

CONTACT

November 2016

*We will
Remember
Them*



www.groomsporthparishchurch.org



Parish Officials

The Rector	Revd Duncan Pollock	028 9146 4476
The Rector's Warden	Barry Greenaway	028 9146 7687
The People's Warden	Zandra Sloan	028 9145 7092
R Glebe Warden	Walter Burke	028 9145 1768
P Glebe Warden	Tony Anderson	07803 282200
Treasurer	Wesley Quinn	028 9145 6472
Secretary to SV	Heather Pentland	07834 771075
Gift Aid Secretary	Ian Sloan	028 9145 7092
Youth Fellowship	Craig Lutton	07816 853373
Sunday School	Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter	07748 208649
Verger/Caretaker	Susan Moore	028 9185 7509
Organist	Stuart Tanner	028 9146 7052
Parish Office	Elaine Lester	028 9127 1311 07791 569432

Administrative enquiries please contact: Elaine 028 9127 1311 or gpcoffice@btinternet.com

Church Hall bookings please contact: David McKnight 028 9127 3130 or linden.lodge@btopenworld.com

For Hall problems, please contact: Walter (028 9145 1768) or Tony (07803 282200)

Rector's Hour

Please note that the Rector will be available in the Vestry office on Tuesdays from 6.00pm – 7.00pm, for short meetings to sign passports, driving licence documents etc., or to arrange a lengthier meeting for another time.

Rector's Recess

Whilst our Rector is always available to his congregation at all hours of every day, it is hoped that, where possible, the period between lunchtime Friday and Sunday Services may be void of contact so as to allow him family time, quiet reflection and preparation for the week ahead; emergency requirements and visits excepted.

From the Rector

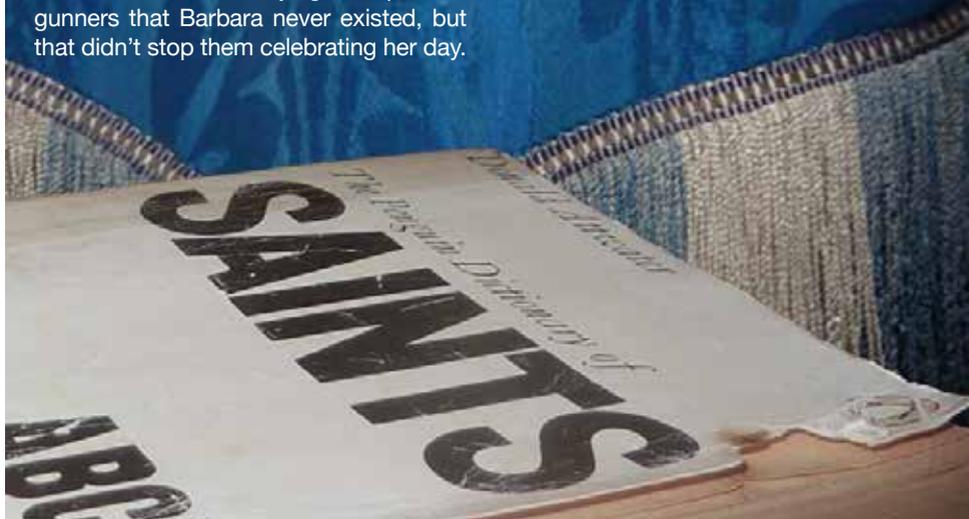
Sitting on the ledge by the Rector's chair in Church, the ledge underneath the Mothers' Union Banner, you will find a useful little book. It's well thumbed and a bit dog-eared, but I find it fascinating. It's a paperback dictionary of saints and if you look in the very back of the book, you will discover a calendar which will show you that there is a saint for almost every day of the year. Choose a date, find the saint and then read his or her story. More often than not the author reminds us that this or that particular saint never really existed and the miracles and stories associated with them are spurious. He doesn't pull his punches. Read the tale of St Barbara, for example, the patron saint of the Royal Artillery and The Royal Army Ordnance Corps, in fact the patron (patroness?) of anything to do with explosives. Her story reads like a kind of religious Rapunzel, locked as she was in a high tower. I spent fruitless hours in discussions trying to explain to gunners that Barbara never existed, but that didn't stop them celebrating her day.



