

St Hilda's Church Warley Woods

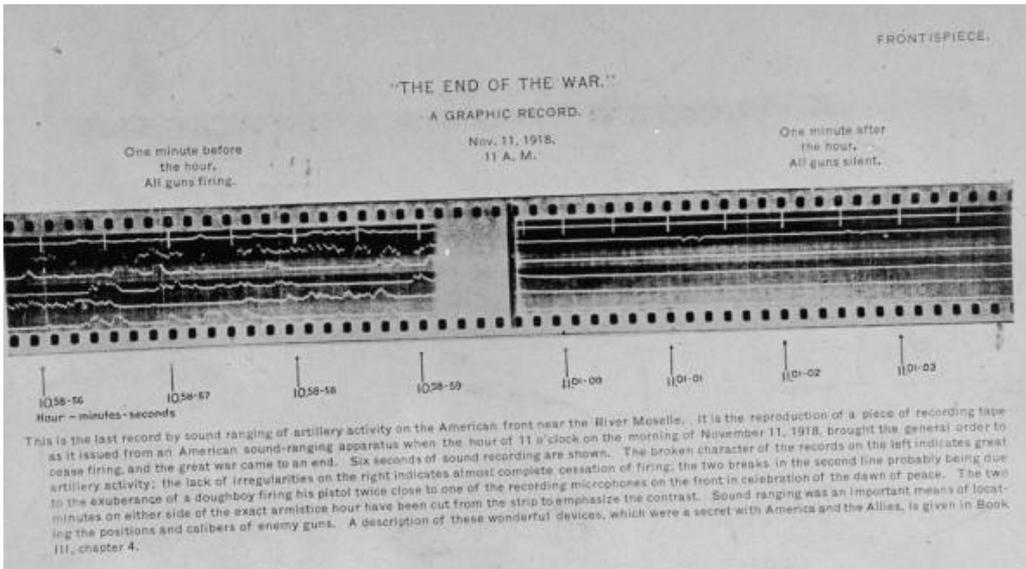


Weaving God's thread of love



**A Family Service
with Act of Remembrance
10.30am
Sunday 11th November 2018**

The Sounds and Colours of Peace



This stunning image is a record of the moment the guns fell silent on the Western Front at 11 am on November 11th 2018. One minute before the hour, the guns were still firing - see the wiggly lines. One minute after, all shelling ceased. Peace at last.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that the last British soldier killed in the First World War was Private George Edwin Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. He was killed at Mons (where he had also fought in 1914) at 09.30am, just 90 minutes before the ceasefire. In all, 10,000 soldiers from all nations were killed, injured or reported missing on November 11th 2018. Some 875 of those casualties were from the then British Colonies. People of all nations were killed. Just this week in Smethwick, outside the Guru Nanak Gurdwara on the High Street, a new memorial was erected to commemorate all Sikh soldiers who died in the world wars.

In our service today we will of course remember. You will be invited to 'stomp' 100 times to mark the passing of 100 years exactly today since the end of that terrible war. Then we will fall silent, like the guns. And wearing our poppies, both red and white, we will honour those who have fallen from all nations, from all colours. We will also commit ourselves to peace making and being peace makers. We will focus on Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to all humanity to be the Prince of Peace.

Is a peace-focused Remembrance Service disrespectful to the military? Is wearing a white poppy a cowardly act? No, not at all. White poppies represent three things: remembrance of **all** victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempts to glamorise or celebrate war. No soldier wants to glamorise war. No war is positive for military personnel. I encourage you to wear both coloured poppies as a sign of your willingness to be reconciled to others and to all. And at the end of our service we will sing a Song for Peace sung by young people of all colours.

