

On November the 11th we are invited to come together as communities all over the UK in an act of Remembrance, especially this year, commemorating the end of the First World War, 100 years ago. Among the physical reminders of both the First and Second World Wars are countless memorials in our cities, towns and villages; recording and honouring the names of the men and women who died. These memorials are poignant reminders of the courage and sacrifice of those we remember, but also of the horror of war.

We remember too the injured, those whose lives were marked forever by their experiences of war, their families and their friends and those serving in our armed forces today. Sadly, as we are all too aware, there is still much conflict and violence in the world today. So many people in recent years have been forced to flee their homes and now find themselves refugees, uncertain of what the future might bring for them and for their families. We remember them today too.

At the heart of the Christian faith too, is an act of remembrance. All over the world Christians gather together to remember in bread and in wine, with thanksgiving, that Jesus gave his all for us on the cross and rose again to bring us new life and hope for the future; for a world where one day there will be no more war, where the peace of God will reign.

And so, it is with this hope in our hearts, that on Remembrance Day, as we remember with sorrow those who have died, we will pray too for peace and for all those who work so hard, even when the odds seem stacked against them, to bring peace, justice and reconciliation in our world today.

On the 4th November we will also be holding our annual Remembrance and Thanksgiving services in the Benefice at 6 p.m. in St Swithun's Kennington, St. James Radley and St. Leonard's Sunningwell. This will be a quiet, reflective space in which to remember loved ones who have died

All are welcome.