

November 2025

2025 has seen the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2, with VE Day commemorated on May 8th and VJ Day on August 15th. Throughout the country there have been military parades and flypasts, memorial services and street parties, all designed to honour those who fought for freedom. November is, of course, the month when we come together in our villages to remember those who gave their lives in both World Wars and when the rolls of honour are read it is hard to imagine the level of loss from just these small communities.

These brave people who we remember paid the ultimate sacrifice and they died because they believed a particular set of values was worth fighting for. They fought against tyranny and the treating of certain groups of people as inferior to others - the antithesis of the love which Jesus urges is the root value from which all else flows.

A few weeks ago, you might remember there was a protest 'Unite the Kingdom' rally held in London. People attended with mixed motivations which among others included calls to reclaim the Christian heritage of the nation which they demonstrated by carrying crosses and banners with images of Jesus and the words "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life". But the wielding of crosses in that context felt far removed from the sacrificial love that the Christian cross represents; symbols are powerful things and should be used with care. The Christian cross is a sign of inclusivity rather than exclusivity, of love rather than hate, of peace rather than war, and this should be the true representation of our nation's values, demonstrated by those who we will remember later this month.

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."

God bless

Revd Sue

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