

**Continual Remembrance**

*Exodus 28:12b, 29*

If you go to the corridor in the church, the one that has the pigeon holes, you will see opposite them a variety of photographs commissioned by the Friends of Morningside a few years ago when we completed one of the building projects. Photographs of some of our stained glass; photographs of different fabrics around the church; photographs of light. But perhaps my favourite is the one that has photographs of hands. There's one of some of our Sunday Club children with their hands around the font. There are the hands of people who served coffee in our halls. There are the hands of our organist, and the hands of our then Church officer holding the pulpit Bible. There are my hands, holding a communion cup. And there are hands of one of our elders, who has the habit of writing on his hands. Phone numbers. Important times and dates. Scribbled on the backs of his hands. I have to say his hands are controlling the iPad that controls the cameras recording the service, so if I suddenly disappear, you will know why.

There will be other people who do this. It is how they track their commitments. How they make sure to show up. How they keep in mind the people and places they might otherwise forget.

They make a cup of tea, or wave to a friend, and there it was. The written down words. A reminder.

The Old Testament Priest, Aaron, Moses' brother, is apparently the same way. Prone to forget the people God has given into his care. So God writes their names on his body and clothing. Supposedly it was to remind God, but who are we kidding? Aaron carries his people on his shoulders, over his heart. Just in case he forgets.

Most of us now will carry diaries, or mobile phones. They're full of all the same remembering: People to pray for. Ways to get in touch. Times for meetings and visits. Birthdays. All the remembering that makes us human, and humane.

Mine are often held close to my body. In the inside jacket closest to my heart, as it happens. Almost always on my person. A continual remembrance of the ones that God has given me to carry on my shoulders and in my heart.

We should have been sharing communion in person on 6<sup>th</sup> June, but restrictions don't make this possible. So we have this online service. And because you cannot be here in person, I have brought with me the communion roll. All the names of all the members of our congregation. In continual remembrance, at this communion service which is about remembering. Where we remember Jesus, and His love for us, and where I remember you, as I share the bread and the wine in Church, and you share it at home.

Continual remembrance, until we meet again at this Table, and with those in heaven.

**In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**Amen**