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Letter from the Vicarage - November 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I know that this month (November) is often thought of as a time for remembering (and it is), however, the act of remembrance is also an act of reflection, and the time of silence becomes the safe place in which to manage our feelings and encourage our prayer.

The most well-known of these times is of course the 11th when we recall those who bravely gave their lives for us, on this day we have the opportunity to reflect on the atrocities of war and conflict and how we might become a peaceful world. There is more this year though isn't there? The pandemic, a war against an invisible enemy, and we reflect on those who have lost their lives, family, friends, frontline medical staff, nurses, doctors the list goes on. Reflection also leads us to another place a place where light will always shine a place of thankfulness, and a time to remember those who continue to fight for right, to protect our lives, this nation, the world, and its future. Not just the armed services, the scientists that have produced the vaccine that will save lives if we let it, the ecologists, fighting to save this planet, the gift of God to all of us. Our shopkeepers, pharmacists, friends, and

neighbours. This year as you remember reflect, how can we all help, what can we do to change, to encourage peace, to heal the damage we have done to this planet, and to thank God that we have the people that have the gifts and talents to lead us in all that we need to do.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 tells us that there is a season for everything, let this be the season of love and kindness, peace, change and above all Hope.

See you all soon I hope.

Every Blessing,

Revd. Betsy

A Trip down Memory Lane

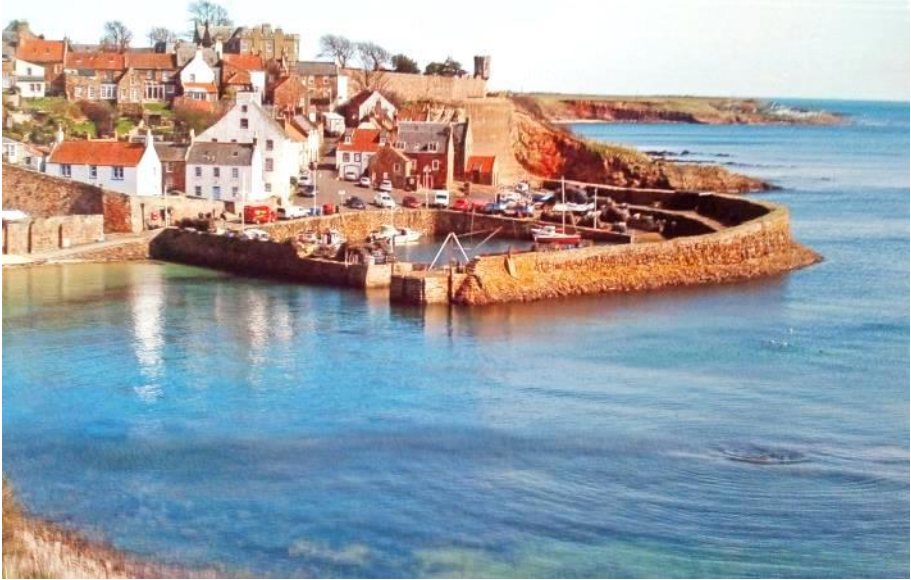
A young man called Percy Neville was serving in the Royal Navy during World War II. A fellow sailor introduced Percy to his sister Patricia and before too long they were married. I was born on the 2nd January 1942 and as my father was stationed up in Fife at HMS Jackdaw we travelled up from the village of Waldron in East Sussex on the 'Flying Scotsman' to Edinburgh, the final leg of our journey taking us to Crail.

Crail is a very attractive village right on the North Sea and we lived close to the harbour in a room within a small cottage, we shared the kitchen with the other residents. My Father travelled to the base each day by lorry which picked up other serviceman on the way.

The reason for my father being stationed at HMS Jackdaw was because he was serving on the battleship HMS Royal Oak at Scapa Flow. When the ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat, many lives were lost but my father was one of the fortunate ones. A book, 'Black Saturday', recalls the incident on October 14th 1939 and lists all the crew members including my father present at the time of the sinking. After the disaster he was sent to serve on a land base and would never go to sea again.

