

WW1 Educational Resources

For use with schools, and church children's and youth groups in Derby Diocese

First Draft Version – February 2014



Young people have engaged in Remembrance commemorations with increasing energy and commitment in recent years. Armistice Day services have been respected and well attended with children and young people recognising the importance of the sacrifice that others have made for their country in two world wars as well as in other more recent conflicts.

This resource booklet provides some pointers to where clergy and other leaders can access resources and provides some links to web based information.

For more information or to suggest items to go in the final booklet contact:

Alistair Langton
Derby Diocesan Youth Adviser
Alistairlangton@ddb.org Mob/Txt 07976 212888

'They marched out of the village, past the stone calvary at the end of it, and men who had known all the sins of the world, lifted, to the agony of the figure on the cross, eyes that had probed and understood the mystery of suffering.'

Frederic Manning, "Her Privates We"



Themes:

Sessions will be made available for youth groups, children's groups including for messy church. The four themes that we will concentrate on are:

- **Conflict and Death**
- **Suffering and Sacrifice**
- **Peace**
- **Memory & Memorials**

Some questions that each of these themes raise:

- **Conflict and Death**
 - Should Christians go to War?
 - Was conscription during WW1 right?
 - What are the consequences of a "conscientious" objector- how should a civilised country deal with them nowadays?
 - What does the Bible say about War? (<http://www.gotquestions.org/war-Bible.html>)
 - Is "turning the other cheek" always the right thing to do?
 - What was the role of women in war?
 - What can wealthy and relatively peaceful countries such as ours do to prevent wars?
 - What action should we take about wars in faraway places? For example, should we send troops to keep the peace?
 - Should we send help and weapons to the "better" side?
 - Should we send food aid to the civilian population?
 - Should we take in refugees from war torn countries?
 - What is the effect of the arms trade? – do you support it?
 - Is extensive media coverage of wars a good or a bad thing?
 - Do films and games about war glorify violence?
 - What can peace-keeping organisations such as the UN do to prevent war?
 - How are you deciding your answers to these questions?
- **Sacrifice**
 - Who made sacrifices during WW1 and what were they?
 - What sacrifices did women make during the war?
 - How did the war effect the lives of children and young people?
 - What choice did people have in how much they sacrificed?
 - Abraham was prepared to obey God when asked to sacrifice Isaac on an altar, who are we prepared to obey to that extent, and even to the extent of sacrificing our own lives?
 - <http://www.wilfredowen.org.uk/poetry/the-parable-of-the-old-man-and-the-young> turns the story of Abraham and Isaac on its head.
 - What causes are worth dying for?
 - Which is easier- asking others to be prepared to be sacrificed or to take on the burden yourself?
 - What did Jesus sacrifice and for whom were the benefits?
- **Peace**
 - What comes to mind when you hear the word 'peace'?
 - Are you at peace with yourself and the world?
 - Do you love peace and quiet?
 - Do you think there'll ever be peace in the world?
 - What's the best way of achieving peace?
 - Which area of the world do you hope achieves a lasting, permanent peace?
 - When was the last time you heard of two countries or groups signing a peace deal?
 - Which is more important, freedom or peace?
 - Why is Justice so often linked to peace?
 - Jesus in Matthew 10:34 said "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. "What do you think he meant by that?
 - What colour is peace?

- **Memory & Memorials**

- *'Have you forgotten yet...Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you'll never forget'* Siegfried Sassoon wrote this in 1920, what is it that people are asked not to forget?
- How would you like to be remembered?
- What are war memorials for?
- Is it enough for a soldier just to be remembered for his military career?
- Should there be memorials for WW1 conscientious objectors?
- How have the use of memorials changed over the years?
- In what other ways is war memorialized?
- Should remembrance services be religious?

Schools

What Price Peace £8.99



Bible reading Fellowship (BRF) has produced a teaching resource for primary schools exploring issues of war and peace

The centenary of the First World War provides a great opportunity for schools to extend their spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision for pupils as they mark the anniversary. Chris Hudson's new book **What Price Peace?** looks at issues arising from the First World War to help pupils explore wider themes, as they gain insight into events that took place from 1914 to 1918.

What Price Peace? Provides ten units of classroom material and three assemblies for 5-11s based around the theme of the First World War.

