

**KEY VERSE:**

Do your best to live in peace with everyone  
*Romans 12:18*



**THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER**

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World  
Charity Number: 1146043



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

13th November, 2016



**What's In A  
Name?**

**Peace**



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we are continuing our series on names of God in the Old Testament. We have learnt about God being our Healer, our Provider, our Shepherd and our Banner. This week we are looking at God being called 'Peace'.
- The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible which tells stories about God and his people before Jesus was born.
- Today is Remembrance Sunday, a day when we remember those who have given their lives to protect us.
- After the Israelites settled in their new home things still weren't always easy. God gave them 'judges' to remind them how to live with him and to rescue them from trouble.
- Gideon was one of these judges but he was often a bit scared. He asked God for proof that he would be ok and when God gave proof he did what God said.

## SO WHAT:

- In the Old Testament God is given different names because of what he does. His names tell us what he is like and what he is able to do.
- God will look after us but he also asks us to help one another and to work to make the world a safer place.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let us give thanks for those who work for peace around the world.
- Let us be like Gideon and work for peace and safety for ourselves and for those around us.

## LUKE'S LETTERS:

In Brent, where we used to live, it was almost impossible to find a poppy. One year I spent hours on a bus travelling around hoping to find someone from the Legion selling poppies, but there was no one. I ended up ordering a lapel pin online so that I always had one and wouldn't need to chase around anymore. The opposite couldn't be more true here. You cannot move for all the poppies, flags, window displays and other Remembrance related items available in shops and on street corners.

I feel a tension in the contrast between the two areas. On the one hand I feel strongly that remembering is vital to who we are and it dishonours those men (sometimes boys) and women who fought in the wars that it should be so hard to find a poppy in London. Argued the other way, though, the freedom of people to ignore or even speak out against military action is exactly the kind of freedom that my grandad and his brothers took up arms to defend.

The same could be said of Jesus. There are times when people want to ignore him and stop anyone talking about him and at other times it's hard to get people to shut up about him. Jesus died so that people would be free to choose him or not; there is no compulsion to do so but a sacrificial act of love by someone who wanted to help people and wanted them to know peace. It is understandable that this makes some people uncomfortable; selflessness always does. It is also understandable that for many people it's outrageous that he gets ignored. If your best friend died to save someone wouldn't you want it known?

However you feel about the poppy or the cross, they aren't going away. The question is whether or not we will learn their lessons and take them into our hearts.