My Uncle who had instigated the meeting between my mother and father was lost at sea whilst serving on HMS Glow Worm as it rammed the Admiral Hipper which ended in tragedy for all on board.

Later we returned to Sussex after Dad was demobbed at the end of the war.



Crail Harbour

In 2015 my eldest Son and I decided to visit Crail travelling by road and staying in a bed and breakfast for three days while we travelled around the area. It was a wonderful experience visiting the harbour, the cottage we lived in, Anstruther, St. Andrews and especially walking around the desolate naval buildings of HMS Jackdaw which still held remnants from the past. It was such a wonderful experience for the both of us.

The photos shown are of Crail and in it you can see where we lived. The head bands are my Father's, HMS Ganges it was where he started as a boy of fourteen, HMS Effingham was the ship where my Uncle and Father met.



Royal Navy Head Bands

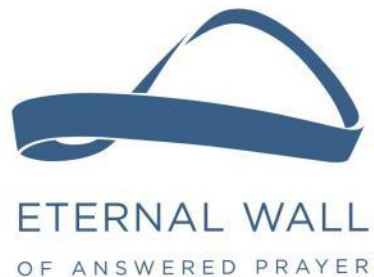
Reg Neville

Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer

At work I sometimes listen to Premier Praise Radio, a Christian based radio station in the UK. A fantastic station with some amazing stories about people's testimonies with Jesus, some beautiful prayers to God throughout the day and some fantastic music from all walks of Christian life. While listening one day there was an item on the show about a new Christian landmark that is going to be built by 2023 in the heart of the UK. The landmark is called Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer and will be a structure 51.5 meters high in 10 acres of beautiful, landscaped gardens. Sitting in between two major motorways (M6 and M42), near the flight path of one major airport (Birmingham), and next to the new HS2 railway link. It is estimated that over 500,000 people will pass the landmark every day and it will have over 200,000 visitors every year. 15 years ago, God gave a man called Richard Gamble a vision to build this incredible structure. God had planned for all this to happen and watching the videos on the webpage www.eternalwall.org.uk you will get to know how this amazing story unfolded. Once opened there will be an exhibition centre explaining what Christians believe about Jesus, and this will be done using the national RE curriculum. There will also be a bookshop, a café, an education centre, and a 24/7 prayer room. The structure itself will be built in the shape of an infinity loop called a Mobius. A shape like a ribbon twisted in half, having no beginning or end nor inside or out.

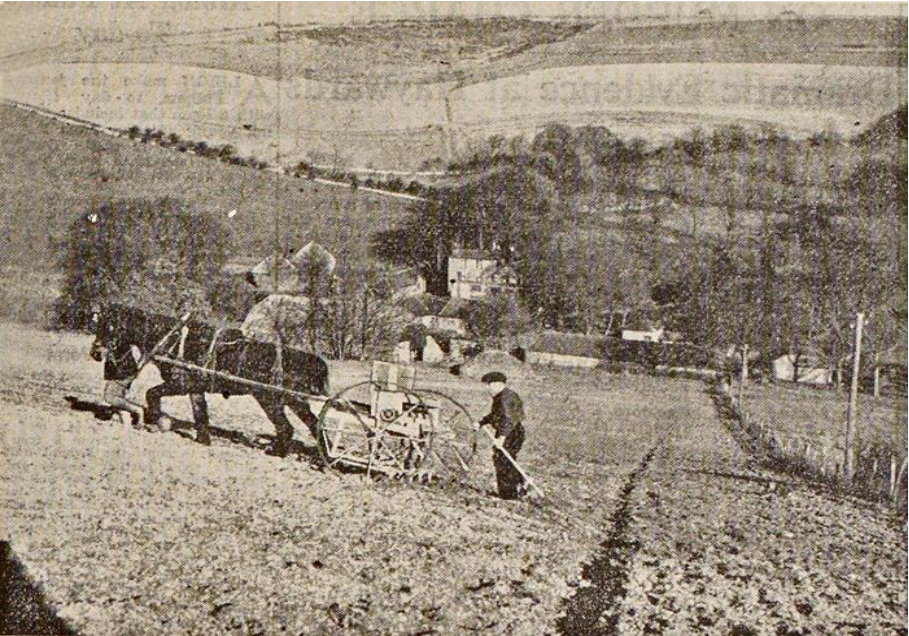
This is to represent how God is always listening and always answering prayers. The mission is for the Eternal Wall to make hope visible to the nation by having one million stories of hope housed in the landmark. The webpage gives you all the information about the Christian landmark, so please visit and tell others all about it.