A century on, with British armed forces continuing to serve in trouble spots around the world, study of the 'Great War' offers children the opportunity to engage with powerful issues of faith and belief, helping them to think through questions such as: Is fighting always wrong? How can we work out what is true? How should bullying be resisted? Are some people worth more than others? How do we deal with fear, pain and suffering? Can we really love our enemies as Jesus said?

Each unit contains background information, an imaginative retelling of a real-life event, and cross-curricular activities related to RE, History, Literacy and PSHE/Citizenship.

The book will be published in March 2014.

Peace, Remembrance and Conflict Assemblies: From Christian Aid.

Remembrance: Christian Aid wrote an excellent assembly plan in 2011- with poems and thoughts about WW1 and relating it to the conflict in Congo and South Sudan.

<http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/primary/assembly-November-2011-remembrance-conflict-peace.aspx>

Give peace a chance: There are many different ways of dealing with conflict. This assembly reflects on the theme of peace, and how people in Angola are working to build a lasting peace after 40 years of conflict. Through the story of Eduardo Palanga we learn about how children of opposing families are being educated alongside one another and starting this process of building peace.

<http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/secondary/secondary-assembly-october-2010.aspx>

The art of peace: Workshop outline for students aged 16 and over to increase awareness of conflict, understand how agencies are helping communities to promote peace and rebuild after war, and recognise art as a powerful means of communication.

<http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/TeachersResources/secondary/art-of-peace.aspx>

Resources

- **Public Broadcasting Service** (an American company) has written some lesson plans designed to enrich classroom study of World War I for middle and high school students. Each lesson could also be modified to be conducted at home.

Each lesson includes learning objectives, a list of tools and materials needed, the

time necessary to complete each lesson, extensions and adaptations, assessment recommendations, additional online resources and the teaching strategy.

<http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/resources/lesson1.html>

- **The Great War 1914-1918: A Guide to WW1 Battlefields and History of the First World War**

This site provides an overview of the First World War battlefields on the Western Front by showing you where they are and what you can see there today. Established in 1998, the website is dedicated to the memory of 20 family members who served in the military during the Great War of 1914-1918.

www.greatwar.co.uk/research/education/teacher-ww1-resources.htm

- **Schoolswork website** has a whole resource bank of assembly and lesson ideas for schools on a whole range of issues, including peace, anger and probably WW1 ideas in due course. www.schoolswork.co.uk
- **Barnabas in Schools** is another excellent website with ideas for use in school lessons and assemblies. <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/>

Resources for Children's and Youth Groups (please email any suggestions in)

- **Hope UK: Greater Love** - marking the centenary of World War 1 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' (John 15:13).

As part of HOPE's focus on 2014 as a year of mission, they are preparing resources to help churches to mark the centenary of World War 1 at the heart of local communities.

http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/203992/HOPE/Mission_Moments/Remembrance/Remembrance.aspx#.Ut5KO9FFC1s

- **Peace Activity Guide:** The YMCA in Canada have produced an excellent resource for running a peace festival, with lots of activity suggestions. It's free and downloadable.

<http://www.ymca.ca/media/198375/ymca%20peace%20building%20activity%20guide%202012.pdf>

- **The Imperial War Museum (Closed until July 2014)** has a selection of educational resources available for download primarily for use in schools. These are factual and provide historic information about life and conditions in the war.
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/first-world-war-learning-resources>

- **Their Past Your future:** From the World Wars to the Cold War; Their Past Your Future gives teachers and students in UK schools everything they need to explore the course, causes and consequences of conflict from the First World War to today.
<http://www.tpyf.com/>

Youth Work Suggestions

Six Downloadable YouTube clips as discussion starters.

- 1 **Blackadder:** "Good luck everyone"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vH3-Gt7mgyM>

The last 4 minutes of the WW1 series of Blackadder, where Baldrick, Darling and Blackadder go "over the top". A very moving and poignant clip which raises lots of questions about war, blind obedience, the greater good, powerlessness and sacrifice. A simple discussion about what are the myths and what are the truths about war that lie behind this clip.

