

THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

ALDSWORTH ❖ GREAT & LITTLE BARRINGTON ❖ SHERBORNE ❖ WINDRUSH
Church of England – Diocese of Gloucester

ADVENT 2023

NOVEMBER

SUN 5 **SHERBORNE** *ST. MARY* 11 AM

4 BEFORE ADVENT MORNING PRAYER CW

SUN 12 **ALDSWORTH** *Meet at the village* 10.30 AM

REMEMBRANCE **WINDRUSH** *War Memorial* 10.50 AM



GREAT BARRINGTON 10.50 AM

SHERBORNE 3 PM

SUN 19 **ALDSWORTH** *ST. BARTHOLOMEW* 11 AM

2 BEFORE ADVENT BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION CW

SUN 26 **WINDRUSH** *ST. PETER* 11 AM

CHRIST THE KING MORNING PRAYER CW

DECEMBER

SUN 3 **SHERBORNE** *ST. MARY* 6 PM

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER BCP



VICTORY IN DEFEAT

For most of my life the annual acts of Remembrance have been a time of looking back, particularly to the World Wars and the other conflicts of the twentieth century. This year, in our thoughts and prayers, we will also be looking around; for in Europe and the Middle East, war is once again destroying lives and storing up hurt and hatred for generations to come, in a way and to an extent not seen since World War Two.

Visiting battlefields sites, which many people do, can be boring for youngsters and mawkish for the elderly. But this is not always so. This helps explain why the most visited British battlefield cemetery is not near the site of a great victory for our armed forces but is the site of a terrible defeat. For it is also the only British cemetery in Europe where the local people have exceeded the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in their care of the cemetery and in the extent of the annual tribute to the cost in lives that is marked by it. That cemetery is in Oosterbeek, near Arnhem in Holland.

When 'Operation Market Garden' was conceived by the Allies in WW2 it was to be the beginning of the liberation of the people of that country. Hastily put into action in September 1944 (too hastily, it was realised with hindsight) the greatest parachute invasion of all time was to prove a terrible disaster for the British, American, and Polish airborne troops. The Battle for Arnhem proved to be, in a phrase that was later used by Cornelius Ryan, 'A Bridge Too Far'.

There followed the challenge of the coldest recorded winter in European history to that time, made worse as the occupying forces began a 'scorched earth' policy, resulting in thousands of people starving to death. Prisoners of war, returning from the Far East in 1945, were astonished to see that residents of Holland, who had been spared Japanese cruelty, were actually in worse shape than them.

My late father-in-law, Schelte Flaming, was a teenager in the Dutch resistance movement during that time. His efforts in food smuggling alone would have signed his death warrant, had he been caught. He spoke of the gratitude with which the news of the Allied invasion was received and of the renewed hope that it gave.

It was with a great sense of privilege and some family pride that I was able to take a small part in the 60th Anniversary Commemorations, in which military and civilian veterans, and Charles, then Prince of Wales, took part. I was there with some schoolchildren from East Anglia who were to be among those laying flowers in the Service of Thanksgiving in the cemetery.

The Chaplain of the Parachute Regiment said that what had been called 'A Bridge Too Far', in recognition of the great defeat had, through the mutual respect and affection which had grown there over the years, become a victory for love. As some of the few remaining witnesses to the original events bowed their heads, we all prayed that it would, through that victory, become 'A Bridge To The Future'.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Dr Gerard G Moate

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FOR OUR PRAYERS

*A Prayer to be offered
in Times of War and Tumult*

O Almighty God, King of all kings,
and Governor of all things,
whose power no creature is able to resist,
to whom it belongs justly to punish sinners,
and to be merciful to them that truly repent:
Save and deliver us, we humbly beseech thee,
from the hands of our enemies; abate their
pride, assuage their malice, and confound their
devices; that we, being armed with thy defence,
may be preserved evermore from all perils,
to glorify thee, who art the only giver of all victory;
through the merits of thy only Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1662

WILLIAM TREMAINE (1927-2023)

Will lived and farmed in Sherborne
almost all of his life. Remarkably, he
was also a Churchwarden for more than 60
years. The funeral and thanksgiving for his
life will take place in the parish church on
Friday 10 November, at **12 noon**.
We remember his family in our prayers.

FOOD BANK

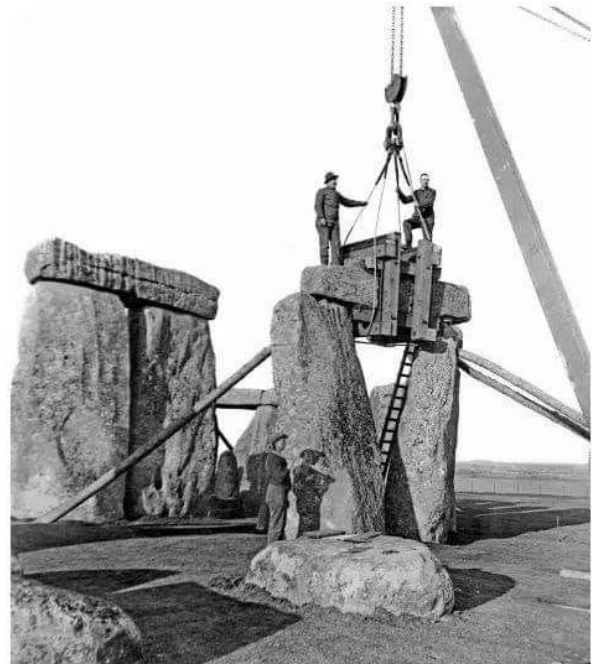
**CARTERTON
COMMUNITY
FOOD
BANK**

Please continue to
support the
initiative taken by
Little Barrington
church, in support of
the Carterton Food
Bank, and bring

teabags, instant coffee, long-life milk and
dairy alternatives, pasta and sauces, rice,
breakfast cereal, soup, tinned fruit and
vegetables, toiletries and baby food.

LAST WORD

Busy night at Stonehenge as they
move the stones back one hour...



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