

Remembering is Human

There is something deep within us that protects and guards our memories. Sometimes we have “selective memory” in other words we only remember what we want.

Yet we carry memories of people places and symbols and we have them buried deep with in our subconscious. - If the truth be told I think we all have that ability to be selective in our memory.

Sometimes it helps us to live with forgetfulness in order to live with ourselves. Sometimes the memories are so strong we can't forget.

Story of the Prisoner

Many years ago I remember visiting in a prison. A prisoner asked to speak with me. He told me a horrific story of how he had murdered his wife when she found out that he was having an affair. He was full of guilt and remorse. He was also angry that he had murdered his wife. He returned to the home of his mistress and murdered her too. He blamed her for having an affair with him.

He knew what he had done was wrong and now he was trying to find a way in which he could live with himself. Yet he knew forgiveness was not in his gift to give. He remembered but he couldn't forget or forgive. I sometimes think of that man and the nightmare with which he lives.

Memory helps us connect with the past and the future

Yet memory is at the heart of almost all we do. When we lose our memory or loved ones lose their memory so much of who we are is lost. It is then that we depend on the memory of others. Bearing witness to one another and sharing memories helps us keep truth alive.

Remembering People

However this week we're going to be thinking about people who we choose to remember because they have made an impact or an impression on our lives for the good.

Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to remember those who gave their lives in two great wars and others since, who have lived through the horror of bereavement and suffering due to current day conflicts.

Think about people change our lives for the good.

We all have people who have shaped us and influenced us.

God is not distant

Christianity has at its heart a belief that every man and woman has the opportunity to encounter the presence of God.

Society looking for relationships that last

You know we live in a society in which people are desperate to meet and be befriended by the right people. Facebook is one social media site. Then there is linked in. Linked in is all about developing your network getting to know the right people.

I believe there is something more to life than getting to know the right people.

I believe the God who made us and created the world wants us to get to know him. Duns Scotus the famous Scottish theologian once wrote that we can only know God because he has willed us to know him.

Augustine once said that there is a God shaped blank in everyone's life.

Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in God.

Search for God is like a lost memory - Lost chord.

As we think about memory I believe that for many of us this search for God is like searching for a homeland or a piece of music we once knew, but somehow we've lost the tune or forgotten the way back home.

As we go in search of the music we encounter many other tunes.
Some people settle for another tune however others keep on searching.

So many people identify with Bono's song. "I still haven't found what I'm looking for."

I believe what many people are looking for today is a purpose and a meaning for their lives.

The writer of Ecclesiastes in the section of the scripture we read today. Reflects the fact that we live in a changing world. Nothing stays the same. There is only a time and a season for this and that then it moves on.

Then he asks what is the point of it all.

Jesus Christ gives us a purpose

Jesus said I have come that you might have life and live that is more abundant. You see what I want to say is Christians are invited to share with others the abundant life that knowing Jesus Christ brings to a man or a woman.

Knowing the Right person makes the difference

Knowing someone can truly change your life. I once met a man who told me that the best thing he ever did was to meet his wife. He told me she turned my life around.

She helped me believe in myself
She made me less selfish
She taught me how to cook
She introduced me to a whole new way of thinking

I've met students who tell me that their lives changed after sitting under a professor for a term. They tell me things like "he opened up a whole new vista for me". He helped me see things in a new light".

I think we would all agree that meeting the right people at the right time can have a profound effect on our lives for the good.

Can I introduce you to Jesus Christ - He knows you!

I wonder if you would let me introduce Jesus Christ. Many of you have heard of Jesus. You know a little about his teaching. But what makes Jesus unique is that he knows you. He understands all about you and he wants to give your life the meaning and purpose it should have.

Jesus is a real person

Jesus Christ is not a flat man in a stain glassed window. here is the incredible claim. He is God come among us.

He comes to help us engage with memories of the past in an honest way
He comes to bring healing into our lives
He comes to show us another and better way to live

Listen to some of the things Jesus said about himself.

I am the light of the world

I am the bread of life

I am the true Vine

I am the good shepherd

I am the door

I am the way

I am the truth

I am the life

There is something quite amazing about Jesus Christ he truly has something to say to a person who is lost and lonely and empty and he has something to say to someone who is bouncing full of life.

The most incredible thing that Jesus said was I am the resurrection and the life. Then he went on to prove it.

I wonder if you might stop and take a second look at Jesus. He truly is worth getting to know.

The thing is many of you are only a click away. Its like linked in. You may not know Jesus but there are people all around who do and if you want you could ask them if they'd introduce to him.

How do they do that - perhaps by telling you their story of faith.

It's the season to Remember