- 2 **War Horse - Charge Scene & Nicholls Death** (warning – with graphic violence)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKUdxkaDoNo>

The story of a horse, conscripted from a farm and used by both sides during the war. It raises many questions, but ones about the innocent victims of war are ones that can be raised and discussed.

- 3 **Oh what a lovely War** – When they ask us how dangerous it was.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5f95idVQEXI>

One of a series of youtube clips that are available. This highlights the issue of what the real cost of war was to so many men, women and children. Questions about the real cost of war and why the soldiers never spoke about their experience can be raised using this particular clip.

- 4 **Horrible Histories - Football in "No Mans Land"**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J5lkxPp6sM>

A poignant and humorous clip of England vs Germany playing football in the trenches on Christmas day 1914. Questions raised include how sport can be used to unite countries as well as what was it that went through the minds of the soldiers as they played football one day and killed each other the next.

- 5 **The Chronicles Of Narnia - The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe-battle Scene**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FixGtnqBdhE>

The four Pevensie children have been evacuated from London at the beginning of WW2. In effect they have been sent away from the war to a place of relative peace. When, through a series of adventures they are confronted with a wicked witch and her army they choose to lead a battle to overthrow her tyrannous regime.

Questions raised include,

Why did they choose to fight rather than return home?

This was not their battle, why get involved?

What were they fighting for?

What parallels does this have with WW1?

- 6 **The Hunger Games** – The Reaping Scene

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUO1k1YadXQ>

The hunger games is a TV show in a country where war has been abolished but 16 districts are forced to put forward two contestants to fight to the death against all the other districts, leaving only one contestant standing at the end. In the reaping scene heroine Katniss volunteers to fight in place of her younger sister. The parallels with WW1 are numerous, with people choosing to volunteer to fight in order to preserve the peace for others.

Sample Youth work session: For a small youth group aged 11-18.

Peace-More than an absence of War

Aim: To explore the meaning of the word Peace, from a variety of perspectives, including those who fought in WW1, in the world today and from an individual perspective, with an opportunity to respond and act for peace directly.

Item 1a: A World of Peace versus a world of conflict.

Make two columns on a flipchart sheet and label them “*Actions in a peaceful world*” and “*Actions in a world of conflict*”.

Ask the young people to brainstorm ideas for each list.

By looking at the lists, explore the reflection point “Peace is more than the absence of War”

Then read a World War One Poem by Edgell Rickwood (1898-1989)

War and Peace

In sodden trenches I have heard men speak,
Though numb and wretched, wise and witty things;
And loved them for the stubbornness that clings
Longest to laughter when Death's pulleys creak;

And seeing cool nurses move on tireless feet
To do abominable things with grace,
Deemed them sweet sisters in that haunted place
Where, with child's voices, strong men howl or bleat.

Yet now those men lay stubborn courage by,
Riding dull-eyed and silent in the train
To old men's stools; or sell gay-coloured socks
And listen fearfully for Death; so I
Love the low-laughing girls, who now again
Go daintily, in thin and flowery frocks.

Read the poem and introduce it to the group as written about WW1.

How does the author see peace in the immediate period after war? Is this a real peace? Was it worth fighting for? Is it a real peace? Was it right to send people to these sort of conditions?

Item 2: Imagining a peaceful world.

This could be introduced by playing “Give peace a chance” by John Lennon.

Do the imagining a peaceful world exercise as outlined in the free downloadable booklet “Values Activities for Young Adults” page 1.5

www.livingvalues.net/books.html#young%20adults

Ask young people to write or draw about their vision of a peaceful world after this visualization exercise. They may wish to include peace within their own self.

Share these pictures and discuss how they are able to communicate or visualise peace- what colour is it?

Use some of all of these questions to explore the issue of peace.

- *If every single person were peaceful inside would this make the world more peaceful?*
- *How do you feel when you are peaceful? (without using the word peaceful)*
- *What sensations are you aware of?*
- *When do you feel peaceless?*
- *What types of thoughts or activities help you to feel peaceful?*

Finally- what advice do they have for the world leaders and young people of today- what laws would they introduce to help keep the peace?

Item 3: What did Jesus say about peace?

Craft activity: Design a Peace Box:



Use the suggested passages below and others to decorate a home-made origami box, young people could write the verses on the box and decorate it with heart or shaped stickers. As you sit with the young people – discuss the meaning of the verses and what impact they have had and could have on the world.

