



Dear friends and parishioners,

We have to be careful about remembering. We ignore it at our peril, but it can easily become a way of escaping from the present, a kind of nostalgic diversion, a bit like a sad film: 'wasn't it awful for them, with their war horses and their steam trains and primitive ambulances'... Memory can distance as easily as it can connect. And some of the finest words about the Great War have become so familiar that they can cease to shock as these words and events should.

But part of what we must remember, as we rightly honour our past war dead, is that war and its horrors and uncertainties are daily occurrences in our own time. Nuclear weapons are still stock-piled around the world, and the threats many of us were used to thinking about during the Cold War still hang over the world. Real peace isn't just a lull in the fighting: it has to be made, by people's commitment and determination. The people who do that are the 'peacemakers' called 'blessed' by Jesus in his 'Sermon on the Mount'. Some people do that on the world stage, others within their family or community life, or with their vote. It is our duty to remember, and it is our calling to be peacemakers. With my love and prayers, this month and always,

Nicola Lenthall