

Great Gonerby Rectory November 2010

Dear Friends,

We Are Not Alone

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders... and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"
Hebrews Chapter 12 ,verses 1 & 2

With these words, the writer to the Hebrew Christians reminded them that they were not alone in their struggle of faith in their everyday lives. Because the many departed heroes of faith from former times were with the Hebrews in spirit, cheering them on in their struggles, like the crowd in the amphitheatre at a Roman games.

On and around All Saints Day (1st November) Christians reflect on the struggle of faith in this world, and think about the heroes of the Christian faith in past years. It is a time of encouragement, because we are inspired by the example of the saints, and also because we will realise that many of them had their faults and struggles, just as we do.

But as well as reflecting on keeping the faith in this world, this season is also about commemorating the lives of those who have departed this world (All Souls' Day - 2nd November). For the most part, God sets us in families and has made us relational people who long for friendship and companionship, and so we all have memories of relatives and friends who have departed this world. It may be a person who has had a considerable influence on our lives in the past or we have loved them very much, and we will always treasure their memory. But it equally may be someone with whom we had a difficult relationship when they were alive and we need God's healing to help us to come to terms with it.

Let us remember that we are never alone in this world. The saints cheer us on in our faith, and we are comforted by the memories of those we have loved.

And, above all, God, from whose love for us in Christ we cannot be separated, is never far away.

God Bless,

Revd. Peter.