These could be filled with love hearts, smarties, etc. and given as a peace gift.

Matthew 5:9 ; Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:27; John 16:33; John 20:19.

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-box.html>

Item 4: Arms are for?

There's a famous slogan "Arms are for hugging, not for shoving".

Can you create some other slogans that promote peace?

Item 5: Create a peace tree

Create a large tree display and put it in a visible location (i.e. in school or in church)

Create a large sign with instructions "What will you give (up) for Peace to improve your health, the environment and promote peace?"

Cut out leaf templates and write a few examples to attach to the display.

"For peace I will give up driving for one week" "or I will plant a tree"

Have the tree on display encourage everyone to participate.

Item 6: Peace Collage

Using magazines, paper, scissors and glue, create a collage of pictures that promote peace or convey ways in which people can be more united in the world. They also could use scripture or add them to the shape of a cross.

Item 7: Will do, Might do, won't do? Closing worship activity

Choose some reflective music or a song about Peace (eg Laura Young)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6eDvl4Xbh8>

Then invite the group to put these things that people can do into one of these three categories: (you could make them into cards and place them into different piles)

- Write to your MP on a peace issue that you feel strongly about
- Go on a peace rally.
- Organise a peace assembly at school
- Smile all day
- Learn or use some prayers for peace <http://www.onesanctuary.com/peace/peaceprayers.html>
- Don't swear; stop whining and complaining; apologize more often; turn away from an argument;
- Listen to beautiful music
- Write loving thoughts and observations in a journal- do a good deed every day for a week.
- Create a place of sanctuary in or around your home
- Learn about (and make) the Pledge of non-violence
- Pray for peace in specific countries in the world
- Get involved in the international day of prayer for peace (21st September)
- Do something the "pay it forward" way- doing a random act of kindness to someone.
- Research Amnesty International's website and get involved in one of their campaigns.
- Set up a peace zone in the church.

Close the evening by reading a peace prayer and asking each member of the group to commit to doing at least one of these activities.

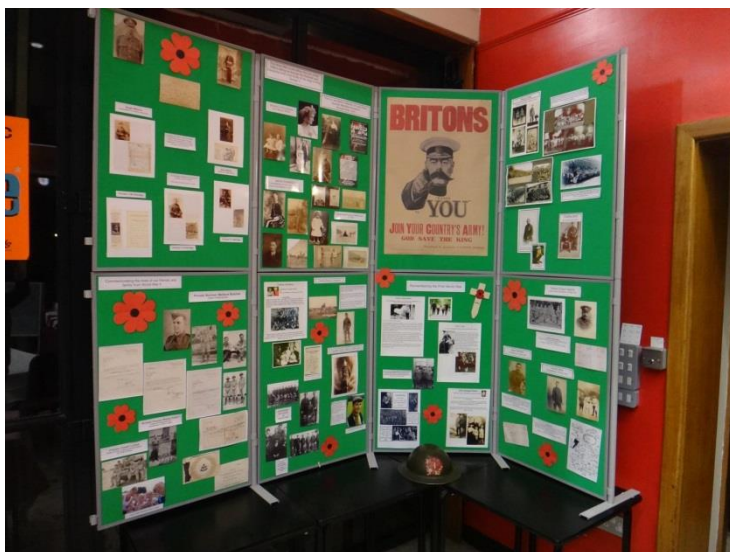
Five projects that youth or children's groups can get involved with.

1) Make a memory wall, book or blog

Look at your churches or towns war memorial and make a note of any connections with WW1. Follow these up with some research from any local archives or rolls of honour. Make an appeal for information about any names on the memorial, ask members of the congregation or community for photographs and information about relatives involved. Those who served have all past away- but those one generation away may still be alive.

You can collect or scan photos at a coffee morning at the church or hall, to save people having to give up a precious photograph.

Create a display/Blog/book which commemorates the service of these valuable members of the community.



This display was organised by a community group in Long Eaton and displayed for the public to see.

Three examples of blogs are

WW1: Experiences of an English Soldier: <http://wwar1.blogspot.co.uk/>

This blog is made up of transcripts of soldier Harry Lamin's letters from the First World War. **War Memorials Archive Blog**

A blog which focuses on war memorials for a range of conflicts.

