

# starters for Sunday

## **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Remembrance Day**

**8 November 2015**

The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to thank Rev Margaret Whyte, retired minister previously of Pollokshaws Parish Church, Glasgow, for her thoughts on the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

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## Quick Guide...

Helping people prepare for reading the Bible in worship can make a real difference. Overcoming nerves, reading in ways suitable to the text, speaking clearly etc.

You may wish to email these three links to the people reading Scripture on Sunday to support them in their involvement in worship: [Managing your nerves](#); [Creative readings](#); [Worship at the Lectern](#)

### For remembrance

Psalm 46

Micah 4: 1-4

John 15: 9-17

### Lectionary Reading For year B

Ruth 3: 1-5, 4:13 –17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24- 28

Mark 12:28 – 34

### [Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17](#)

Desiring security and a chance for happiness for this most loyal and biddable but determined of daughters' in law, Naomi cleverly plans a way for Ruth to marry her kinsman, Boaz, not forgetting that they are pretty desperate having no means of support, of making a living or of a man to support them. Desperate they had to be, to hatch such a plan, for Ruth to seduce Boaz in his own bed, once he had retired for the night. Boaz deals very honourably and nicely with Ruth. And perhaps sees more in her than just ruthlessness! He saves her reputation and hatches his own plan, so that they can live happily ever after as man and wife. The Levite law required that her nearest relative should marry a widow to take care of her. Boaz wasn't so close but makes the arrangements with the next of kin.

The whole point of the story of course is that the child born to Ruth and Boaz is the grandfather of David.



I didn't think anything of it myself but commentators make much of the fact that the neighbouring women thought the child belonged to Naomi! Perhaps a subtle way of making the Moabite ancestry of David more acceptable to an Israelite audience.

### [Psalm 127](#)

This was perhaps a Song of Ascent sung by pilgrims approaching the temple for one of the great festivals or sung by the Levites themselves as they climbed the fifteen steps leading from the court of the women, to the court of Israel which was for men only.

### [Hebrews 9: 24-28](#)

(Adapted from the Internet) This may have been written for a Jewish Community to convince them of the supremacy of Christ or struggling Christian converts from Judaism in the early days of Christianity.

The liturgy of the Day of Atonement is the central focus here. This was the annual occasion when the chief priest would enter the holy of holies; the most sacred shrine of Israel which was believed held the invisible presence of Yahweh. There he would perform three distinct sacrificial acts to atone for sin.

1. He used smoking coals to perfume the sanctuary so that the high priest himself might be safe from the divine mystery.
2. After prayer in the nave of the temple, the high priest returned to the holy of holies to sprinkle the blood of a slain bull as atonement for all the priests.
3. After slaughtering a scapegoat chosen from one of two, the high priest entered the inner shrine a third time to offer its blood on behalf of the people.

The second scapegoat was then driven out of the temple and city into the wilderness with a red ribbon tied around its neck. When it was pushed over a cliff to its death, a similar red ribbon on the door of the sanctuary turned white as a sign that the sins of the people were forgiven.

I suppose this shows that someone who was very familiar with this ritual wrote this letter.



Yet the point is clear - Christ is the only true mediator between God and his people. Instead of repeating this sacrifice annually Christ has died once and for all for us on the cross, to atone for our sins, which has eternal significance. Thus Christianity is very different from the Hebrew Tradition.

As the Messiah, he is high priest and scapegoat, the means of reconciliation between God and humankind. Christ will come again to bring his people into the presence of God. It is by faith in his all-sufficient sacrifice that we are redeemed.

This may not seem terribly relevant to explain the deep mystery of the death of Christ to us 2,000 years later, except to celebrate that he gave himself in love for us and his death touches us as his birth at the deepest point of our humanity.

### [Mark 12: 38-44](#)

Jesus courting controversy, attacks these experts in religious law, the scribes for their hypocrisy in their very sanctum, the temple precincts. They come in for a lot of stick from Jesus for obvious reasons. Their job was to interpret the law which gave them a lot of power and control and made some of them very rich and powerful – powerful enemies too, for Jesus.

They made life very difficult for the poor, while aggrandizing themselves in costly clothes, taking the best seats, in ostentatious displays of piety and lording it over those in their care.