Perhaps my favourite saint, is St Martin, the soldier saint. It is said that as a young officer he was confronted by a beggar and seeing the man shivering, he took his sword and cut his heavy cloak in two so that the beggar would have some relief from the cold. The beggar was Christ. Martin gave up soldiering and became a much loved evangelist, missionary and bishop. His feast day happens to be November 11, Armistice Day.

Many of the saints I have met in life have failed to live up to the "good-living", "Christian" images we might have of what a saint "should" be. But saints they have been and their sainthood has been earned in some of the most extreme and dangerous situations you or I might imagine. It's not easy to share a cigarette, a cup of tea or simply a bit of time with someone who has just tried to kill you, but that is exactly what these saints have done; and the world is a richer place for it, and God's Kingdom a little nearer.

Duncan





Church Services November

Tuesday 1 November

7.30pm	Compline for All Saints
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Wednesday 2 November

7.30pm	A service for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls). During this special service we will remember before God those we have known and loved and who now rest in His eternal peace.
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November 6 – Third Sunday before Advent

Welcome Team: Ian and Carol Walters

Reader: Colin Crozier

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Service*
2.30pm	Groomsport Village Act of Remembrance (at the Village War Memorial)
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (said)

* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Jenny Craythorne, June Walker, Helen Hall and Kathleen Cree

Note:
Mid-week services
Tuesday evenings
7.30pm Compline
Thursday mornings
11.00am Holy Communion

November 13 – Remembrance Sunday

Welcome Team: Trevor and Rosemary Smith

Reader: Dorothy-Anne Crawford

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Parish Communion with an Act of Remembrance
6.00pm	Compline

Please note the Church is open every day for private prayer and meditation.

November 20 - Sunday next before Advent

Welcome Team: Craig and Lindsay Lutton

Reader: Elaine Lester

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Service of the Word
6.00pm	Evening Prayer



November 27 - Advent Sunday

Welcome Team: Walter and Mae Burke

Reader: Stuart Tanner

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Holy Communion

December 4 - Advent 2

Welcome Team: Walter and Mae Burke

Reader: Peter Osborough

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Service for Advent *
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (said)

* Coffee after 10.30am service in Church Hall. All welcome! Hosted by Elaine Lester, Shaun & Maggie Townsley and Ian Walters.

Births, Deaths, Baptisms, Marriages & Announcements

Holy Rest

Josie Moffett

3rd October - Originally from Ballyhalbert, Josie lived on the Heatherstone Road, although her last years were spent at Oakmount. Our thoughts and prayers are with Olivia, Josie's daughter.

Olive Keenan

12th October - Because of her wheelchair, Olive had become something of a feature in our Church, and also a faithful member of the "Evergreens". We remember Gary in our prayers.

Margaret and young Peter, for whom we had been praying, both passed away in late September. Our hearts go out to their families, especially, Rachel, Peter's sister.

We pray that Margaret, Peter, Josie and Olive rest in peace and rise in glory.

Announcements

Kildare Shopping Trip

Kildare Shopping Trip Saturday 4 February 2017

This shopping trip, for both men and women, has been planned because of popular demand.

The price of the trip has been held at £20 and monies raised will go towards the Church refurbishment (directly or indirectly).

As usual, shoppers can be picked up from Newtownards, Groomsport, Sprucefield or The Outlet Banbridge. The Groomsport pick up will be at 8.00am and the bus will return around 8.00pm. We will stop, as usual, at Newbridge for lunch before making our way to Kildare Outlet. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

This is not solely a Parish event so please feel free to bring along as many friends or family members as possible. The aim is to fill the bus.

Please put your money with names and a contact telephone number (mobile if possible) and give to me asap. Also please state where you wish to board the bus. If you do not happen to see me, envelopes can be left with the Church Wardens. Any queries, please feel to contact me on 07834 771075.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Heather Pentland

Evergreens

Well October is almost gone and we look forward to November with a Quiz, Eden Pottery, Christmas Shopping and a Christmas Lunch. So if you are over 50 and are free from 2-4pm on a Thursday afternoon please come and join us. Look forward to seeing you there.

