



Toy Collection

Once again throughout November we will have the opportunity to support Ruby's Fund with our Toy Collection.

The Fund (as it was first known) was set up in 2008 by Ruby's Mum (Alison). Ruby was born in 2007 with a rare and incurable condition that affects her development and health.

Alison realised that there was a lack of appropriate support services locally for families of children with special educational needs and disabilities and following a huge community fundraising campaign, Ruby's received registered charity status.

The sensory play centre and community café are based in Congleton, but the support service runs throughout the whole of Cheshire East.

In October 2021, Alison decided that she wanted to offer support to all families, not just those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Ruby's volunteer-led Family Support Service began.

This service is commissioned by Cheshire East Council and volunteers are trained to provide much needed

low-level help to families who are struggling with a variety of needs, for instance:

A telephone Befriender might make a wellbeing check-in call once a week to a mum who is alone and socially isolated; a Family Support Mentor might make a home visit for a couple for hours each week to support a new mum who is anxious, or a Group Support Volunteer might welcome families, brew up or help do craft activities with the children/parents.

If you have a little bit of time to spare to support a family, we'd love to hear from you; please get in touch through volunteer@rubysfund.co.uk

All our Christmas toys will be allocated to Ruby's supported families who are struggling financially.

Please Buy

Toys and gifts for children 0 -13 years.

Craft equipment is such as **paper pads, books, pens/pencils and fact books** are always good for older children and **puzzles/ games/toys** for the younger ones.

It is easier for the Ruby volunteers if we do **NOT** wrap our gifts.

We will welcome Ruby's fund representatives to our **Toy Service** at **10am** on **Sunday December 4th**



St Cross Newsletter November 2022

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The Vicar writes...

Last time I wrote my editorial I stated that a month is a short time. I think I can repeat that message with all the political turmoil and uncertainty that exists presently. Whilst matters have been somewhat exacerbated here in the United Kingdom, this turmoil extends well beyond our own shores, with many countries feeling the effects of pain caused by the war in Ukraine. It seems that, when we look at human history, conflict has always been around. November is a time when we remember the fallen and those who gave their lives for our freedom, and we renew our resolve to work for peace. We cannot have a huge influence like the movers and shakers of this world, but we can bring peace into our daily lives simply by how we live as Christians.

November is also a time when we depart from the season of 'Ordinary Time', and begin with that theme of 'remembering', probably at a more personal level than Remembrance, because we remember on All Souls' Day our loved ones departed. Immediately preceding that, the Church celebrates the lives of men and women through whom we have seen the grace of God powerfully at work. I refer to All Saints' Day. Finally, the Church year concludes with the feast of Christ the King, this year on November 20th. The year that begins with the hope of the coming Messiah ends with the proclamation and remembering of his universal sovereignty over all creation.

At a personal level, remembering for me this year will be particularly sensitive, as I know it will be for some of you. But in this remembering, I am reminded too, that our efforts to make the world a better place may yield their fruit much further down the line. During the height of the Covid pandemic my late father took to planting many things in the garden, including eighteen raspberry canes. Some of these were 'summer fruiterers' whilst some are still bearing fruit now. To a large degree he never got to see or taste the fruits of his labour - he just saw the beginnings - but he was convinced we would get to enjoy a bumper harvest.

In a sense, that is how we must approach our Christian faith. So often we plant the seeds and nurture them, but ultimately God gives the growth. St Paul writes about this in 1 Corinthians Ch. 3. It is a task of growing and building in which we are invited to participate as God's servants working together, but it is a task that must be approached in prayerfulness and with patience.

Prayer: Loving Lord, may I not become weary in doing good, knowing that at the proper time your harvest will be reaped. May I abide in your love and bear fruit for you, fruit that shall last. Amen. (based on Galatians 6.9 and John 15.5,16)

Yours, in Christ
Paul



Autumn-fruiting raspberries in the vicarage garden.

Occasional Offices	
Baptisms 2 October	James Myers
Funeral 4 October	Joyce Rayner



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays		
	Morning Services	Evening Service
2 November Wednesday All Souls	Romans 5.5-11 John 5.19-25	
Sunday 6 November 3rd Sunday before Advent	Job 19.23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-end Luke 20.27-38	Psalm 40 <i>or</i> Romans 8.31-end Matthew 22.15-22
9 November Wednesday	Psalm 23 Titus 3.1-7 Luke 17.11-19	
Sunday 13 November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Malachi 4.1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13 Luke 21.5-19	
16 November Wednesday Margaret, Queen of Scotland	Proverbs 31.10-12,20,26-end 1Corinthians 12.13-13,3 Matthew 13.44-46	
Sunday 20 November CHRIST the KING	Jeremiah 23.1-6 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43	
23 November Wednesday Clement	Proverbs 15.1-4 Philippians 3.17-43 Luke 14.7-11	
Sunday 27 November ADVENT SUNDAY	Isaiah 2.1-5 Romans 13.11-end Matthew 24.36-44	
30 November Andrew, Apostle	Isaiah 52.7-10 Romans 10.12-18 Matthew 4.18-22	

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