

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Death



When Jill and I went to Wisley last Saturday, I was struck by the beauty of the autumn leaves. Some of the trees looked so vibrant, that it were like they were ablaze, and in a good way.

Of course, it's the slow death of the leaves as they come to the end of their life cycle. There are scientific reasons why they turn into the bright vibrant autumn colours, but to me, it's also them meeting their end gloriously, not going quietly, but with a bang!

This time of year, we tend to think of death a lot. We had the Memorial Service, we celebrated All Saints, we marked Remembrance Sunday and the readings for these last few Sundays focus on the last things. Today is the 60th anniversary of one of the most famous, though shocking deaths.

None of us really have control over deaths, and none of us have total control of our lives either, although some have less than others. For the one who looks to Jesus, death is not the end, but it is the end of something important. The Christian trusts God for the length of their days, although even that is complicated.

It seems to me, the best way to approach this, is to try live as much a fulfilled life as we can, and central to that is to resolve to, as much as we are able to control matters, to meet our end when it comes, with 'all guns blazing', 'fully alight', so that

our end is 'such an end', in the words of Theoden from my favourite film! (Wow, that was a long sentence wasn't it. It wasn't meant to be when I started it!) For the Christian, I think a major part of that means being good news to the poor, following in Jesus' footsteps.