



The story

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who have given their lives serving our country.

We wear a poppy to help us to remember that they gave everything they had. Does anyone know why it is a poppy that we wear?

For some it is easier to remember than for others.

My Grandfather is 93 years old. He finds Remembrance Sunday very difficult, as he can't help but remember. He served in the Navy during the Second World War. One of the ships he served on was HMS Cornwall. It was bombed in the Indian Ocean, and sank with the loss of many lives. My Grandfather and some others were eventually picked up after many days adrift. Those who survived on HMS Cornwall get together for reunions. But he told me that he won't be going to any more reunions because there are so few of his friends still alive. He says that each time he goes there are fewer of them. There are fewer and fewer people who remember.

Today, there is not a single surviving service man who saw World War I. There are not many left who remember World War II. Will we remember them? Perhaps we want to forget wars and death?

Jesus told his followers why they had to remember. He said this:

“Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15 v13)

They have died because they love us

You know that to show someone that we care for them we give them something that is precious to us. That's why we give money to people less fortunate than ourselves. That's why we lend things to our friends. To show we care.

The greatest thing we can ever give to those we love is our lives. There is nothing more precious to us. There is nothing more we can give.

Those who died serving in our armed forces have given up everything to protect us, to show they care for us, to show that they love their country.



We must remember them. They gave their lives, because they loved us, to give us the freedom we enjoy in this country.

Jesus died because He loves us

When Jesus said this he was thinking about his own death. Jesus is God, so he knew everything that was going to happen to him. More than that, he planned everything that was going to happen to him.

He gave his life, because he loved us, to give us the freedom to be in God's family, forever. He did all that was required and there was nothing more that could be given.

Jesus also is our example. Will we be like him? Will we do whatever it takes to care for one another? Will we love others enough to give them what they need, even if it means that we lose out?

But today, above all else, is a day to remember those who gave their lives for those who they left behind. We must remember.

Let me pray.