

## All Saints' Day – Knit Together! [Revelation 7: 2-12](#), [Matthew 5: 1-12](#)

My halting efforts at knitting largely run to squares for blankets and long scarves. I envy the skill of those who can follow a pattern and create beautiful cable-knit sweaters or an entire Noah's ark of animals and people – and the ark. There is something mysterious and miraculous about the way in which the balls of wool take on a life, texture and shape which is so much more than you might first imagine. Once knit together, the only way in which you can return to the original yarn is by completely unravelling the item. It has been transformed with skill, imagination, time and often much love.



Our Collect for All Saints' Day begins: *“Almighty God, you have knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship”* God has been very busy doing some amazing knitting! All those, over different times and places, who have professed their love for Jesus Christ their Lord, are knit together in this beautiful, united and unbreakable fabric.

But God's wonderful, creative act of knitting is not over. Both through time and at the end of time, God continues to knit together “a great multitude” of people who join together in songs of praise to “our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb”.

Joining together in worship whilst here on Earth gives us a glimpse of this greater glory. It enables us to have a taste of what it means to be with all the saints, all gathered together with one purpose: to praise God. We join with that “company of heaven”.

However, we are currently bound here on earth and our calling is to go out into the world, with all its messiness, pain and suffering, and to be those saints alive wherever we go. Our foretaste of heaven is there to inspire and encourage us to follow Jesus' beatitudes; to be compassionate to others, desiring peace, mercy and justice on Earth as it is in heaven.

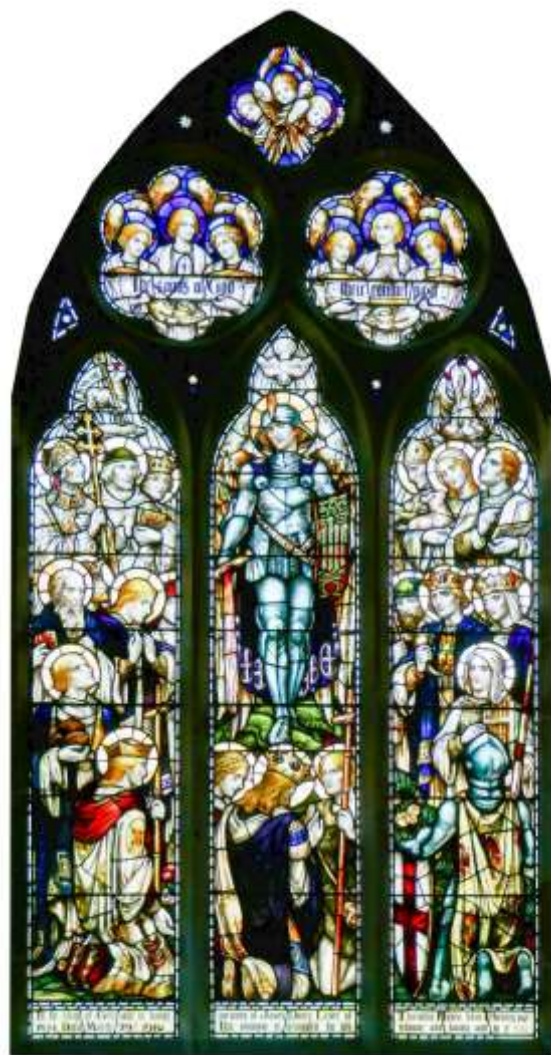
We are called not simply to desire these beatitudes or beautiful attitudes in a lukewarm, “nice to have” manner, but to “hunger and thirst” for them, to pursue

them to the extent that they upset and disrupt worldly powers. Do we get “hangry” on behalf of those who are voiceless, exploited and suffering? Do we seek and nurture mercy where others might seek revenge, or nurse a grudge?

We are not alone in our journey. All Saints’ Day reminds us that we are encouraged by saints in heaven and on this earth, and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This special day places our feet on the ground but our eyes look to heaven.

Let us continue to be part of God’s wonderful piece of knitting, knowing that he does not drop stitches and his work does not get unravelled.

**Revd Vicky Barrett**



O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.