Marc Boase



The Bevendean Estate during World War 2

A register was taken on 29 September 1939 of everyone living in Upper and Lower Bevendean. The information was used to produce identity cards, and once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.



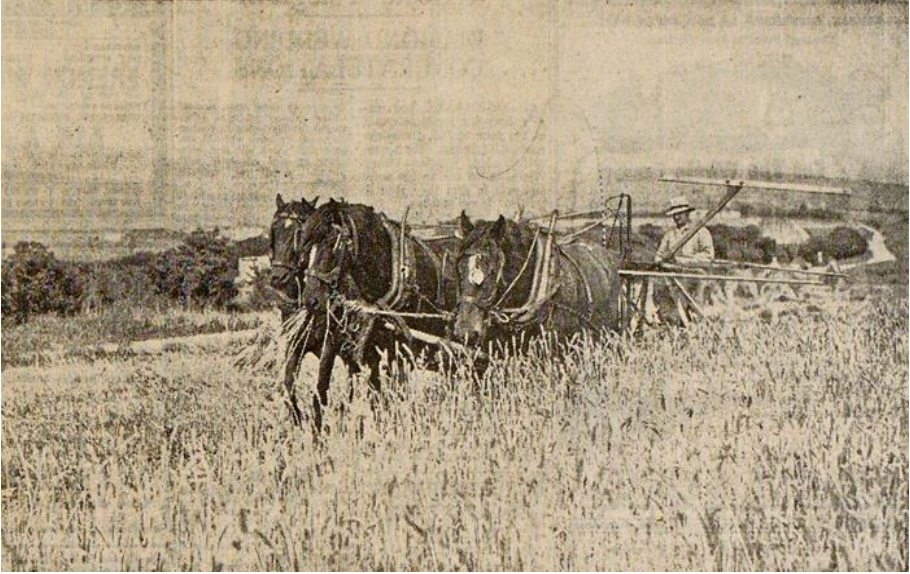
Sowing seeds at Lower Bevendean Farm in November 1939.

© Brighton & Hove Herald 2 December 1939

The men living in Bevendean were farm workers and in general they were not conscripted into the services as providing food was seen as an essential activity.

The farm house is just visible among the trees in the centre. Norman Allcorn who was born at Bevendean Farm in 1932 commented that the stack-yard to the west of the farm-yard can be seen in the background. Juggs Lane to Lewes is visible as it climbs the Downs out of the valley

on the left of the picture. Hogtrough Bottom can be seen in the middle distance.



Harvesting corn at Bevendean in August 1940.

© Brighton & Hove Herald 31 August 1940

Three horses were needed to pull the corn binder, which cut the corn and bundled it into sheaves which were stood up to dry in the field before being carted away to store in corn ricks. Norman Allcorn, who was born at Bevendean Farm in 1932, thinks that it is possible that the man driving the horses pulling the binder is his grandfather Frank John Allcorn as he usually wore that type of hat.



Stooks of Corn Sheaves

Later a mobile threshing machine would come to the farm so that the kernels of corn could be extracted and put into sacks. The straw was then put back into ricks to be used as bedding for animals while in barns during the winter.