Jesus emphasizes what he said about hypocrisy by drawing attention to the sacrificial offering of a poor widow in contrast to the giving of the rich who could well afford their large donations.

Everyone who visited the temple had to pay temple tithes and taxes. But Mark seems to suggest that a donation was also expected to the temple treasury – possibly a sort of poor box. We are told by Jesus that the poor widow gave all she had. How he knew this except by her poor clothing we aren't told, except we believe Jesus to have been incredibly insightful and instinctive about the human condition. It has made a great story anyway and has set the benchmark for charitable giving, for the point is very clear – if it doesn't hurt, if it isn't a sacrifice it's not really giving at all.



When an Aunt of mine died a few years ago, her executor and her inheritors were surprised how little she had left – they had forgotten how very generous she was when she was alive. She had given them all she had.

But as one of the sermon suggestions says – it is not really about money – it is about giving our all to God, who has given so much to us.

The sacrificial nature of giving – of money, of talents of one's life, is a very good illustration for this Remembrance Sunday when Our Lord and Saviour and so many gave so much, gave of their all for us.

## **Order of Act of Remembrance**

### **Scripture Sentences**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord maker of heaven and earth. *Psalm 124: 8*

### **The Bidding**

*(from Service to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War)*

We come to worship God,  
to give thanks for those who died in wartime,  
and to give thanks that we live in peace and security.

But our commemoration is wider than this,  
for it is right for us to remember  
the part played by all the people of all nations  
who lived through all the periods of war;  
for they shared the conviction  
that oppression and tyranny must not prevail.  
So during this act of worship,  
we shall acknowledge with gratitude the courage  
of men, women, and children who,  
despite the hardships and horrors of war, kept hope alive.



**Hymn** (*depending on when the service begins*)

Let us pray.

Almighty God you have created us in your image  
and have called us to live in peace and mutual love.  
Forgive our sins and our failure to live according to your will;  
and give us grace to serve you,  
and our brothers and sisters for your sake.  
For all who came before us,  
for all those who gave from their hearts,  
who gave from their lives,  
that there might be a better world,  
a safer world, we pray for peace in their name.

That all their dreams that all their struggles,  
would not end in great sadness and bitterness –  
but in peace - we pray for peace in their name.

And for the children, that the children may live,  
that they will have children of their own and that it will go on –  
that they would have a world worth being born into,  
a future worth dreaming about - we pray for peace, in their name.

And through him who died to reconcile the world to you, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord's prayer. (Though you may prefer to use this at another point in the service)



### **Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God all who have died as a result of war.

### **The Kohima Epitaph**

When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow we gave our today.

### **For the Fallen**

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them, we will remember them.

### **Last Post and silence**

(Silence is kept for two minutes)

Let us pray

O God our help in ages past,

Our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home

You God are our God, You are with us in all the times of life to offer hope and light and comfort.

We come to you now with thanks:

thanks for our freedom,

thanks for our peace;

thanks for our prosperity and security.

On this Remembrance Sunday,

we thank you especially for the women and men

who gave of themselves in times of war

to help to ensure the blessings that we enjoy.

The names, the faces, the stories

come to us once again and we honour them,



their courage their sacrifice,  
their willingness to put themselves in harm's way for a better world.

May we never forget,  
May we never, again march off to war.  
A feeble prayer perhaps but let each of us work to ensure it.  
Keep us faithful Lord God  
and give us the encouragement that we need.  
May we encourage one another in the faith and ministry of Jesus Christ.

O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home  
Amen

### **At the War Memorial**

*(or for use during worship as an act of commitment for the congregation instead of prayers following the silence)*

We are all children of the same heavenly father, whatever our age, whatever our nation or race.  
Some of us lived through the years of war; others are of a younger generation;  
But we all have a responsibility under god to care for one another.  
I invite you all, to make your own commitment to the people of the wartime generation and to peace.

To honour all who bore the pains and adversities of war,

To offer them your help and support, and protect their dignity and welfare, to remember the causes for which they endured adversity and for which many fought and died, by promoting peace, justice and harmony among all people,



To always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which god has entrusted to us,  
And to exercise the freedoms and opportunities you have with gratitude and humility.

May Almighty God who has given us the will to undertake these things, give us also the strength to perform them; for his name's sake.

