



in our villages, towns & cities

Partners in the Remembrance 100 project

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He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

Luke 22:19 (NIV)

Roy Crowne is executive director of HOPE.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

On this day in the UK we are reminded to remember a treasonous plot to blow up Parliament. In a few days' time we will be remembering the sacrifice made by so many in war. Remembering is part of our DNA. As people made in God's image, we remember, just as God remembers. Throughout scripture, we are encouraged to remember what God has done for us – and particularly what was achieved on the cross. Just as men die for their country in war, Jesus died for us.

But because of his death, God chooses not to remember our sin when we ask his forgiveness. That is worth remembering!

PRAYER

Father God we are so grateful for all you have done for us in Christ. Help us to remember your love and grace in every situation we face, and help us to extend that love and grace to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen



I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

Amos 9:14 (NIV)

Adrian Butcher is director for communications for the Anglican Communion.

RESTORATION

The Lochnagar Crater sits now in the quiet, rolling countryside of Picardie in northern France. The people live in peace. Visit in July and you can see the crops ripening in the sunshine. The crater is huge – 98 feet deep; 330 feet across. It was created on a very different July morning – 1 July 1916 – the first day of the Battle of the Somme, when British forces detonated explosives under German army positions. The carnage of the Somme battlefield is unimaginable. Lochnagar's sheer scale is a

reminder of what happened. But the setting now is a sign of how God can restore peace to places of unimaginable horror.

PRAYER

Loving Father, thank you that you are in the business of restoration – of peace and reconciliation. Thank you that nothing, and no-one, is too far gone that you cannot rescue and restore and bring peace, hope and even prosperity where there was once none.



Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV)

Rev Nims Obunga is The Queen's Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London. He is also Pastor of Freedoms Ark, CEO of The Peace Alliance, and a member of the Knife and Violent Crime Prevention Group.

SEEK THE PEACE OF YOUR CITY

A London has been confronted with the challenge of escalated violence on our streets, the Church has come together from different denominations and across all ages to pray and seek the peace of its city. For four consecutive Sundays in 2018, more than 1000 people walked the streets of Haringey, Croydon, Brixton, Peckham, Lewisham and Hackney, praying for the rise of violence to be abated. In some cases, community weapons sweeps

were carried out with the police, and in one instance two knives were recovered.

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we pray that you would grant us wisdom and insight into how we might bring peace to our cities. May the cry of violence not be heard on our streets and homes. May your peace reign in the hearts of our youth as you stir up a revival.



A time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:8 (NIV)

Alan Wright is a former schoolteacher, and is now a non-stipendiary Anglican priest. He has been Chaplain at Scunthorpe United FC since 2002.

TIME FOR PEACE

The whole passage from Ecclesiastes 3 gives the contrast between what often is, and what we would hope it to be. A soldier associated with Scunthorpe United died on 10 November 1918, one day before the Armistice. For him, time had run out. A day later and he may have lived. How do we use our time? Is it spent in moaning or complaining, or is it spent in a positive way, perhaps to the benefit of others? Are our energies used in the right way? Are we focussed on the inward, rather than the

outward? All these things, used correctly, can bring hope to other people, and therefore hope for the world – for everything there is a season.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, in this year of anniversary and commemoration, we give thanks for those who have perished in war, grant that their deaths may not have been in vain, and that the peoples of the world will have the hope of a better future. Amen



Simon son of John, do you love me?

John 21:15-19 (NIV)

Rev Dr Peter Howson is a Methodist Minister who served for 25 years as an army chaplain. He is Secretary of the Society for Army Historical research.

NOT STRANGERS BUT CITIZENS

Rtribution or reconciliation? When Peter met Jesus on the lakeshore after the resurrection what was he expecting? Possibly not the question, 'Do you love me?' If Christians are to love their enemies then they need to ask them the same question that Jesus asked Peter. Christians need to remember that slogans such as 'squeeze the German lemon until the pips squeak,' which followed the Armistice in 1918, helped to lead to a flawed peace treaty that contributed to another and even more terrible war only 20 years later. The military can win a war, but society can lose

one's former enemies.

PRAYER

O God, may the times that we have to take up arms in defence of what we believe to be right never blind us to the continuing need to search for a better peace, that all may live in peace promised us by Jesus our Lord. Amen



Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)

Ade Omooba is a member of the HOPE leadership team, a pastor and co-founder of Christian Concern.

SERVING OTHERS

In serving others, we find out 'Who am I?' and 'Why am I here?' Once that was established in my relationship with God, I followed what I call the 'four Fs'. I needed to find my place in God's scheme of things; fit into that place appropriately; function well in that place; and bear fruit in the way in which I functioned. It was the same for young men serving their country a century ago, as well as men and women of all ages

PRAYER

Father God, your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Thank you for giving us your grace and strength as we accept your calling. Amen