

Things are different this year, the observance of 'Remembrance tide' was no exception.

A limited number of people witnessed the Remembrance first hand. Television gave the opportunity for everyone to be involved. I watched the ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the first time I had seen the observance while it actually happened. So much more meaningful.

The Festival of Remembrance from the Royal Albert Hall was different but still important. Attention was on the anniversary of events during the past year. Without an audience it was more focused, direct, and positive, which helped me remember.

So, everything is quite different – a second lockdown – thoughts about how long it will last – news of vaccine – things seem more hopeful – but careful it is not over yet.

Our gratitude in Remembrance – our appreciation of all who help and care – our heartfelt thanks to those who have the skill to provide a needed vaccine. We think and reflect on the Hand of God with all these folk.

This week there is Children in Need, the 40th Anniversary year. This too, will be different, one assumes without an audience. We have been kept guessing about the celebrities taking part. Just as we supported Poppy Day last weekend on Friday, Pudsey will be asking for support for Children in Need.

Let us pray the vaccine will enable us all to resume life in a more normal way – although no doubt some things will have changed forever, but hopefully our care and concern for others will remain.