Let us pray

Gracious god,

Father of all mercies

we offer our thanks for all your gifts

to us and for the renewing liberty of your grace.

We rejoice in our inheritance

of holy things and in the freedom and peace in which we live.

Especially on this day

we give thanks for the remembrance we are privileged to make,

of those companions whose lives were given in time of war.

And whose names are written here.

We will remember them. Amen

Go in peace and god will always go with you.

## **Stories for sermon illustrations**

*(or when the church is full of the Youth Organisations)*

### **1. Story (from an old book I have subsequently thrown out)**

The 20th century began with a remarkable incident which might have been viewed as a happy omen, as one of the most impressive triumphs of peace marked its opening years. During the year 1900, war became imminent between Chile and Argentina. These two neighbouring republics began to make huge preparations for bloody conflict. Heavy war taxes were imposed, munitions of war were feverishly manufactured.



But at Eastertide of that year a certain Argentinian bishop named Benavente, made a great appeal at Buenos Aires that war should be avoided and that the Spirit of him who died for all should be allowed to mediate between the two nations.

His words made so deep an impression that he was led to start on a pilgrimage of peace up and down the land. It was not long before news of his efforts crossed the border, and a Chilean Bishop took up the challenge, and started a similar crusade for peace amongst his own country men and women. The movement rapidly spread in both republics, and the mass of the people became convinced of the wickedness and futility of war.

Great petitions were sent in to the Governments, and so strong and evident was the desire for peace that action was practically forced upon them. After some discussion, the Governments both agreed to invite King Edward VII of Britain to arbitrate between them. The result was an agreement upon the matter under dispute and a treaty pleasing to both peoples. In 1902 this was followed up by a further treaty undertaking to settle all disputes for the next ten years in the same way. In 1912 that treaty was renewed.

The immediate effect, however of the arbitration was an immense outburst of popular enthusiasm for peace, due in part to the great relief felt at the removal of the burden of war taxes. So great was the popular demand for some expression of gratitude that to commemorate so great a triumph of the peace-spirit, a great bronze statue of Christ was cast from the metal of scrapped guns. It was carried at the cost of immense labour, to the highest pass over the Andes, the mountain-range separating the two countries, and there the statue of Christ was set up on the boundary line.

The ceremony of dedication on March 13th 1904, will never be forgotten. Amid scenes of great rejoicing, the Chilean and Argentinian military bands and escorts passed over on to each other's soil, and the statue was reverently unveiled. It is a life-size figure of Christ with His feet resting upon the globe of the earth, a prophecy of world-wide triumph. Inscribed on the base of the statue are these memorable words:

*Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Argentines and Chileans break the peace to which they have pledged themselves at the feet of Christ the Redeemer.*



If the nations of the world could but remember, in the hour of threatening dispute, this Divine Figure standing above the world, appealing to all women and men to submit to the mediation of the Prince of Peace. Blessed are the Peace Makers said Jesus.

2. A Home Guard Captain, a burly farmer, during the Second World War, was haranguing his company on what to do with a German if you met him. “Well,” – making the motions of digging a bayonet into him – he said, “you don’t give him a cup of tea you know.”

Of course the men all laughed. But that very night a German pilot bailed out of his shattered plane right on to this Captain’s land. The Home Guard Captain and one of his men were watching and sprinted for him. As his parachute came down, he immediately sank to the ground wounded and bleeding, too weak to undo his parachute.

The Home Guard Captain rushed up to him, tugging out his knife. The German saw this, his eyes bulged out with fright: he thought his last moment had come. But the Captain seeing this cried out, “It’s all right, Don’t worry I’m only going to cut these straps away.” Then he called his friend to help carry the wounded man to his farmhouse. “Go gently,” he said, “he’s wounded you know.”

And between them they brought him to the farm. Then the Captain hopped around after his wife. “Put the kettle on missis,” he said. “Here’s a wounded lad could do with a cup of tea.” Within 5 minutes he was holding a cup of tea to the lips of his one-time enemy.

When at last the military came for the prisoner and were taking him away from the farm on a stretcher. “Go easy boys.” The Captain cried. “He’s wounded remember.”

I’m sure he never heard the last of the “cup of tea” for his enemy, but what a great story. And for every story of British humanity, there could be related similar stories of humanity among the German folks, especially relating to hiding prisoners of war and Jewish people.

