



Briefing note for parishes

First World War Centenary Commemoration

The national commemoration of the First World War is shaped around the themes of remembrance, youth and education. Within those themes local communities will tell their own stories which are likely to focus on issues including:

- Why remembering matters
- Honouring bravery and sacrifice
- The impact on the development of Britain
- The role of allies and the Commonwealth
- Local connections and contributions to the war
- Reconciliation in today's world

At a national level the centenary includes:

- Refurbishment of Imperial War Museum
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london/transforming-iwm-london>
- School visits to the Western front battlefields
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/battlefield-visits-for-schoolchildren-to-commemorate-the-100th-anniversary-of-first-world-war>
- Heritage Lottery grants
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/whatwefund/FirstWorldWar/Pages/FirstWorldWar.aspx>
- Cultural Programme <http://1418now.org.uk/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>
- Commemorative events
- Restoration of war memorials
<http://www.warmemorials.org>
<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/about-us/campaigns/our-campaigns/world-war-i-commemoration>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-pounds-to-support-restoration-and-repair-of-first-world-war-memorials>

4 August 2014 Setting the Scene

10-12 noon Service at Glasgow Cathedral
19.30-20.30 Memorial event at
(UK time) St Symphorien Mons cemetery

**Westminster Abbey will broadcast parts of a Vigil
10-11pm to mark the commencement of war.**

**Please would you consider opening your
churches for prayer at some point on
Monday, 4 August 2014,
perhaps marking a vigil for peace and
remembrance.**

**Commemorative candles will be available from a
major high street store.**

2015-2017 The Battles

25 April 2015	Gallipoli Campaign
31 May/1 June 2016	Battle of Jutland and war at sea
1 July 2016	Battle of Somme
July - Oct 2017	3 rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)

2018-2019 Victory, thanksgiving and peace

11 November 2018 Armistice Day

How might you play a part in this national commemoration?

Which dates are of significance for your local community?

How might your churches help mark the significance of the war other than through Remembrance Sundays?

There will be city or county initiatives and co-ordinating groups. Why not find out what is already being planned and look for the opportunity for partnership?

What is the story behind your local war memorials?

Need help with liturgical resources? By April we expect there to be liturgical material specific to this commemoration available on the websites of:

- the Church of England
<http://www.churchofengland.org/>
<http://www.transformingworship.org.uk/>
- Churches Together In Britain and Ireland
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>
- Westminster Abbey
<http://www.westminster-abbey.org/>
- Litany of Reconciliation - Coventry Cathedral
<http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/our-reconciliation-ministry/coventry-litany-of-reconciliation.php>