

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, November 11, 2015

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Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen

Dear Friends,

I find it hard to believe – and I am sure you do too when I tell you that next month will be my 50th Thought since I arrived on these shores.

However, before that – and in fact quite soon – we shall start our journey through Advent as we prepare for the big event, and rightly so.

The first Sunday in Advent this year is on November 29. Advent is when we think about something about to happen, something imminent.

As Christians we think about our Lord, coming that first time in all innocence, and about the time when we are promised He will come again. The world was chaotic when Jesus first came, and the world is chaotic today. Often people say that not much has changed over 2,000 years and that in fact times now are infinitely more dangerous and hopeless. Now, they say, the enemy is much more 'obscure', secret, harder to define, the weaponry far more sophisticated, the risk of an all-out war almost too real. Jesus did not mince his words when it came to war. One reading I shall be preaching on come November 11 is Luke 14 where in verses 31 and 32 we read, "If a king is going to fight another king, first he will sit down and

plan. He will decide if he and his 10,000 soldiers can defeat the other king who has 20,000 soldiers. If he can't, then while the other king is still far away, he will send some people to speak to him and ask for peace."

I think the crucial words here are 'while the other king – or military chief – is still far away...', as they ask us to pray and prepare in patience and perseverance. And thank God that even today in the direst of situations, those in authority (though not always agreeing) often determine to meet and talk, knowing that the consequences if they do not could result in disaster. Let us never stop praying for a peaceful world, and on November 11 at 11am – today! – may our prayers for peace reach to the ends of the universe.



Caldicot town Remembrance Day service