Blessed are the peace-makers especially in the midst of war.



3. I'm thinking today of ordinary people, not only heroes who gave their lives for us. And this is the story of Dougie. His story has a sad ending, but Dougie won't mind me telling you about him, because he would want people to remember him and his friends – a very ordinary guy.

Dougie was in the Army, he served several tours of duty with the British Army in Northern Ireland, several years ago, long before the peace that the Irish people enjoy today.

Dougie was short. He stood about 5ft 4 inches tall in his stocking soles. He was also as round as he was tall. He was a rolly polly sort of chap, and though he was a soldier, he was terribly unfit, he couldn't run the length of himself without getting breathless and having to lie down for a rest. And he also smoked, which made his breathlessness even worse. And he loved a big plate of greasy pie and chips. He was always the nub of jokes about the condition, or ill condition of his body.

But one day, when he was puffing and panting, just stepping onto the Bathroom scales and needle nearly went off the scale, he decided enough was enough, he was going to go on a diet, more than that, he was going to lose weight and get fit. He started with Mr Motivator in the morning on TV, following his exercise plan, and then as he began to lose weight Doug decided that he needed something more challenging, something to really aim for, to help motivate him to lose more weight and to get really fit, so he decided that he would train and aim to run in the Belfast Marathon.

And so he began a long hard programme of training, of running a little farther every week, 2 miles, then 5 miles, then 10 miles, then 15 miles and so on until he was sure he would be able to compete the 26 miles or so that is the length of the Marathon course. Helping him were many friends, for he had joined in the running club at the Lisburn Barracks and all the soldiers helped one another when the big day came.

And they all managed to complete their marathon and win their medal at the end. Dougie the new skinny Dougie had proved to himself that he could do it, that he could get fit and lose the weight he needed to lose for his health's sake, I forgot to mention that he had also given up cigarettes and Pie and chips.



But that is not the end of the story. Once you start marathon running it gets into your blood, you get hooked on it and you want to run in more and more marathons, and that happened to Dougie and he also wanted to raise money for charities, which many people who run marathons do. So soon he and his club of runners were travelling all over Ireland, running marathons and half marathons collecting their medals, staying slim and fit and also raising a lot of money to help other people.

One day Dougie with a minibus full of his friend, other soldiers, servicing in Northern Ireland were travelling to run in a marathon, to help raise money for a hospice. As they got near the border between North and southern Ireland, a bomb was detonated in the road under their bus as they drove over it. Their bus was blown up; Dougie was killed, as were 7 others of the soldiers travelling with him.

Yes they were soldiers, but they were also unnecessary Victims, killed in a conflict; for that day they were not in the front line, they were not carrying weapons, they were not even on duty, they were carrying out a peaceful mission, helping others.

But Dougie was also a Christian, as well as a soldier and he knew the danger and risks that he ran in being a soldier and serving in the army, he knew that he might die for our country and he went willingly and was proud to do so. And as a Christian he also believed in forgiveness and love and peace, and I believe that Dougie would forgive those who planted that Bomb and would forgive those who killed him and seven of his friends in the mini-bus who have killed and maimed and disfigured so many other in the years of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Jesus said there is no greater love than this, that a person gives their life for another.



## Time with Children

Giant facsimile of the playing board for the game of Battleships.

Play a game of this with the children calling out squares.

Did you enjoy the game? Why? Why not?

What difference would it make if the ships were real battleships?

Have you thought that real battle ships have real human beings on board?

War is not a game; real people are killed and maimed in war. War is not a game.

Battleships and missiles cost millions of pounds – money that could be used to feed the millions of starving people in the world.

The O T prophets tell us that two things are needed for peace. Firstly we must establish justice in the world. And we must trust in God.

On this Remembrance Sunday let us remember that War is not a game. Let us trust in God and work hard ourselves for peace and justice.

## Prayers for the world and ourselves

God of goodness, truth and peace,  
we offer you our broken spirits and hearts for your healing,  
our searching for your guiding light,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of light and love,  
you want all people to live in your peace.

Give us the humility to seek your forgiveness  
and the will to practice it in all our dealings with one another.

Help us to seek the good of the world,  
to work for the increase of peace and justice,  
and to show tolerance and open-mindedness  
towards those whose characters and customs and creed differ from our own.