The War Agricultural Committee were not happy that Mr Allcorn continued to use horses to work the machinery and would not have a tractor, so he was evicted and moved to another farm in Sussex where he continued to work with horses.

The 1939 registration records contains no records for either Heath Hill Farm or Cambridgeshire Farm (Hill Cottage as it was also known), although they were in existence into the 1950s. It lists people as living at Lower Bevendean Farm, Upper Bevendean Farm and Brownloaf Farms.

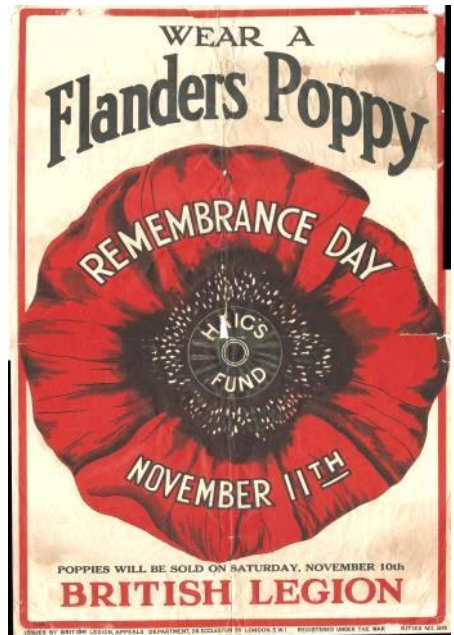
John Phillips

Paper Poppies for Remembrance

The Remembrance Day symbolism of the poppy started with a poem *In Flanders Fields* written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae a World War I brigade surgeon who was struck by the sight of the red flowers growing on a ravaged battlefield.

One hundred years ago, in 1921, paper poppies were first sold to raise money for returned soldiers of the First World War. After the war many veterans struggled to find homes, employment and financial security, so associations were formed to support them and campaign for their rights.

When some ex-servicemen's groups combined to form the British Legion, with Field Marshal Earl Haig as its president, veterans' associations started to become more widely popular and part of the



A British Legion Poster c1923

establishment. As part of this process, the British Legion introduced the idea of selling paper poppies as a fundraising campaign to alleviate the material distress of the veterans.

In its first year, the Legion sold 9 million poppies, entrenching the deeply felt symbolism attached to the poppy since the 1915 publication of the poem *In Flanders Fields*. Throughout the 1920s, most British people chose to wear poppies every 11 November.

Commemorative events were scaled back during the Second World War, and poppy-wearing remained limited until the 1990s when the British Legion campaigned successfully to reintroduce the two-minute silence. Since then, poppy-wearing has become widespread not just on Armistice Day but in the weeks leading up to 11 November. It is now unimaginable for a public figure or a BBC journalist to appear without wearing a poppy in early November.

Wearing the poppy to remember people who have died in the service of their country is still relevant especially this year when so many people in the medical profession have given their lives helping to alleviate the suffering due to the Covid pandemic.

“In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we
throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.

St Mary Magdalen Church Dates for November and December

Day	Date	Time	Service
Sunday	21 Nov	9.30	Christ the King
Sunday	28 Nov	9.30	Advent Sunday
Friday	03 Dec	18.00	Christmas Fair
Sunday	05 Dec	9.30	Advent 2
Sunday	12 Dec	9.30	Advent 3 - Christingle Service
Sunday	12 Dec	12.30	Lunch for Childrens Society
Friday	17 Dec	15.30	Nativity Walk & Childrens Party
Sunday	19 Dec	9.30	Advent 4
Sunday	19 Dec	16.30	Carol Service
Friday	24 Dec	18.30	Crib Service
Friday	24 Dec	23.30	Midnight Mass
Saturday	25 Dec	10.00	Christmas Day
Saturday	25 Dec	14.00	Christmas Lunch
Sunday	26 Dec	9.30	St Stephens Day

The Brighton War Memorial

The war memorial in Old Steyne was unveiled by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty, G.C.B., O.M. on Saturday, 7th October 1922 with the Mayor of Brighton Alderman B. J. Pankhurst, J.P. presiding.