Valerie Boyd 07950360830

First aid course

Andrew Morrow, a Paramedic, has offered to run a First Aid and AED course, tailored for churches, in our Hall. The course lasts 4 hours, and would take place over 2 evenings, each session lasting 2 hours. We would hope to arrange a date in the New Year. Anyone who is interested, please give your name to the Wardens, or sign the notice in the Church Porch. We need an idea of numbers for Andrew, so he can plan accordingly.

Book Fair

Please note that the next Book Fair has been postponed until Saturday 25th February 2017. We look forward to seeing you then.

Carol Walters



It is coming up to the busiest time of year for Storehouse and it is truly amazing how much is needed in the next month or so. So as well as the usual items we regularly ask for, would you please

consider adding some treats, chocolates, sweets, biscuits, cakes, mince pies, pringles, shortbread etc etc. It would be very much appreciated as these can be added to the Christmas Hampers that are distributed in December.

We are very grateful for all your contributions.

Blessings

Helen Sloan

Extraordinary General Vestry Meeting 20 November 2016

At the General (Easter) Vestry plans were presented for the refurbishment of our lovely Church. It was promised that there would be a further meeting in November to publish the finalised plans and to give details of any grant we might receive from The Heritage Lottery Fund. This promised meeting will take place after morning worship on **Sunday 20 November**. A great deal of work has been done and the Select Vestry wants to share that with you. After the very helpful meeting at Easter, we hope you will be reassured by the revised project plans and programme. There will be a light lunch after this meeting, and we hope it will be an auspicious Parish event.

Magazine Sponsorship

Many thanks for all those who have given and continue to give to the magazine we are so very grateful.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAGAZINE IS 17TH OF EACH MONTH. THANK YOU

Many thanks

Tara Brown

Mothers Union

In October, the members heard about the awful situation with human trafficking - yes, it happens here and we cannot close our eyes to it.

In November we have two meetings. On Thursday 3rd we shall join with the other branches for the Bangor Area Service in Bangor Abbey at 7.30pm.

On Monday 21st November we have the intriguingly titled talk "Christmas in a hurry" with Deirdre Humphries.

Do come along and join this very friendly, lively and joyful group. You will be welcomed with open arms.

Elaine



Walking for Softies

The first walk of the Season started well with a walk around Bangor Castle grounds and the walled garden. It was a lovely Autumn morning and we had a good natter, with refreshments taken at the Museum's Coffee Cure. I would like to thank Walter and Mae for holding a meeting to organise the rest of the season and providing refreshments.

Our next walk will be at Botanic Gardens, Belfast, at 10.00am. If you require a lift please contact me on 02891465103.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Ken Boyd

October Vestry Notes

In the absence of Duncan, due to illness, the meeting was chaired by Barry, Rector's Warden.

Appreciation of Duncan's ministry to Groomsport Parish was expressed by the Vestry, and a unanimous decision was made that Duncan should have a week's sick leave to enable him to recover properly. The Wardens were asked to find cover until Tuesday Evening Compline of the following week.

In response to Andrew Morrow's kind offer to administer four hours of First Aid Training, it was agreed to provide it in 2x 2hour sessions. Elaine will contact leaders of organisations to see who is interested and it will also be announced through the Contact and the pew leaflet for any other interested individuals.

A reply has still not been received from Church House.

A Visitors Book is now in situ in the Church.

Leadlines have been approached about the

lighting of the stained glass window in the hall.

Wesley felt it was worth pointing out that the Smartie tube appeal is now bringing in an impressive £1,000 per year.

It is hoped that a rolling maintenance programme of the halls will soon be in place.

Walter will arrange for a noticeboard in the Vestry for display of each week's hymns and will also explore further the idea of noticeboards for outside the halls.

Thanks were expressed to John, Shaun, Maggie and the "merry band of men" for the excellent Ladies Breakfast.

It was agreed to have a Christmas appeal again this year for a local charity. A decision will be made about the charity at the next Vestry meeting and parishioners will be advised through the Contact.