Remembering and praying for Peace

During this week, scores of children have been into our church to explore our Prayer Spaces of Remembrance and Peace. Children from our uniformed organisations, Lightwoods and Bleakhouse schools have spent time reflecting and thinking as well as sharing and creating their responses to violence and peace. **One of the things that has been striking is how they are also so concerned about the 'here and now' of living in times of violence today.** Four of the prayer stations they were using are available for you to explore today. Please feel free to visit these:

STONES OF FORGIVENESS

Conflict exists in all human relationships, not just in war. Think of a time of conflict in your life and grasp a stone as you experience all the anger and hurt of that time. When you are ready let go of the anger and hurt (and the stone) and let it fall into the water to be washed clean.



INTO GOD'S HANDS

Sometimes there are experiences we cannot cope with or properly understand. Put those things into God's hands by writing them on the sheet as a prayer or just as a few words with meaning to yourself and God.



PEACE GARDEN

Until we learn to let go of anger and a need for revenge nothing good can grow. Place a heart shaped petal on our Peace Rose with a single word or name written on it. Or create a flower to plant in our Peace Garden and fill the world with light and colour.



EMPTY CHAIR

When someone dies they leave an empty space in our hearts and our homes. This chair represents that empty space. Write a prayer or a name of someone you no longer see on a tag and place on the chair.

The Gathering

Hymn: CP537 O God our help in ages past

During this hymn, the uniformed organisations will present their flags

Introduction

Paul welcomes and explains our theme today: 'Weaving God's thread of love' and then says:

Creator God,
who brings one day to a close
and a new day to dawn,
we remember those who gave their today
that we might have a tomorrow.

Preparing for our Confession

Led by uniformed organisations from St Hilda's

Eternal Father, we thank you for the wondrous gift of life
and for the awesome gift of choice.
We honour the immense gift of possibility,
for good or ill, which you have given to the human family.
Today we remember those who have died
through war and conflict, brave and fearful,
known and unknown.

We mourn for the goodness and wisdom that died with them;
for the skill and wit that perished;
the learning, the laughter and the leadership that were lost.

We pray for the courage to do God's will,
make wise choices and follow in Jesus' footsteps,
learning from the remembrance of past generations,
and bearing their own hope and commitment on life's journey.

The Confession

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish
that peace which God wills for his children.

Give us the courage and compassion to follow your Son's teachings,
to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

Sit or kneel. After a short silence:

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Bible Reading: Romans 8.31-end

Please stay seated for the reading

God's Love in Christ Jesus

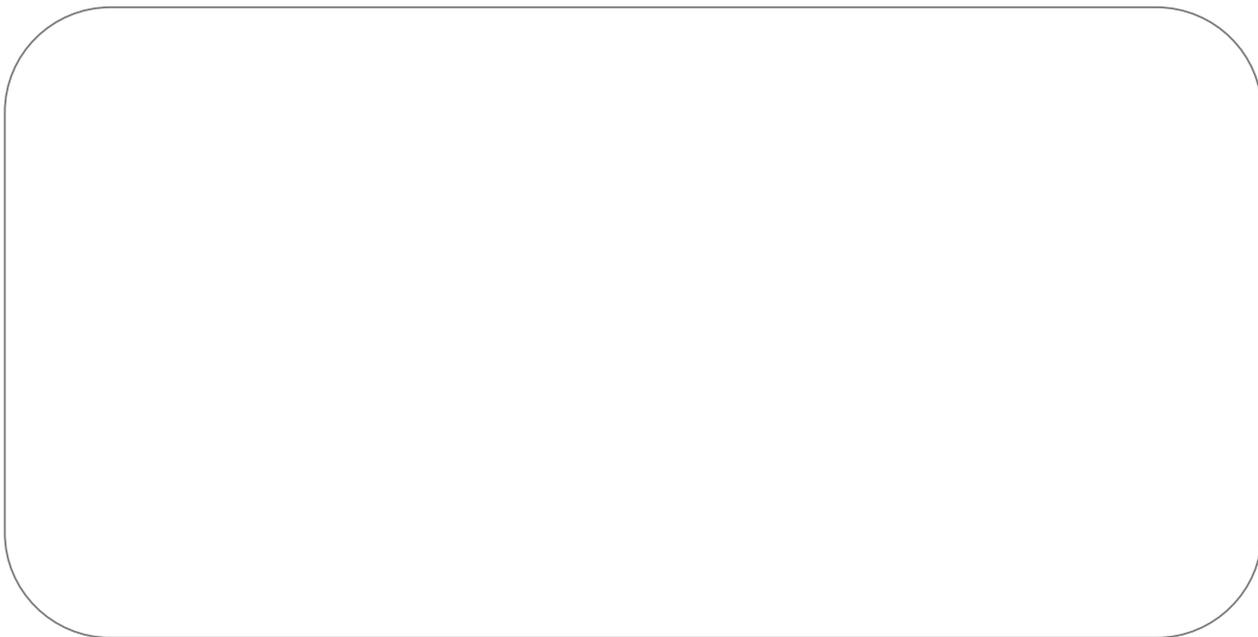
³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Short Talk I: Woven together with God

