



IN DEPTH: FIRST WORLD WAR

We'll honour those who sacrificed all

The 100th anniversary of the First World War is an appropriate time to commemorate those who died in battle

IT was known as the Great War, and they hoped it would be the war to end all wars.

By 1918, Europe's great powers had fought themselves to a standstill. Millions of men had been killed or injured in gruelling trench warfare unlike anything the world had seen before.

On the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, King George V and Queen Mary joined members of Parliament for a special service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster. The King asked for that day, August 4, to be a National Day of Prayer, and 100 days later, the war ended.

A century later, churches around the country are using the 100 days between August 4 and November 11 as a time of prayer for peace and reconciliation.

This is being called Remembrance 100, and resources are available on www.remembrance100.com to help your church to pray and take actions to promote peace. Other

liturgical and prayer resources are also available via www.churchofengland.org/first-world-war-centenary.

Our cathedral is marking those 100 days with a focus on the 84 people from Old Portsmouth who served and died during the conflict, and whose names are inscribed on its war memorial. A series of silhouetted figures are being placed in various parts of the cathedral from now until November to help us remember those who sacrificed their lives.

It will include more than 17,000 hand-crafted poppies

Other churches across our diocese are also preparing to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in November with special events and activities.

St Peter's Church in Northney,

Hayling Island, will unveil a poppy cascade in October which will include more than 17,000 hand-crafted poppies. They have mainly been made by people on Hayling Island, but have also come from friends around the globe.

Islanders have been knitting, crocheting and carving poppies for months as part of the 'For The Fallen' project. The idea came Alyson Griffin, from the Northney Textile Crafts Group, who saw a cascade of knitted poppies hanging from a church in Scotland.

The hand-crafted poppies will cascade from scaffolding outside the 12th century church into the churchyard. The centrepiece will be a banner made from 350 poppies saying 'For The Fallen'.

Churchwarden Coleen Jackson said: "We were only planning to use around 6,000 poppies, but this has really taken off, and engaged the whole of the island."

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"More than 1,000 leaflets were circulated around the island and within days handcrafted poppies came flooding in. At one point the local wool shop ran out of wool. Some have been knitted, some crocheted, and some carved out of a branch that fell off a yew tree in our grounds."

And Carol Carter, from the Northney Textile Crafts Group, said: "We are also sewing dedications to individual soldiers onto four panels. Some of those have come from the families of those who died, so it is quite emotional to read them."

Among the dedications is one to Alyson Griffin's own grandfather Captain Sidney Charles Lloyd MC, on which she has written 'the grandfather I never knew'.

The church will host a dedication service on October 7 to launch a six-week exhibition put together by Hayling's University of the 3rd Age, which will highlight life on the island during the conflict. A timeline setting out the salient events from 1914 to 1919 will be displayed, as well as a list of the 105 casualties from the island, and more than 300 who served and returned.

The Rev Jenny Gaffin, vicar of St Peter's, said: "What a wonderful way to commemorate those who have served their country and given their lives for us. The whole community has embraced this project and we are very grateful to those who have supported the work."

Visitors can see the exhibition and cascade between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday, from October 8 until November 12. School groups can visit on request.



members of the Northney Textiles Crafts Group with the poppy cascade