a memorial
to Service personnel from Neath Port
Talbot who have died in the course
of duty.

Written by Charles Henrywood.

Muriel



November Services:

- ★ 19th—Holy Communion—Rev Barry
- ★ 26th Morning Prayer KH/MF/Terry Bagguley

December Services:

- ★ 3rd- Family Christingle service—Kath and team
- ★ 10th—Carol service at 4pm
- ★ 17th—Holy communion—Rev Barry
- ★ 24th—Outdoor carol service
- ★ 24th—Midnight Communion—Rev Barry



Dates for your Diary.....

Community Christmas Fayre—
Saturday 2nd December at 12 noon.

Santa at the Stafford Arms
Saturday 9th December
St Chad's to sing carols

Leek Food Bank:

Now is the time to buy those extra little treats for the children for Christmas. Spread a little cheer with such things as selection boxes, chocolate oranges etc.

Smiles:

Dear Vicar:

I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8,

My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something.

Robert, Age 11,

My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold.

Annette. Age 9,

I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.

Loreen. Age 9.

My father says I should learn the Ten Commandments. But I don't think I want to because we have enough rules already in my house. Joshua. Age 10,

I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. Ralph, Age 11,

Please say a prayer for our football team. We need God's help or a new goalkeeper. Thank you. Alexander. Age 10,