There will be an Extraordinary meeting of the Vestry on Monday 24 October. The only item on the Agenda will be the church refurbishment.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Fair



The new look Christmas Fair is now only weeks away and the Committee are delighted with the response from everyone who is working hard to complete Crafts, Preserves. Cakes etc. We have planned the Fair as an event where you will be able to buy unique Christmas Gifts, new, handcrafted or individually produced. I would emphasize that there will be no bric a brac, DVD's, CD's or previously used items on sale.

The Christmas Fair Stalls are:

- Home Made Cakes,
- Jams and Chutney,
- Accessories,
- Bottle Tombola (Donations of Body Lotions/Perfumes/Candles/Oils/Shower Gels etc gratefully received)
- Christmas Crafts
- Guess the Teddy Bear's Name,
- Christmas Stall

- White and Silver Stall,
- Luxury Raffle
- Raffle for a Cake by Carol Walters (which to quote Duncan I hope to win)

Not forgetting Mulled Wine/Shortbread and Mince Pies (included in entrance fee)

Donations of items which you will not use (brand new) will be gratefully received .

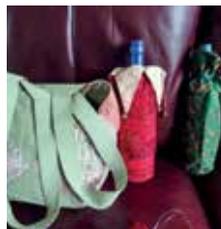
Details of where and when items can be left for the Fair will be in the Church is a few weeks time

You will see we have included Photos of a small selection Craft Items which will be on sale at the Fair.

If you have any queries please contact me.

Carol Hamilton

Tel: 02891884046 Mob: 07855810621



Events Update

QUIZ NIGHT!

What a great night was had by all on 7 October. The usual successful mix of questions, puzzles, blank faces, head scratching, smiles and craic, was all nourished by excellent light refreshments at the interval. The next Quiz will be on Friday 21 April, so don't forget to note in your new 2017 diaries.



LADIES BREAKFAST

Saturday 24 September was a memorable day for the ladies of the Parish. We were treated by the gentlemen of the Parish to a delicious breakfast! Not the smallest detail was missed. We were provided with a sumptuous breakfast, after which, Lady Herman and Carol Moore regally entertained us. On behalf of the ladies, who enjoyed a wonderful morning, a huge "Thank You" to all the hard-working and attentive gentlemen. Guys – we expect nothing less at home!!

Zandra

Here are a few comments from the ladies:

"Beautifully set tables, a scrumptious breakfast AND entertainment; A huge thank you to John Hand and his team of workers, not forgetting those behind the scene in the kitchen."

June Walker

"What a spread was put on by the gentlemen of the Church - far too much - yogurt

with berries, continental breakfast, and the favourite scrambled eggs with either bacon or smoked salmon (accompanied by Robert's tomatoes). The Ladies were delighted and hope that this will be a regular occurrence."

Valerie Boyd

"What a treat we ladies had when the gentlemen of the Parish gave us a breakfast. They had thought of every little detail, even down to the table decorations. Wonderful food and great attention from our waiters. Well done boys and thank you very much."

Kate Murray

"Good food, great atmosphere and friendship, handsome waiters.....What a way to start a day !!!!"

Freda Conway

"What a result! The ladies of the Parish really appreciate the efforts of our menfolk in providing a "luxury breakfast" of the highest possible standard, with every attention to detail. Thank you."

Heather Pentland



Hall Usage - November

Sunday		
Every Sunday	10.30am	Sunday School Contact: Maggie Townsley & Helen Carter Mob. 07748 208649
Monday		
Every Monday	7.00pm	Choir Practice Choir practice in the church every Monday evening at 7pm. We are looking for new members, so please join us and have some fun and fellowship. Everyone welcome. Contact: Stuart Tanner Tel. 028 9146 7052
1st Monday of the month	7.30pm	Select Vestry Meeting Contact: Heather Pentland Mob. 07834 771075
2nd & 4th Mondays of the month	7.30pm	Chattering Needles Chattering Needles is a craft group whose interests include knitting, crochet, cross stitch card making etc. If you want to learn come along. £2 includes supper. For more info please contact me. Jenny 07748580541
3rd Monday of the month	8.00pm	Mothers Union (Maxwell Hall) Contact: Elaine Lester Mob. 07791 569432
Tuesday		
2nd Tuesday of the month	8.00pm	Groomsport & District Gardening Club Contact: Yvonne Mcilmail Tel: 02891 469420 E. y.mcilmail@sky.com
Wednesday		
Every Wednesday	9.30am	You can with Ann Weigh in and Talk Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	10.30am	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	2.00pm	Scrabble Contact: Elaine Lester Mob. 07791 569432 E. elliewag57@yahoo.com