<http://ukniwm.wordpress.com/tag/ww1/>

The Army Children of the First World War: Faces and Families' This Flickr style photograph based record tells of children of servicemen.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/armychildrenarchive/sets/72157639443782713/>

2) Organise a peace trail-

The Quakers website suggests putting together a peace trail around your local town or village, stopping at around 10 places of significance, a church, a town hall, graveyard, war memorial, park and school. Some of the places may have some significant meaning with peace-making, others are community spaces where communities and relationships are strengthened. Pray for your community and for peace at each stop.

Walking the trails encourages the discovery of the local people and places associated with community building or peace-making. Taking a group of young

people on a peace trail could also involve asking them to consider the peace issues that they believe need addressing in their town today

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/files/Commemorating-WWI-opportunity-for-peace.pdf>

3) Visit the Arboretum in Alrewas.

The National War memorial is on our doorstep.

Why not take a group of children, young people, or a mixed age group and:

- Book a tour with them
- Use their downloadable learning resources to lead your own tour
- Take a group to some of their school holiday



Finish with a short act of remembrance at one of the memorials.

<http://www.thenma.org.uk/>

4) Make contact with the local British Legion- invite an ex-serviceman to speak to the youth or children's group.

5) Write Poetry, Drama or use some Art to Contribute to a Diocesan Gallery.

Bishop Alastair has suggested an initiative to encourage people to use art, poetry or drama to reflect on issues around WW1, in particular he suggests these three themes

- ***Conflict and Death***
- ***Remembering***
- ***Praying for Peace***

This is a chance to catch the imagination of young people who could be engaged through school with these themes, and also with older people who have personal memories of world wars and military connections.

Details as to how this information could be collected are still very embryonic, but the Youth Adviser, Alistair Langton is very willing to be a conduit for submissions.

If there is sufficient response then these could form the central piece of a display.

Provisional Youth Pilgrimage to Somme/Ypres (*The dates and prices are provisional*)

A short pilgrimage (3 days/2 nights) will be led this autumn by Youth Advisor Alistair Langton and Revd. Lee Townend. It will be suitable for those aged 14-21.



The pilgrimage, based around Ypres, the main British Battlefront in the First World War will leave Derby on Monday 27th October 2014 and travel by minibus to Ypres. We will visit the Flanders Field Museum and walk down to the Menin Gate, reflect on the missing of Flanders and see the Ramparts of Ypres. We will visit battlefields associated with the war, walk in preserved trenches and visit the haunting Somme battlefield and view the Largest British Mine Crater on the Western Front at La Boisselle.

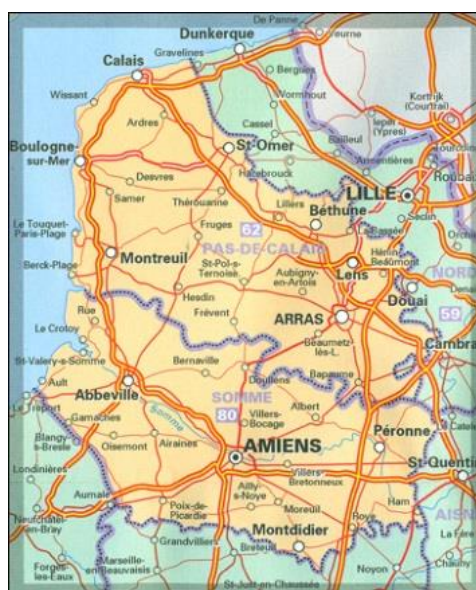
Each evening we will either attend the moving “Last Post Ceremony” in Ypres or spend time together in worship and reflection, exploring the issues raised by such a horrific conflict.

A pre-pilgrimage meeting will be held in September at the National Arboretum.

Further trips could be organised in 2015/2016

Cost would be in the region of £150- £200 per person for two nights’ accommodation, travel and a guide whilst in France or Belgium.

Further information on this trip or any other items in the booklet contact Alistair Langton, Derby Diocesan Youth Adviser on 01332 388664 or by email at Alistair@ddbe.org



Further and more up to date pages will be uploaded to the Education Pages of the Diocesan website:- www.Derby.Anglican.org