



HARDER TO MAKE PEACE

*A service honouring the
witness and courageous
action of Conscientious Objectors
to the First World War*

• 20 March 2016, Englesea Brook •

Led by the **Revd Inderjit Bhogal**,
*former President of the Methodist Conference
and President of the Methodist Peace Fellowship*

Preacher: **Dr Jill Barber**,
*Vice-President of the Methodist Conference
and Director of Englesea Brook*

Welcome. We gather ourselves and quietly listen first to music and the words of Psalm 46. A candle will be lit.

Music: Kyrie (Karl Jenkins)
Psalm 46 **John Cooper**, with music playing more quietly
Central candle is lit **Jill Barber**

Welcome and introduction by the Revd Inderjit Bhogal

I greet you in the name of Christ, and wish upon you the peace and blessings of God.

Welcome to this act of worship. A time of remembering, honouring and thanksgiving for those who have courageously said “no” to war and the taking of life in an act of war: the conscientious objectors.

In choosing to resist enlistment for war, conscientious objectors stood up against government, faced the hostility of their own nation, and in many cases of their own friends, family and church family. They did this out of their commitment as disciples of Christ and his call to “love your neighbour” and to “love your enemy”. The foundation, basis and courage of their resistance to war, was located in the gospel of Christ.

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We will proceed through a simple liturgy including songs, prayers, readings, reflections and lighting of candles. I am grateful to all who are contributing to this service, not least in its planning beforehand and production. Thank you.

We are conducting this service in Englesea Brook, located on the border between Cheshire and Staffordshire. Englesea Brook is a beautifully maintained part of Methodist history and heritage focussing on the nineteenth-century working class revival known as Primitive Methodism. When the First World War broke out, the traditional peace witness of the Primitive Methodist Church was challenged. Like many other churches, the Primitive Methodist Church had to reconcile many different understandings of war and peace.

Today’s order of service, videos and other materials are available on the Methodist Church website and we encourage you to integrate elements of them into your worship on Sunday 6 May – in advance of International Conscientious Objectors’ Day on 15 May 2016. Let us now hear about the experiences of conscientious objectors. Firstly we will hear from the Revd Michael Parrott of the experiences of Bert Brocklesby.

The Revd Michael Parrott, Chair of Englesea Brook Trustees:
The story of Methodist conscientious objector, Bert Brocklesby

Hymn:

Singing the Faith
(StF) 255

The kingdom of God

The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory
to God all in all!

Interview with Alan Done, the son of Methodist conscientious objector,
William Ralph Done

The Revd Michael Parrott

Litany of peace

Led by Lizzie Brookes, a candle will be lit by Ruth Parrott after each bidding

We enter now into prayer to reflect upon the decisions we all face, inspired
by the example of those who have faced difficult choices and challenges
It is easier to hate than love

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

It is easier to slap than to turn the other cheek

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

It is easier to make war than to make peace

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

It is easier to draw swords than to dialogue in words

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

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It is easier to drop bombs than to disperse bread

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

Hostility is easier than hospitality

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich
person to enter the kingdom of God

Love and faithfulness meet, justice and peace kiss (candle)

Hymn: StF 706

Longing for light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

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Bible readings

Micah 6:6-8, **Prof Anthony Reddie**
Matthew 5:11-12, 43-48, **Margaret Veal**

Reflection and message

Dr Jill Barber, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and Director of Englesea Brook

Prayers for peace

The Revd Inderjit Bhogal

Let us pray.

Let us hold in remembrance before God the Church of Christ throughout the world and our neighbours of all denominations and different faiths; that we shall be blessed by the grace of God, and that all will be given strength to work for, and to bear witness to, peace in the world we share.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

Let us hold in remembrance before God all nations and all leaders; that God will illuminate within and before them the pathways made of justice, mercy and humility for all to walk.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

Let us hold in remembrance before God all who courageously and with clear conscience say “no” to war, especially the conscientious objectors of all the nations, giving thanks for all who have shown us non-violent ways to handle conflict.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

Let us hold in remembrance before God all who suffer from war and are far from home – prisoners, immigrants, exiles, refugees and all who seek sanctuary – that God will be the shelter of their lives and souls, and help us to build communities of welcome, hospitality and sanctuary for all.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

Let us offer ourselves to God, that we may be peacemakers and that we may be given the grace to be followers and disciples of Christ, and to love those who hate us so that we can change the world and make it better for all.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

Let us remember and hold before God with thanks those who have died, and whose memory is precious to us. We give thanks especially for those who have died for justice and peace, for they have brought us new life. Let your light perpetual shine on them, holy God, and give them peace. Grant to us light and encouragement from the vision, witness and example of the saints who have gone before us.

God hears our prayers.

Thanks be to God.

We offer our prayers in the name of Christ, and gather them up in the words of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

Our Father...

Beauty for brokenness

Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for all people,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned -
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Refrain

Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Refrain

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A blessing

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For further reflection and action

Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#co100**

Read and share your stories of Methodist responses to war and peace at **www.methodistheritage.org.uk**

Methodism, peace and war in the twentieth century:

- A history of Methodist responses to war and peace is available from Methodist Publishing House: *Conscience and Conflict: Methodism, Peace and War in the Twentieth Century* (Epworth Press).
- Visit the special exhibition at Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum titled *Blood and Guts: a Community at War*, looking at conflicting attitudes to the First World War through the lives and experiences of men who served in the armed forces and those of conscientious objectors.

A social history of voices for peace is available from the Imperial War Museum.

To find out more about Methodist history, join the Wesley Historical Society: **www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Learn about the global Methodist Peace Prize: **worldmethodistcouncil.org**

Join the Methodist Peace Fellowship: **www.mpf.org.uk**

Find out about the wider Christian witness to peace today at the Fellowship of Reconciliation **www.for.org.uk** and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations **ncpo.org.uk**

Our Singing the Faith+ website has a variety of articles about using hymns as responses to war, conflict and peace. Visit **www.singingthefaitplus.org.uk**