Sit. Here is some space to jot down thoughts if you wish. At the end of the talk we will stand.



Hymn: Hope for the World's Despair

Words: Ally Barrett; Tune: 'My song is love unknown'¹

Please stand if you are able. You may choose to follow the words and watch the unfolding animation on the big screen.

**Hope for the world's despair:
we feel the nations' pain;
can anything repair
this broken earth again?
For this we pray: in every place
a spark of grace to light the way.**

**Wisdom for all who bear
the future in their hand,
entrusted with the care
of this and every land.
When comes the hour, O Lord, we pray,
inspire the way we spend our power.**

**Honour for all who've paid
war's painful, bitter price,
when duty called they made
the greatest sacrifice.
Their memory will never cease
to cry for peace and harmony.**

**Ease for the troubled mind
in endless conflict caught,
each soul that cannot find
the peace beyond all thought.
May they be blessed with healing balm
for inner calm and perfect rest.**

¹ Winner of Jubilate's Hymns of Peace competition 2018, to mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War. Words © Ally Barrett / Jubilate administered by Jubilate Hymns Ltd copyrightmanager@jubilatehymns.co.uk

**Love for the human heart:
when hate grows from our fears
and inwardly we start
to turn our ploughs to spears.
Help us to sow love's precious seed
in word and deed, that peace may grow.
Help us to sow love's precious seed
in word and deed, that peace may grow.**

Act of Remembrance: 100 stomps and then silence

As we remain standing, at the beat of the drum, we will march out 100 steps – one, for each of the 100 years since peace fell over the whole world at the end of the First World War. In this Act of Remembrance, we are conscious of all who have died in war's cruel violence. We remain standing as the Choir sing the Anthem based on Laurence Binyon's words.

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping
those who have died for their country in war,
those whom we knew,
and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died
in the service of humankind.



For the Fallen Music: Douglas Guest; Words: Laurence Binyon

They shall not grow 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.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning: **We will remember them.**

*Silence to remember all who have died in war, a silence begun and ended with a trumpet voluntary.
A wreath of poppies is laid at the chancel steps. In addition, a member of our church from every decade
of life will lay a poppy each.*

The minister then completes the Act of Remembrance with the Kohima Epitaph:

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

The Collect

Remain standing as Paul says the words 'Let us pray'.

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life;
Hear our prayers and thanksgiving
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them,
to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Song: There will be peace

Please sit. Introduced by Renate Wilkinson: written by their son Sam Wilkinson for the Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of South Africa. Our Choir will sing it first. Then all are invited to join in singing it twice. At the end of the service we will see a video of this being sung by a united nations of young people.

**There will be peace
somehow, some way I pray
there will be peace.**

**There will be peace
somehow, some day I pray
There will be peace. (X2)**

Short Talk 2: Weaving our part in history

Mandy helps us to weave the threads together



The inspiration for this part of our service came from weaving a blanket, as the writer, Elaine Halls, explains: 'I was weaving a blanket and thought of the warp and the weft. The warp is the thread that is static and secure and runs throughout the length of the blanket. The weft is the thread that is woven in and out, is moveable, changeable and can be different on every row. We can demonstrate this by inviting everyone to do some hand weaving.'

