

Rudgwick

Magazine



November 2023

no. 335



From the Vicar

Tel: 822127

Email: vicar@rudgwickchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends

When was the last time you were moved by something? It may have been your team winning (or losing), perhaps a moment of celebration with family and friends or something else.

One Friday evening in September I was in Belgium and attended the last post ceremony at the Menin Gate. What had began as a spontaneous act of gratitude by the Belgian people soon became a nightly ritual. In July 1928, a year after the completion of the monument, the Last Post Association began. With the exception of the Second World War (when it continued at Brookwood military Cemetery in Surrey) the last post has been sounded daily at 8pm, followed by 2 minutes silence.

Whilst the silence is always profound, what moved me was a piece beautifully sung at the ceremony by the Meibion Goronwy Male Voice Choir, who had travelled all the way from the village of Benllech on Anglesey to sing. The piece was *Tell my father*, from the American musical *The Civil War* and opens with the lines “Tell my father that his son didn't run or surrender, that I bore his name with pride” and goes on “Tell my father, when you can, I died a man”. Once again it brought home to me that the sacrifice made by so many was also an individual tragedy for each family, and I struggled to hold back the tears.

At 10.50am on Remembrance Sunday we gather for our annual act of remembering those from our village who gave their lives in the two World Wars and stop for 2 minutes at 11am – I hope you will be able to join me.

Every blessing

Martin King

PS. if you want to listen to the piece, just Google ‘tell my father male voice choir’.