

NOVEMBER WORSHIP UPDATE

The long run of Sundays after Trinity comes to an end before All Saints' Sunday, and there is a slight "change of gear" in November – this period is sometimes called the "Kingdom Season" though officially the Sundays are called "before Advent;" many churches use Red rather than Green hangings to flag up the change.

All Saints Day, our "All Souls" Memorial Service for those who have died, remind us in different ways that no Christian is solitary, but we belong to another in Christ, members of a company of saints who belong together, even though divided by death. Remembrance Sunday a week later expands that notion of belonging to "those who have died for their country in war, and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind" (to quote the Remembrance Service). The season ends with the Feast of Christ the King on the Sunday before Advent (older folk still call it "Stir-up Sunday" from the Collect).

On a more practical level, the working group on our orders of service is part-way through its task: we have agreed a standard format of an 8-page A5 booklet for Holy Communion, and have got to the stage of producing drafts of the Quiet Communion service for the whole of the church year. It looks as though we shall end up with six of these, compared with eight at present (though there may be occasional "one-offs", for seasons of:

- ❖ Preparing (Advent; Lent)
- ❖ Celebrating (Christmas and Epiphany; Easter to Pentecost)
- ❖ Growing and Learning (Ordinary Time, Saints' Days, etc)

We are now getting to work on the Celebration Communion, which means looking at the parts we sing – we will probably end up with around three "sets" of music over the year (fewer than now), a mix of "traditional-style" settings and metrical versions. We also want to encourage adults and young people to suggest hymns and worship songs (they need not be in our present hymnbook, though that is easiest) – we need to decide on a system, and won't be promising a particular hymn for a particular day; watch this space for details.

PS an evening event is in planning for Advent Sunday – news later.