

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

As I write this letter it seems that the whole country is covered in a cloud of uncertainty. Will we leave the EU on 31 October or not? Will there be a deal, or not? Either way, how will it affect our farmers, businesses and general consumers? In the meantime climate action

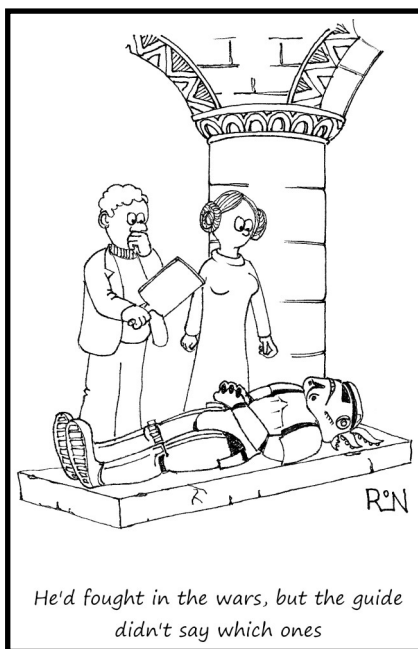
activists are highlighting the uncertainty for the future of the entire planet as a result of climate change.

November is also a month when we remember various other times in history when uncertainty was the prevalent emotion. We remember that just over 400 years ago the whole fabric of our government was under threat as a result of the gunpowder plot and, understandably, there was a great deal of uncertainty among vast swathes of the population as to how it was going to affect them. Although November is the month when we remember the ending of the first world war, we can't help but also think of all the uncertainty that enveloped not



just this nation, but virtually the entire world during both world wars, as well as those affected by the numerous acts of conflict that have taken place around the globe

While November is also the month when the nights draw in and the weather takes a turn for the worse – will it be a hard winter?



Few of us like uncertainty, it often goes hand in hand with fear and we all know how destructive fear can be. However, we relish the idea of hope. We wake up in the morning in the hope that we will have a good day, we hope that we will have a good holiday, we hope that we will get the exam results we need or the job we have applied for, there are so many things that we can hope for. As the saying goes, “

hope burns eternal in the human breast” and I believe that this hope can help us through just about anything. Which means that no matter what is going on around us, we should never give up hope.

I believe that despite the many links with

uncertainty, November is also one of hope. Remembrance Sunday brings the hope that one day there really will be peace between all nations and all peoples. Firework festivities bring with them the hope that comes from gathering together with family and friends to celebrate 400 years of having a democratic and stable government . But, for those of us who are members of the Christian community it is also the month when we look forward to our greatest hope of all. The birth of Jesus Christ, the son of God, which we remember in just a few weeks time.

Indeed this doesn't just give us hope, it gives us confidence, confidence that we

have a God that loves and cares for us and wants to enable all of us to live life in all its fullness. It also gives us the confidence that he is prepared to do anything for us and the confidence that he has given us all the promise of everlasting life with him.

By the time you read this letter, we may well know what is happening about Brexit, or we may still be waiting. But either way, I hope and pray that you will all have a blessed November and that all your hope's will be fulfilled.

