

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

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Remember the Reason

“Remember, remember, the Fifth of November
Gunpowder, Treason and Plot”

November is a month for remembering. First, Guy Fawkes Night on the 5th, which we celebrate with fireworks, bonfires and bangers.

Then on 11th we remember those who have died in wars, protecting our country from enemies.

At the end of the month we enter the season of Advent, when we remember the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.

Why do we bother with remembering these events? Do they still have any bearing on our lives in 21st century Britain? Yes, I believe they do.

Guy Fawkes, and his fellow conspirator Robert Catesby, was planning a terrorist attack – hoping to kill the king (James I) and blow up the houses of parliament. We are still threatened by terrorism and we should pray for present day plots to be similarly foiled.

Remembrance Sunday is not just an excuse for parades wearing uniforms and medals – special as these things are – but a time of solemn thanksgiving for those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Advent, is not just a season for frantic shopping and over-indulgence – this, too, should be a time of thanksgiving, as we remember the most precious gift of all – the gift of Jesus, God’s Son, who came to earth to lead us into a closer, sin-free relationship with God. One of our Christmas cards bears the words, “There would be no Christmas without Christ”. That is worth remembering.