Help us on this day of Annual Commemoration,  
So that we don't only remember with our minds,  
but the remembrance of those who went to war for the sake of our peace,  
will spur us on to practical service,  
and to make the world a better place for our children's children.

Hear our prayers for the well-being of all people,  
especially those who mourn and are sad,  
and for all in distress both known to us and unknown.

In a silent moment those who served in war may think of comrades who never came back,  
those of us who were too young,  
may thank God for those who fought for those yet to be born.

Hear our prayer Father for the peace of the world.  
For the wise settlements of conflicts,  
for though we live in peace, there are many areas of our world  
where children do not know the meaning of the word, peace.

And we particularly pray for the United Nations Peace Keeping Force  
and the armed forces of Europe Canada and America  
wherever they are serving  
trying to keep the peace and for stability and peace in the Middle East,  
especially we pray for the Children of Syria.

We pray for those who believe that they are at war  
for Islam and that wanton acts terrorism,  
killing innocent people is the way to achieve their ends.

Bless your Church throughout the world.  
By your Holy Spirit, draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity  
And make your church a sign of hope to our divided world.  
Grant that we, who bear your son's name,



may be instruments of your peace,  
bringing peace to our homes, our nation and our world.

Rejoicing in the communion of saints,  
we remember those whom you have gathered  
into the peace of your presence  
and give you thanks for those whom we have known  
and whose memory we treasure.

Those who look to the Lord will win new strength,  
they will soar as on eagles wings;  
they will run and not feel faint,  
they will march on and not grow weary.

### **Offering prayer**

You have trusted us with so much.  
You have blessed us with immeasurable gifts.  
Not only do we bring our offerings to the table,  
we also bring our whole lives,  
asking that you would sanctify us  
and our gifts for the work of you Holy Kingdom.

The world seeks light amidst the shadows.  
Jesus calls us to shine in the darkness.  
May we in our lives be examples of God's love.  
Amen



## The Blessing

Go in peace – may God bless you  
with the spirit of love and truth,  
with the willingness to give yourself  
for the sake of justice and goodness,  
and with the hope of all the faithful –  
that you will enter into His holy rest  
when your days are done.

This both now and forevermore

Amen

## Musical Suggestions

CH4 715	Behold the mountain of the Lord
CH4 43	Oh God you are my God alone
CH4 528	Make me a channel of your peace
CH4 740	For all the saints
CH4 476	Mine eyes have seen the glory
CH4 161	Oh God our help in ages past...
CH4 166	Lord of all hopefulness...
CH4 485	Dear lord and father...
CH4 691	Be still my soul...
CH4 517	Fight the good fight...



**Poem left by Flying Officer Ernest Raymond Davey, 22 year old pilot from London, Ontario –  
440 Squadron R.C.A.F. - killed 2nd October 1944.**

Almighty and all-present power,  
Short is the prayer I make to Thee;  
I do not ask in battle hour  
For any shield to cover me.  
The vast unalterable way  
From which the stars do not depart,  
May not be turned aside to stay  
The bullet flying to my heart.

I ask no help to strike my foe,  
I seek no petty victory here.  
The enemy I hate, I know I  
To Thee is dear.  
But this I pray: Be at my side  
When death is drawing through the sky;  
Almighty God who also died,  
Teach me the way that I should die.

**Waste by G.A. Studdart Kennedy**

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain,  
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,  
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,  
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,  
Waste of Blood, and waste of Tears.  
Waste of youth's most precious years,  
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,  
Waste of Glory, waste of God, - War!

*Alternative Services are available in the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland – see  
Index under Remembrance.*



## Material based on the Lectionary Readings for 8 November

### Time with Children

Today and November 11th are special days for remembering.

To help us remember those who were killed we wear poppies and lay wreaths, many of them made by ex-service men and women in Erskine Hospital where many live and are cared for.

What kinds of things do you notice about the wreath???

### What is on it...

**Poppies** – to remind us of a place called Flanders Fields where many soldiers from the first World War are buried. The poppies grew wild there on the churned up, bomb blasted countryside which was the battle fields. And they now grow wild there between all the crosses that mark the place where someone is buried.

**Evergreen** – Can anyone tell me what is special about evergreen?? It stays green even in the winter. This reminds us that with God - life goes on forever. Those who have died believing in God go to be with God in heaven.

