The Church of England has also linked with HOPE and the Bible Society to help provide resources for churches and schools to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. HOPE have set up a dedicated website for the centenary: www.remembrance100.co.uk for resources and information about events taking place around the country throughout 2018.

Church of England resources available include:

- **A prayer for families** to say while visiting a war grave or memorial in addition to other prayers
- **An Act of Commitment** to work together for peace (this form of prayer could be used in conjunction with a civic Remembrance Sunday service, or as part of Sunday worship)
- **A Vigil Service** to mark the Centenary of the end of the Great War (to be used on the evening of 10th November 2018 or on the night of Armistice Day, Sunday 11th November 2018. Non-biblical readings may also be used.)
- **Steps towards Reconciliation**, a monologue interspersed with suggested words and music

**Here is a prayer to be said by families visiting a war grave or memorial:**

Lord Jesus, we believe that you stood beside N and his fellow-soldiers as they fought to bring peace to your world.

We believe that you have stood among us as we have tried to imagine the fear and pain and loneliness of the wounded and the dying on the battlefield.

We believe that you stand beside us now, as we remember and honour N.

In your great mercy, bless our good memories, comfort us when we grieve for the life that might have been, and strengthen us in all we do to seek the peace and freedom which are your desire for the world.

Amen.

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100 years of Remembrance 1918-2018

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 2018, it will be exactly 100 years since the treaty known as ‘The Armistice of Compiègne’ came into effect, ending the four long years of the First World War, bringing peace with Germany.

The death toll had reached an estimated 11 million troops from all the countries of Europe as well as from other countries around the world.

Called the ‘War to end all wars,’ this was not to be. The centenary of the Armistice gives additional significance to civic services of remembrance in churches and cathedrals and offers us an opportunity to make a lasting commitment to peace.

One year of commemoration: a lifetime committed to peace.

This leaflet along with www.stalbans.anglican.org/remembrance2018 is provided to help churches in planning their commemorations with others in their communities and to consider more lasting ways of expressing a Christian commitment to peace.
Make your commemoration count

1. Make the commemoration part of your church’s mission

Connect:
There may sadly be no more surviving veterans from World War 1, but there are plenty of their family members. The local Royal British Legion may well be in touch with them and inviting them to the civic service in your community. Why not offer help and support to your Royal British Legion and combine your church act of remembrance with theirs, open your church for refreshments, offer musicians or just be there to lend a hand.

Commit:
Bishop Alan is calling the people of the diocese to “recommit ourselves to the serious business of working for peace and justice with renewed vigour. Jesus said ‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God’, a phrase which suggests that peace is not just an absence of war or conflict, but is an activity which requires our attention and our energy.”


Invite:
- Make sure your All Souls Day services make available flyers or postcards about remembrance.
- Encourage church members to make personal invitations to friends, neighbours, family and colleagues to Christmas services.
- Check your www.achurchnearyou.com entry so that people looking on the web can find your church.
- Advertise your service and any special events on your web pages, maybe including the names on war memorials in your church.
- Plan a follow up event and make sure you have flyers, publicity etc available.

Welcome:
- Make your church open to people trying to visit or research any war memorials that you may have.
- Provide a ‘Remembrance Centenary’ visitors book where people can record their visit, or a creative prayer space to remember, light a candle and pray for lasting peace.

Relate:
- Ensure that you have materials available inviting people in your community to services that follow Remembrance, especially Advent and Christmas,
- Leave cards with appropriate prayers for people to take and assure them that the church is praying for them, giving thanks for the sacrifice their relative made for the common good.

2. Make use of these materials and develop your own around them

A variety of ideas for worship, prayer, and remembrance are now available to download, to help communities to remember those who were lost, and to pray for peace.

Put together by members of the Liturgical Commission, the resources are available at:
www.churchofengland.org/first-world-war-centenary

Prayer and worship materials can be downloaded here:
http://bit.ly/CofEWW1Resources

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has also produced a web page of resources at:
https://ctbi.org.uk/remembrance-sunday/