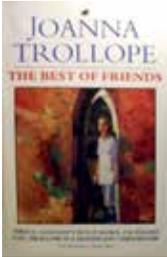
Every Wednesday	5.30pm	You can with Ann Weigh in and Talk Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	6.30pm	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	7.00pm	You can with Ann Weigh in and Talk Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
Every Wednesday	7.30pm	Bible Study (Avril Morley Room)
Every Wednesday	8.00pm	Keep Fit Exercise Class Contact: Ann Parker Mob. 07854 787121
3rd Wednesday of the month	7.30pm	Cookery Club Contact: Heather Magill E. mag16ill@hotmail.co.uk
Thursday		
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Evergreens Open to all over fifty year olds and new members always welcome. Contact: Pearl Brown Mob. 07551 992841
Every Thursday	7.30pm - Late	Chess Club Contact: James O'Fee Tel. 028 9147 0232 E. jamesofee@gmx.com
Thursdays except 1st Thursday in the month	7.30pm	Youth Fellowship Contact: Craig Lutton Mob. 07816 853373
Every Thursday	2.30pm 7.30pm	Table Tennis Club This is a game for everyone whatever your age so please join us. Contact: John Hand Tel. 028 9146 8061 Mob. 07540 375785
Saturday		
4th Saturday of the month	10.00am	Walking for Softies Venues vary. Meeting at 10.00am at chosen location. Contact: Ken Boyd Tel. 028 9146 5103

Book Stall for November

First of all I am sorry that the date of the Book Fair, advertised last month has had to be changed, once more. The good news is that the next fair will be in February – always a rather dark, dull month.

– this book has all the makings of a typical Agatha Christie not least in the difficulty of working out who did it, and how!

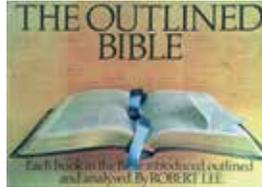
The Best of Friends



To begin with another Joanna Trollope, whose books I enjoy rather more than her earlier ones. “The Best of Friends” is full of very recognisable situations and challenges and deals with two old friends Gina and Laurence, who had been really good

friends since their teens, also they had married other people, still their friendship endured. However as life’s pressure imposed its marks on their respective marriages their friendship comes under new pressures which are less easy to handle. The story is simultaneously sad and witty, very understanding of the three generations who people the book and a very satisfying read.

The Outlined Bible



“The Outlined Bible” edited by Robert Lee is a beautifully clear presentation of the books of the Bible,

wonderful for anyone wanting to become better acquainted with the Bible. Each book occupies one page so in size it is extremely manageable whilst successfully imparting the message and style of each. Every book is treated in the same way, with the theme highlighted right at the beginning as well as the key verse or verses. In a few paragraphs we are told about the author, the main message, its value and an analysis. Beneath this is a section dealing with the chief passages which illustrate the main thrust of the book. We could all learn much from this book.

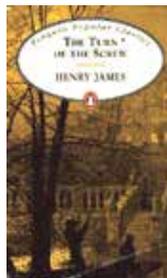
The Mysterious Affair at Styles



I make no apologies for including another Agatha Christie; although so familiar, her books, dated though they are, remain intriguing and compelling. “The Mysterious Affair at Styles” is no exception. Told from the perspective of the faithful and rather

misguided Hastings, Poirot’s old friend, it describes the situation at the house of the mother of one of Hastings school friends. Extended and strained family relationships, faithful servants, a new and mistrusted husband for the widow and a poor relative

The Turn of the Screw



Finally a real classic, The Turn of the Screw by Henry James. Those who have seen the dramatizations, either on television or in the cinema, will know how terrifying and chilling this story is but the original is a very powerful piece of writing. I will not spoil it for those who choose

to read it because I suspect that everyone who reads it will come away with a slightly different interpretation. It is only a hundred and twenty pages long so is well worth the time spent!

Prayer and the Prayer Room

This month I am sharing with you a single contribution which I found moving and thought provoking and was left in the prayer room this year, carefully written out on an A4 page in capital letters.