**Circle** – To remind us of God - a circle goes on eternally. A circle is a perfect shape - like God is perfect. When we place all our trust in God - as the evergreen and the poppies are placed on this wreath, God will look after us, no matter what, no matter what bad things might happen to us, or those we love.

In our Gospel reading today Jesus was talking about Sacrifice. He wasn't talking about money, but about giving of ourselves, just as we read about Jesus giving himself on the cross for love of us.

We say we will never let wars happen again, but how much do we in this generation personally sacrifice for the work of bringing hope, health, justice and peace to the world. What kind of faith do we have?

People gave everything in two world wars and conflicts since, soldiers are still giving everything for the sake of freedom and peace, giving their lives away for the sake of others.



And we can make our sacrifice - by prayer and action, by praying for peace, by helping others around us in our community, by living in peace and harmony in family and community.

By being politically aware, by voting, by working for justice in our community, by demonstrating, by marching for peace, by making phone calls and writing letters and emails to politicians telling them how you feel.

Remember those who died and those who are still dying for the sake of peace, remember the widow who gave everything, so that we will give of ourselves, remember Jesus who gave everything on the cross. So that we will live as he lived and love as he loved.

### **Sermon**

At first reading, today's gospel passage from Mark seems to have a lot to do with money. There are some good messages about money here. It is good to give. Jesus doesn't condemn the rich who give lots - and his comments and approval are given toward the poor widow who gave what she had.

Giving money is good. And if we take what Jesus says about the widow seriously, giving till it hurts is good - in fact giving till it has gone way past hurting may even be better.

However, there's more to today's gospel than just money and giving. You see, for us to give something, and let's stick to money here, is not hard.

Christian aid, The Lodging house Mission, our missionary partner, the Girls' Brigade, our Church offerings and the Nearly New. So many of you give to all of these and your generosity is immense. We can each give and we all like to give. It makes us feel good and we are good at it.

It was easy to give the girl who arrived at the Church on Communion Sunday the £10 she asked for. We did think about going to buy her groceries instead, but the church service was about to start. And we did try to get to know her but she quickly disappeared, promising to return to repay the money. And I have to admit I was a little relieved.

Money was also given to someone who had been burgled this week. And I was very pleased to tell the young men who pounced on me in Central Station that I already supported World Vision, by giving my money to help a little boy called Tiku in Ethiopia. I was quite proud actually.



We are reasonably good givers. In fact most of us are very good givers. We know that God loves a cheerful giver and that God wants us to give and love and help where we can.

We know that Jesus calls us to look after our neighbours, the people around us and those further afield who need it. Most of us gathered here today are not rich. Most of us are from very humble beginnings, but now we get by. We are able to not only make ends meet but buy ourselves a nice life style. We also know that there are always people who are worse off than we are. And that places us firmly into the story we read today from Mark.

Jesus told us about this woman as an example of real sacrificial giving. We are good givers, but we couldn't put ourselves in the same class as this widow.

Yet Jesus isn't just talking about generosity. It isn't just giving, or tithing, or donating. It's not even about money. What Jesus is talking about here is faith.

The faith to really risk - to really sacrifice - to really give all that one has to God. To really give all that one has, for what is right and good and true in the trust that God somehow, someday, will use that sacrifice and honour it. Not for our benefit, or for those who benefit but for the sake of the kingdom of God, for the sake of the peace that God promises to the world.



## Additional Material

### The First Two Minute Silence in London (11th November 1919) as reported in the Manchester Guardian, 12th November 1919.

“The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect.

The tram cars glided into stillness, motors ceased to cough and fume, and stopped dead, and the mighty-limbed dray horses hunched back upon their loads and stopped also, seeming to do it of their own volition.

Someone took off his hat, and with a nervous hesitancy the rest of the men bowed their heads also. Here and there an old soldier could be detected slipping unconsciously into the posture of 'attention'. An elderly woman, not far away, wiped her eyes, and the man beside her looked white and stern. Everyone stood very still... The hush deepened. It had spread over the whole city and become so pronounced as to impress one with a sense of audibility. It was a silence which was almost pain... And the spirit of memory brooded over it all.”

