

# Pledging and Commitment.

Between 16<sup>th</sup> September-19<sup>th</sup> November we are hosting an exhibition in collaboration with Staffordshire Museum and Archives and the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.)



This exhibition remembers the 4,971 German soldiers who fell and died in the United Kingdom during both World Wars and whose final resting place is near to us on Cannock Chase, but it poses wider, thoughtful questions about the scars of war, and the complexity of remembering wars and conflict.

Jesus reminds us that it is the peacemakers who are especially blessed (Mt 5.9). As we remember all who have died and continue to die in war, this evening we reflect upon the sin that fosters conflict, and we pledge ourselves to work for peace, in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace.

*Following the Offertory hymn all remain standing.*

‘What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?’

*Micah 6.8*

*A period of silence for reflection is then kept for reflection upon the past failings of sinful humanity that have led, and continue to lead, people and nations to be at war with one another. We acknowledge the cost of war paid by the loss of life by both combatants and non-combatants. We pray for those who have lost family, friends and their communities, livelihoods and cultural identities as a result of war.*

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us  
that have not yet been cast out by love:  
may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,  
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer. **Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance and Blessing**

The desert will sing and rejoice  
**and the wilderness blossom with flowers.**

All will see the Lord's splendour,  
**see the Lord's greatness and power.**

Tell everyone who is anxious:  
**Be strong and don't be afraid.**

**Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Son of the living God,**  
**teach us to live in the ways of peace and justice,**  
**to wage peace rather than war;**  
**so that we may come**  
**by the power of the Holy spirit**  
**as one family to the kingdom of the Father**  
**where you live for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy Spirit.**

Go in the strength of God's Spirit  
lighting the lamps of justice and peace  
with the oil of righteousness;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost  
be among you and remain with you always.

*The choir sing, Amen.*

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy procession leaves the Cathedral,  
Then please be seated as the organist continues with the Organ Voluntary.*