What thoughts come to you as you weave the weft of the threads around the warp of your fingers?

Litany of Remembrance

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
Weave us into the fabric of history,
warp and weft.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
We are the weft that you have woven
into all the years that have gone by.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
With you, this day, we remember
all the stories and pictures of war we have heard and seen.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
With you, we remember that 100 years ago today,
peace and the end of the First World War were woven into history.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
We are upset that so many people have been hurt and killed
in so many wars. All of them have left their mark on history.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **Trinity that binds us:**
We are sad that wars that still go on.
Help us to live our lives for peace.



Hymn & Action: Put peace into each other's hands

During the singing of this hymn, you are invited to light a candle as your act of remembrance and receive a White Poppy of Peace from the Peace Pledge Union if you so wish. Stewards will guide you to the appropriate stand.

**Put peace into each other's hands
And like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame,
With tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
With loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways,
In touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
Like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye:
Our life is meant for caring.**

**Give thanks for strong - yet tender hands,
Held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
The heights of love expressing.**

**Put Christ into each other's hands,
He is love's deepest measure;
In love make peace, give peace a chance
And share it like a treasure.**

(by Fred Kaan © 1989 and 2001 Stainer & Bell)



Prayers of Intercession

The prayers led by Mandy. The intercessions are introduced with these words:

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Sit or kneel. At the end of each of the following prayers the response is:

May God give peace. God give peace.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray in our own mother tongue

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory

are yours now and for ever. Amen.

At the end of all the prayers the response is:

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand: Paul introduces The Peace

As we remember those fallen in war,

we pray for peace in our world

and those who seek to bring it about.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

and also with you.

Notices & Banns of Marriage

Please sit as we hear news and notices of St Hilda's

Hymn: CP427 For the healing of the nations

Stand to sing. The collection will be received.

*And at the end of the hymn, flags will be returned
and the choir will process into the nave*

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and all people, young and old;
that we may help, encourage, and comfort others,
and support those working for the relief of the needy
and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all humankind;
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom; give us courage;
give us hope; and keep us faithful
now and always. Amen.**

Hymn: CP354 The National Anthem

During this the Guides and Scouts will dip the flags



The Blessing

Paul then pronounces the blessing:

Let us go from this place
with minds that never forget,
with hearts that grow in hope,
with lives that shine Christ's light. **Amen.**

Let us go to serve,
to reconcile,
to bring peace
and to stand united as children of the light. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Peacemaker, Peace-bringer,
go with us all
this day and every day. **Amen.**

*By Roddy Hamilton
Taken from 'Winter' – by Ruth Burgess*

Mandy sends us out with these words:
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen.

A Song of Peace

You are invited to remain in your seats and sit with the threads wrapped round your hand and the poppies in your lap and listen to this plea for peace sung by the young people of the Waterford Kamhlaba United World College of South Africa in Swaziland. The words of the chorus were written by Sam Wilkinson, Renate and John's son. The verses which are spoken were written by two of the students.

There will be peace

**There will be peace
Somehow, someday, I pray
There will be peace
There will be peace
Somehow, someday, I pray
There will be peace**

I've been fighting for peace so long
We've been talking about it for a while
They still won't believe us
There's a lot of violence in the world
It's hard to be around with all the violence in the world.
I wish they would blow kisses instead of buildings
It's kind of hard to live with all these killings
If your neighbour's not building, you still keep on building
I really wish they would blow kisses instead of buildings.

**There will be peace
Somehow, someday, I pray
There will be peace
There will be peace
Somehow, someday, I pray
There will be peace.**

Can you imagine? If Isis was my sister
If we never said Al-Qaeda
I'd kind of miss her.
These days you feel you can kind of open up
Then they clothe you with a Navy Seal hug
Can you imagine?
We need to stop being the United Front
and start being the United Planet
Let go of our inhibitions
We need to release,
'cause that's the only way we're going to make peace.