‘The Armistice was signed at 5 am this morning and hostilities are to cease on all fronts at 11 am Today’. With these words Prime Minister Lloyd George conveyed to the nation the first news of Germany’s formal capitulation at 10.20 am on November 11th 1918.

Marshall Foch confirmed his adherence to that agreement minutes later as did Dr Erzeberger, head of the German Plenipotentiaries. Hours before Mons had been captured by the Canadians with Sir Douglas Haig confirming that fact in a message to Parliament.”

The Daily Sketch of the day reported that there were memorable scenes in the House of Commons. “Mr Lloyd George was received with loud and rousing cheers, members standing waving their hats, while other waved the order paper for the day.”

The **eleventh** hour of the **eleventh** day of the **eleventh** month marks the signing of the Armistice, on 11th November 1918, to signal the end of World War One. At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare.

But in the closing minutes of World War I, the ceasefire within touching distance, a handful of troops died. Just after 5 o'clock on the morning of 11 November, 1918, British, French and



German officials gathered in a railway carriage to the north of Paris and signed a document which would in effect bring to an end World War I.

Within minutes, news of the Armistice - the cease fire - had been flashed around the world that the war, which was meant to "end all wars", was finally over. And yet it wasn't, because the cease-fire would not come into effect for a further six hours - at 11am - so troops on the frontline would be sure of getting the news that the fighting had stopped.

That day many hundreds died, and thousands more injured. The shocking figure is that the final day of WWI produced nearly 11,000 fatalities, more than those killed, wounded or missing on D-Day, when Allied forces landed en masse on the shores of occupied France almost 27 years later.

What is worse is that hundreds of these soldiers would lose their lives thrown into action by generals who knew that the Armistice had already been signed. The recklessness of General Wright, of the 89th American Division, is a case in point. Seeing his troops were exhausted and dirty, and hearing there were bathing facilities available in the nearby town of Stenay, he decided to take the town so his men could refresh themselves.

"That lunatic decision cost something like 300 casualties, many of them battle deaths, for an inconceivable reason,".

The final British soldier to be killed in action was Private George Edwin Ellison. At 9.30am Pte Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers was scouting on the outskirts of the Belgian town of Mons where German soldiers had been reported in a wood. It must have been odd for Pte Ellison to be back in Mons again. This is where his war started four years earlier when he was part of the British Expeditionary Force retreating from Mons in August 1914, just weeks after the outbreak of the war.

Over a million British soldiers had been killed in those intervening years, yet almost miraculously Pte Ellison had so far escaped uninjured. In just over an hour the ceasefire would come into force, the war would be over and Pte Ellison, return to the terraced street in Leeds to see his wife Hannah and their four-year-old son James. And then the shot rang out. George was dead - the last British soldier to be killed in action in WWI.



As the minutes ticked towards the 11 o'clock ceasefire, more soldiers would fall. At 10.58am, to the north around Mons, the 25-year-old Canadian Private George Lawrence Price was on the trail of retreating German soldiers. It was street by street fighting and he was struck by a bullet and killed.

Further south in the Argonne region of France, US soldier Henry Gunther was involved in a final charge against astonished German troops who knew the Armistice was about to occur. What could they do? He too was shot. The Baltimore Private - ironically of German descent - was dead. It was 10.59 and Henry Gunther is now recognised as the last soldier to be killed in action in WWI.

21 years later, for almost six years from 1939 to 1945 Britain fought the toughest war it had ever experienced. World War II was total war - every person, every business, every service was involved.

Britain did not fight alone. World War II involved 61 countries with 1.7 billion people (three quarters of the world's population). Fifty million people lost their lives and hundreds of millions of people were injured on both sides of the conflict.

One of our members Tommy Campbell was a young lad of 18 in 1942, he had just finished his apprenticeship as a plumber and could have stayed at home in an exempted profession. But as quickly as he could he joined the fleet air arm and became an aeroplane mechanic with 767 Squadron; he was a soldier, an airman and a sailor. He served in the Archer, the Activity, the Premier which at my ignorant question what kind of ships were they, he answered that they were all Air Craft Carriers, because Aircraft are no good on Destroyers.

Then he went to the Trumpeter and then the Queen. As a member of the Mobile Operations Battalion, when someone was killed Tommy took their place. He was lucky he said; many of his friends didn't come back. He has the Atlantic Convoy medal, The Battle of the Atlantic medal, A campaign ribbon for firefighting during Air Raids, he has the victory medal, the Russian Convoy Medal, the veterans Medal and the Arctic Star.

