

## Remembering... 100 years on

One hundred years ago on 11<sup>th</sup> November, the guns of the Great War fell silent for the last time. It was the end of a conflict that scarred the nations that took part very deeply.



In 2014 the centenary of the war's beginning was marked and now we remember its ending. These years of remembrance have helped new generations understand more of what their grandparents and great-grandparents went through. The hardships they faced, the courage they showed and the faith they shared have become more real to us. But as we reflect on the end of the war, we also want to look forward in hope. Hope is deeply Christian. It springs above all from our belief in the resurrection of Christ from the dead: if Christ is raised, nothing good is impossible. Every day we're reminded that what was supposed to be 'the war that will end war' did not lead to that: human pride, greed and folly has led to millions of deaths since 1918.

However, our Christian faith inspires us to look forward to a time when our hope for peace will be fulfilled. The Bible speaks of the 'old order of things' passing away and God making 'all things new'. It also calls on Christians to live today in the light of their hope for tomorrow. So, in gratitude for the past and in hope for the future, it is right that worshipping God is at the heart of our remembering, as we particularly will do at our services on Remembrance Sunday.

In our worship in this Remembrance season, we come before our God of peace in sorrow, in gratitude and in hope. We grieve for those who have died in war, for those who have been injured in body, mind and spirit, and for those who have been bereaved. A century after the end of the Great War, we acknowledge again the failures that led to that war, and the failures that followed it. We also acknowledge our debt to those who fought for us and paid the price for our freedom, thanking God for their courage and their devotion, to their comrades and their country. We also express our gratitude we thank you for those who did not fight but who served at home or in hospitals. At this time, we also remember that warfare is not God's desire for the world; that peace between peoples and nations is possible; and that one day God will wipe every tear from every eye, and make all things new.

As we do this in our public acts of worship, we can also pray ourselves for a world where peace reigns and war is no more. May this November be a time when peace is on our hearts.

*Revd Jo Farnworth*



Let us remember those who have died for their country in war; those we knew, and all who have given their lives for freedom, justice and the hope of peace.

As we look forward and seek the way of peace and reconciliation, you might like to say this prayer:

Lord, strengthen our hearts, hands, and minds, to work together for peace; to see you in one another, and to seek your kingdom above all things; that your will may be seen to be done, and your Kingdom come, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings. Amen.

*The Liturgical Commission of the Church of England 2018,  
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