NOTICES

VICARAGE GARDEN WORKING PARTY

All are invited to come and help tidy up the vicarage garden for winter as we prepare to create a sensory peace garden for those in our community living with dementia. The next working party will take place on Saturday 8th Dec 10am - 12noon. We have some tools and gloves to use but feel free to bring your own.

Fran Ellis

CAROLS AND CAKES - 16TH DECEMBER

Everyone is invited to come to this event for some Christmas festivity - singing carols and eating cake. All donations on the day will be given to BUDs. We would be grateful for cakes you could bring along too.

Cake and drinks and piano entertainment will be available from 2.15pm and then we will sing some Christmas songs and carols, hear some words, and generally enjoy ourselves from 3pm. We are aiming to finish by 4.15pm. We are hoping that some of BUDs' clients will come too, and if you know anyone who would like to come and join us, please bring them along. All are welcome.

We now need you to tell us what you would like to sing. There are slips available for you to fill in with the title and a reason why you would like us to sing that carol.

The slips will be in your order of service or in the porch. They need to be returned to the box in the church by 2nd December.

We are really looking forward to finding out what your favourites are and singing them with you on that afternoon.

Rose Akeroyd and Sue Round

PARISH PRAYER WALK AND CHRISTMAS LEAFLET DROP

There are 4,100 homes in our parish. That's a lot of letterboxes! And we hope to put a Christmas Invitation through every door and have the opportunity to pray for every street at the end of this month. We hope to accomplish this on Wednesday November 28th with your help and the help of some students from Queen's Theological Foundation, where Suzy Pearson is training for ordained ministry. Next Wednesday (14th) at 9.30am we will bundling up the leaflets into streets: come to the Vicarage for that. And then two weeks later, we hope several 'waves' of praying deliverers will take the invitations out to the parish: in pairs and in daylight hours. Please consider joining in and adopting a street to pray for through Advent and Christmas. *Paul Hinton and Suzy Pearson*

THANK YOU

Thank you for all your support, good wishes, cards and especially your prayers which has helped to keep me positive and hopeful. I am in the process of getting the right treatment for my eye and hope to see you all soon. **Freddie**

NEXT SUNDAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 61.10-62.5

¹⁰ The people of Jerusalem will say,

“We take great delight in the LORD.

We are joyful because we belong to our God.

He has dressed us with salvation as if it were our clothes.

He has put robes of godliness on us.

We are like a groom who is dressed up for his wedding.

We are like a bride who decorates herself with her jewels.

¹¹ The soil makes the young plant come up. A garden causes seeds to grow.

In the same way, the LORD and King will make godliness grow.

And all the nations will praise him.”

62 The LORD says, “For the good of Zion I will not keep silent.

For Jerusalem’s benefit I will not remain quiet.

I will not keep silent until what I will do for them shines like the sunrise.

I will not remain quiet until they are saved

and shine like a blazing torch.

² Jerusalem, the nations will see that I have made everything right for you.

All their kings will see your glory.

You will be called by a new name. I myself will give it to you.

³ You will be like a glorious crown in my strong hand.

You will be like a royal crown in my powerful hand.

⁴ People will not call you Deserted anymore.

They will no longer name your land Empty.

Instead, you will be called One the LORD Delights In.

Your land will be named Married One.

That’s because the LORD will take delight in you.

And your land will be married.

⁵ As a young man marries a young woman,

so your Builder will marry you.

As a groom is happy with his bride, so your God will be full of joy over you.”

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 19.27-30:

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' ²⁸ Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.



***St Hilda's
13th Annual Model
Railway
Exhibition***



Saturday 17 November 2018

10.00am till 5pm

in the Church Hall

**At least 10 layouts plus trade stands
(as advertised in **Railway Modeller** magazine)**

ALL WELCOME