

From the Vicar - November 2025

Thank you to those who sent cards or best wishes during my recent absence; and to those who prayed. It's great to be back.

I thought, this month, I'd just draw your attention to a few things happening in All Saints' Church and around the parish, during November.

Sunday 30th November 10.00am All Saints' Church – Benefice Communion and Farewell to Bishop Humphrey and Emma Southern

All parishioners are invited to join us for our Benefice Communion Service, as we bid farewell to Bishop Humphrey and Emma, shortly before Humphrey's retirement as Principal of the College. We haven't yet agreed the exact details, but there will be a presentation and, I hope, an opportunity to chat to Humphrey and Emma over prosecco and nibbles, or coffee and cake, after the service.

I was training at the College when Humphrey arrived as Principal in April 2015, and it is a great privilege, as Vicar of Cuddesdon, to be here as we bid farewell to Humphrey and Emma over ten years later. I am aware that both Humphrey and Emma have contributed much to village life over the past ten years, and I'm sure many of you will want to join me and our congregations in saying thank you and farewell to Humphrey and Emma. They shall be hugely missed, particularly by me.

Arriving as your Vicar in January 2020, just a few weeks before the first covid lockdown, I faced a number of challenges as I navigated the difficult step-up from an Assistant Curate to a Vicar, and Humphrey's support, encouragement and wise counsel has been invaluable to me over the past five years. Thank you, Humphrey. I am sure many of you will have your own stories of ways in which Humphrey and Emma have helped you, and have contributed to village life and events.

Sunday 9th November – Remembrance Sunday – Bishop Gavin visiting

On Remembrance Sunday, Bishop Gavin Collins (Bishop of Dorchester) will be leading our Parish Communion Service in All Saints' at 9.30am; and our Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial on Cuddesdon Green, commencing at around 10.50am. All are welcome to join us for both services.

Story-time Church – 3.00pm in The Forest Church area at the College

On the same day (9th November), a little before 3.00pm, we will gather in the Forest Church area (between the main College car park and the allotments) for Story-time Church. This is informal worship for all ages, where we gather around a campfire to share stories and conversation, drink hot chocolate, toast marshmallows and enjoy cakes or biscuits. Please do join us. (Wrap up warmly!)

Contemplative Prayer (Julian Group) – every Wednesday at 5.00pm

All are welcome to join us in church, a little before 5.00pm, for 30 minutes of silence / contemplative prayer each Wednesday. This is followed at 6.00pm by a short (30 minutes) Communion Service, using the Book of Common Prayer. Again, all are welcome.

Best wishes

Tom (the Vicar)