Lord of Love,

Help me not to judge or condemn. This Easter time help me to remember that Judas Iscariot also played his part and that our church and faith are built on the love and sacrifice that came to fruition through the act for which he is eternally condemned.

Hold those who live with addiction in the palm of your hand and help me to love and accept them, for whom they are now. Help me to remember that my frustration with others is a part of me, not them.

Help me to remember that frailty and vulnerability are the well from which our strength grows and without them we become hard, not strong.

Help me to bring your love into everything I do.

I believe we can all learn from this thoughtful piece of writing, I am very grateful for it.

Carol

Thoughts of a Blow In...

What a difference some sunshine makes! Yes, its growing cooler and the evenings are well and truly drawing in, but it's a treat to admire the leaves turning gold and the sailboats bobbing on a brisk sea. We have the notorious weather of November ahead of us, of course, so this makes a gentle easing into autumn even more enjoyable.

As well as enjoying the mainly clement weather, there are indoor feasts too, of course. Sustaining soups and stews with seasonal veg whet the appetite, and this is where our wonderful local potatoes truly come into their own. There is also pleasure of making (and eating!) cakes and traybakes now that it's cool enough to enjoy a bit of heat from the oven. I went to an event the other week armed with a batch of summer fruit slices; and everyone was in for a treat (not my baking I hasten to add!) as someone else had made chocolate brownies and another very talented baker had made a salted caramel cake, which disappeared very quickly indeed!

I was very pleased to be able

to bring some leftover slices home with me to share with my neighbours. As it was a weekend, I'd met the little ones the day before, all very excited just coming from a birthday party and clutching their slices of cake and party bags and balloons and telling me all about it.

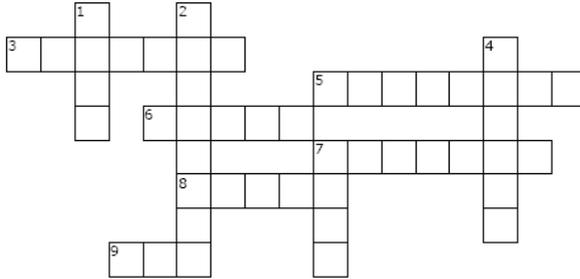
As I went next door with a laden plate, all three children were playing outside as it was a sunny afternoon and gathered round me at the sight of the giveaway plate. When I said that I'd brought some baking for them, wee Leo turned to me with a huge display of disinterest and stated very loftily, "oh, we had cake yesterday!" Not that he refused my offerings, mind!

While thinking of a few appropriate words to share with you all, I happened across this poem by TE Hulme, an English early twentieth-century poet. It seemed that as we're coming up to not only a full moon but an autumn super-moon, no less, I thought it might fit in nicely with the season.

Cynthia

*A touch of cold in the Autumn night -
I walked abroad,
And saw the ruddy moon lean over a hedge
Like a red-faced farmer.
I did not stop to speak, but nodded,
And round about were the wistful stars
With white faces like town children.*

Bible Buds

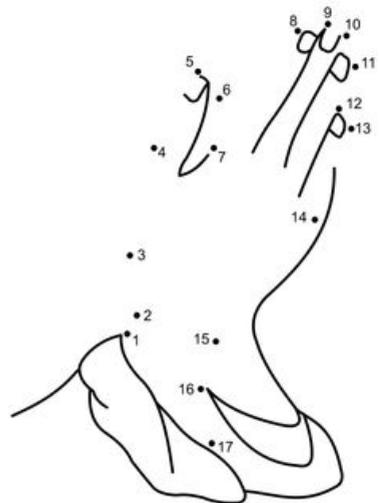


ACROSS

3. Someone who fights when there is a war
5. Relating to the armed forces
6. A period free from war or violence
7. A day for celebration when many people stay home from work or school
8. To show no fear in times of danger
9. Fighting between two or more countries

DOWN

1. A piece of cloth with a special color and pattern used to represent a country
2. To keep something or someone in your memory
4. a large number of people marching, walking, or riding in vehicles, usually as part of a celebration
7. A person who performs bravely in battle



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



CONTACT

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