He could have been demobbed in 1946, but all of his mates the 819 squadron wanted to go and so he ended up in the Pacific. Today we give thanks as does he that Tommy and his 3 brothers all came through it. Remembering the sacrifice of those who did not.



The first World War was known as the war to end all wars. After the Second World War the Armistice Day became Remembrance Day but the original declaration was reiterated, We will remember so this will never happen again. 65 years on we are still at war, still mourning those killed in wars.

The Falklands War resulted in the deaths of 257 British and 649 Argentine soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and the deaths of 3 civilians. There have been 179 in Iraq.

L/Cpl Stephen Monkhouse from Greenock died in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand in Afghanistan in July 2010. He was one of 353 British men who have died and two women since being deployed to Afghanistan in 2001. He was 28 and had served with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards since joining the army in 2003.

Lt Col Lincoln Jopp MC, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Scots Guards said L/Cpl Monkhouse - known as Monkey - had made an "immediate impression" and "shone and excelled" when he moved up into the Pipes and Drums.

"He loved his drumming and only a week before he was killed, he proudly played here in Lashkar Gah for our colonel, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. "He was always a proud father, son and brother, and a true friend to all.

"Monkey died coming to the aid of a guardsman who had been shot. He did what every soldier hopes he will have the courage to do if the need arises: he laid down his life for his friend. We salute him and we honour our fallen."

Cpl Monkhouse's family said: "Although Stephen died in very tragic circumstances, it is comforting to know that he died doing a job he loved - being a soldier. He loved the Army and the Scots Guards. "He died trying to help save another life, that sums Stephen up. He loved life and lived it to the full and his memory will live on with us and his friends forever. God bless you son."

What then can we do to further the cause of peace? The short answer is that we can accept what Christ has already done for us all, making real the greatness of God's love, bringing forgiveness and offering us reconciliation with God and the power to lead our lives in a new way – not



constantly seeking our own advantage, but filled with a deep concern for the well-being of others.

The way of Christ has not failed. What is wrong is that his way of love has never been fully tried except by Christ himself.

Peace is indivisible. There cannot be peace between nations until there is peace between individuals, and there cannot be peace between individuals until there is peace between individuals and God. It is no good asking why God doesn't stop war, unless we allow God to overcome the selfishness that is strong in all of us.

If we harbour grudges against others which the grace of Christ could help us put aside, or neglect another's need because we do not care enough, all these things block the way to the rule of Christ in the world.

It is not God but men and woman who cause wars. It is the power of God alone which can stop them, but each one of us must allow that power to work in our own lives. If our remembrance of those who lost their lives is to be more than just sentimentality, then it must be accompanied by the committal of ourselves afresh to Christ and his way. Only so, can we find the peace for which the world longs. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.



## Additional Resources

### Resourcing Mission



[Resourcing Mission](#) is host to Starters for Sunday and other key mission resources for download and purchase. Online booking is available for [Mission & Discipleship events](#). Please check back regularly, as new items are being added all the time. If there is something you'd like to see on this new site, please [contact us](#) via the website.

### Prayer Resources

These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might look for in prayers. [Living Stones](#) is available from [St Andrew Press](#).



### Music Resources

The hymns mentioned in this material are ideas of specific hymns you might choose for this week's themes. However, for some excellent articles on church music and ideas for new music resources, please check out our online music pages [Different Voices](#).

### Preaching Resources



These materials are designed to be a starting point for what you might preach this Sunday. [Preachers Perspectives](#) is a resource where we have asked twelve preachers to share the insights they have gathered through their experiences of writing and delivering sermons regularly.

### Scots Worship Resources

[The Kirk's Ear](#) - Scots in the Kirk series for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and other times of the year

[Wurship Ouk bi Ouk](#) - Metrical psalms, hymns, prayers and words for worship

[Scots Sacraments](#) may give you helpful material if you are celebrating Communion or have a Baptism.

*The Mission and Discipleship Council would like to express its thanks to the Rev Margaret Whyte for providing us with this Sunday's material.*

*Please note that the views expressed in these materials are those of the individual writer and not necessarily the official view of the Church of Scotland, which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.*

