

Sent to Missional Partnership Church Secretaries

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all keeping well.

Please find attached my reflection for Sunday - hope it is helpful.

We were talking about Hope in our coffee morning today and already I've used the word three times! It is the light in our darkness, helping us to see our way through our difficulties.

So keep hoping, keep praying, keep keeping in touch with one another and supporting one another and we will work our way through this together to a brighter future - hopefully!

Holding all the churches, members, elders, communities of our Missional Partnership in prayer always.

Keep safe

Ruth

### **Reflection for Sunday 18 October**

Honouring our past

On this day (15<sup>th</sup> October) in 1987, Michael Fish told us not to worry as there was no hurricane on its way – as winds swept through the country and Sevenoaks in Kent became One oak!

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October a church that my Grandad (as minister) was involved in opening, celebrated 50 years of being in the community. As part of their celebration service, the letter my Grandad had written, celebrating the coming together of different churches in the area, was quoted. Later his quote of a well loved hymn was used – “We praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that’s to come”.

It is important to remember our past, (mainly so that we don’t repeat it), but often we remember the bits where others got it wrong; or the bits we like to remember and “gloss over” the bits that make us uncomfortable.

At the time of writing, I’m currently helping to organise an event for Remembrance. In the past, schools in the Salford area have gathered with members of the public and the Mayor at the War Memorial in Peel Green Crematorium to be part of an Act of Remembrance. Last year 17 schools took part and there were just shy of 300 people gathered at the Memorial.

This year (as with everything else) will be different. Instead we are encouraging schools to produce a poem or piece of artwork to be placed around the War Memorial and are hoping to record a service which can be shown in schools on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, so they still feel part of that Act of Remembrance, even though they cannot be there in person.

We should still remember.

Whether we stand on our doorsteps at 11am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November for a 2 minute silence. Whether we put a poppy in our window to remember those who have served in our armed forces, or whatever we do, we remember.

We remember, as we give thanks for all that has gone by. For the sacrifices, the struggles, the failures and the successes that have brought us to where we are today. And we trust in God for all that is to come – for God is with us always, to the end of the age.

Keep safe

RevRuth