

Remember, remember, remember!

Remember, remember, is perhaps the phrase most associated with November. We begin the month with the Annual All Souls Day Service at St Andrews. Remembering those who have gone before us into that glory which Christ has prepared. Those whose lives have influenced ours for good are honoured, and faith recalled. As names are read aloud at that service we recall that lovely poetic phrase in Isaiah's book stating that the names of God's people are written 'on the palm of *his* hand'.

Being All Saints weekend too, we remember the towering heroes of the faith. Many of whom put their own lives on the line for the sake of the Kingdom of God. We remember too those who are still with us but suffer for what they hold dear. This week begins the International time of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, with events over the next couple of weeks internationally. According to Open Doors, a very respected charity working in this area, around 380 million Christians, around the world, are at risk of serious harm. Simply for being followers of Christ. Open Doors provides direct support wherever it can safely do so. It also produces a World Watch Report every year. This highlights the top fifty countries with the worst record in the way it treats those who share our faith. It launches its latest report at an open meeting held at Westminster every January. Earlier this year 105 MP's attended that event which is encouraging. Much of the work done to protect those at risk can happen at governmental level.



So our prayers and thoughts this week are a well-balanced affair. Thankfully as we remember those, who we loved, and have gone ahead of us. Those the New Testament writers describe as saints (small 's'). Celebratory for the heroic Saints (with a capital 'S'). And alongside these we humbly plead with the Almighty for the living saints. Praying that in the Holy Spirit God might stand alongside any who refuse to deny what they cherish when others threaten.

Go well!