



Hello All,

As the nights draw in and the annual “battle of the thermostat” gets underway we are now well into our Harvest Festival Season – these services are a great opportunity not only to give thanks for the Harvest but also to give thanks for all our other blessings: from our material possessions and the opportunities we have, to our family and friends and also to reflect on those far and near who are not so blessed and our impact on them and the environment.

It would be great to see you at a Harvest Festival service or at one of the Harvest Beer & Hymns sessions this year – all are very welcome.

At the end of October our thoughts will turn once again to the Season of Remembrance, with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls and Remembrance Sunday. Once again, we will be holding a Memorial Service for all those whom we love and see no longer, at St Margaret’s Long Riston on Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at 7.00pm. The names of all we have conducted funerals for in the last 12 months will be read out together with any other names you would like to be remembered at this service. If you would like a name to be read out please do get in touch. All are welcome to this service.

Last month I talked about the funeral service of John Claxton of Skirlaugh. I propose to inter John’s ashes in Skirlaugh Churchyard on Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am. Please attend if you are able. I have also received some monies towards a plaque for John, any other donations would be gratefully received.

Remembrance is so important. By remembering, not only do we honour the memory of our loved ones but we also learn and grow ourselves as human beings, by honouring and following their example and we sustain our sense of rootedness and belonging to our families and our communities. This in turn gives us a sense of identity which is not dependent on our jobs, or status, or possessions, but is dependent on our relationships. We are who we are because of who we know, not because what we have or what we do.

This is also vital to our identity as Christians: as children of the living God. We are Christians not because of what we do, or even because of what we believe, but because of who we love. As Christians, we are called to love a person, Jesus Christ, not to love an idea or a philosophy. That is why, as Christians, a relationship with Jesus is vital to who we are, wherever and however we experience a sense of His presence: in creation, in each other, in worship of Him, in the words of the Bible and/or in the bread and wine of communion.

If you would like to talk to me further about these things, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Andy Simpson