**Towards the End of the Churches' Year**

The clocks going back a few Sundays ago was a shock; reminding us that from now on autumn, if not yet winter, is well and truly here. The summer was long this year stretching comfortably into September. During October, the Churches’ liturgy of ‘Ordinary Time’ celebrated, and reminded us of, the ministry of angels in the world, in our Christian spiritual lives and with God in Glory.

The Glory of God might well serve as a theme for this month of November. In the Churches’ liturgy we begin by honouring the Saints who have gone before us into Glory and who aid us by their prayers, alongside the angels, before the throne of God. Then we remember and pray for and with, the Holy Souls including our own loved ones who have gone from us, and whose lives are hid with Christ in God. Remembrance Sunday this year had the particular resonance of the inauguration of the centenary of World War One: and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the “War to end all wars!” So it is no accident that Remembrance Sunday was the second in which ‘Ordinary Time’ takes on the flavour of the Kingdom of God as it winds down to the end of the Churches’ year, culminating Christ the King. Our poppies commemorate those who gave their lives in the cause of a better world – the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

November 6th was the feast of saint Leonard (the ‘lion-like’) the sixth century hermit of Noblac on the Loire. He worked for the coming of God’s Kingdom on earth, so much so that his godfather *Clovis* – the early Frankish king – gave him as much land, for his monastery, as he could ride around on a donkey in one night. He is the patron saint of prisoners of war, pregnant women and household pets. In England no fewer than 177 churches are dedicated to him, and a Sussex town is named after him.