The WWI memorial was to remember the 2,597 Brighton servicemen and three women who died during the conflict.

The memorial has the motto "In Deo Fidemus" inscribed on it which means "We trust in God".

It was designed in the form of a Roman water garden by the Brighton born architect Sir John Simpson and made by Jeremy Tilley a local stone mason.

Images of WWI battles are carved into the stone panel facing the memorial's pool and, on the inside of the temple space on the north side, is a stone altar table.

The names of the dead are inscribed on two bronze pillars. The water represents both Royal and Merchant Navy and the surrounding memorial gardens, the Army and RAF.

At the unveiling ceremony, official wreaths were laid and more personal floral tributes were laid by local people, which completely covered the memorial.

The design for the memorial was agreed at a Meeting in the Royal Pavilion, at which the Mayor Councillor Bertram N. Southall presided on the 7th October, 1921.

The Town Council allocated the North Garden of the Old Steine as the site for the memorial. The architect designed a quasi-colonnade of square piers, carrying an entablature of architrave and frieze without cornice.

At the centre is a small domed Shrine facing northward, containing an altar table on which are inscribed an adaptation of Henley's lines:

"We cheered you forth, noble and kind and brave; Under your Country's triumphing flag you fell; It floats, true hearts, over each quiet grave, Brave and noble and kind, Hail and Farewell."

The colonnade is placed at the north end of a formal lily pond; and being thus in full south light, the architectural lines are reflected in the water mirror.

The south centre is filled with a carved panel, bearing the Battle-honours of those whose memory is immortalised by the Memorial. Above it, in a cartouche, are the Arms of the Borough, surmounted by a mural crown, and around the south architrave of the colonnade run the words of the great passage from Ecclesiasticus (Ch. xli. v. 16).

"A good life hath its number of days;
But a good name shall continue for ever."

The Shrine on the north side is approached by steps; the first of these bears the words: "For Prayer and Meditation" and its entablature carries a cartouche (surmounted by the Brighton dolphins), and contains the motto from the town arms: "In Deo fidemus".

Over the Altar is the dedicatory inscription:

“To the Men and Women of Brighton who served in the Great War this Memorial was erected - MCMXXII.”



Brighton War Memorial in the Old Steyne looking south in 2020

The names of the Brighton men and women who fell (some 2,600 in all) so far as they could be ascertained (2,597 men and three women), are perpetuated on the engraved bronze tablets of the two pylons which flank the approach to the Shrine. Above the names is inscribed the solemn reminder:

“These died that we might live in peace.”

A service of dedication was held at St Peter’s Parish Church, Brighton, on Tuesday 11th November 1952, when a Book of Remembrance to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Second World War was unveiled. The project was commissioned by the town council and executed under the direction of Ernest Arthur Sallis Benney, principal of Brighton College of Art.

Until very recently, the Book of Remembrance was kept in a glass case in St Peter's Church. A local historian and author, Douglas d'Enno, during his research for a book on Brighton during the Second World War, was given access to the book. He proposed that The Keep would be a more suitable home for such an important manuscript and set the ball rolling for its transfer there to join the other archives of the parish. Digital images are available on computers in the Reference Room at The Keep.



The War Memorial in the Old Steyne at Brighton
viewed from the top deck of a bus in 2020

As part of the WW1 Centenary Commemorations, between 2014 and 2018, three stones have been set in the grass at the side of the memorial. They commemorate three people from Brighton and Hove who were awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry. They are Captain Theodore Wright, Second Lieutenant Ernest Beal and Major Edward 'Mick' Corringham Mannock DSO, MC.

John Phillips

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