

As the Confirmations happened on the day the last magazine was out, I include a photograph here (see magazine). It is always such a pleasure to welcome the youngsters from Merchiston Castle School, along with their Chaplain, Rev Nick Blair, families and friends as they take the next step on their journey of faith. We look forward to next year!



We have just ended a period of remembering. We remembered those we have loved and lost and all the saints at the beginning of the month, when the youngsters read out their names, as we stood in silence. The following week we remembered all those who died in World War 1 and all wars since and the sacrifices they made, fighting for our freedom.

On November 11th I participated in an Act of Remembrance at the Rifles Garden of Remembrance in Redford Barracks. The Rifles, which were only formed in 2007, had the biggest losses in Afghanistan with 55 killed and 252 wounded. It gave me goose bumps as four young soldiers read their names aloud and even younger people from the local schools put crosses in the ground after each name.

A great honour indeed to have been invited to participate and a reminder that sacrifices are still being made, so we should never forget them, whether it's one hundred years past or more recent conflicts.

As Christians we are well used to remembering. Every Sunday when we gather to worship and share the body and

blood of Christ, we remember the one person who died for us all.

But we are now about to enter the season of Advent. A time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Like Lent, Advent used to be a period of fasting but as December is a month filled with parties, dinners and celebrations, I don't think we'd have much luck with that nowadays.

Sometimes, however, there is so much going on in December, we can't escape the busy-ness around us, so I hope that through our worship or weekly and monthly meetings with R&R and Shalom, you will find time to be still with God, and that you find ways of sharing what is in your heart with those who don't know the love of God, as you do.

I wish you a blessed Advent and joyful Christmas and invite you to drop in to the Rectory on Saturday 28th December, between 3pm and 5pm for a drink to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Nicki