



# Peace is our theme

Over the next few months in church we are taking *Peace* as our theme – from *Peace Within* to *Peace with the Universe* – and in this centenary year of the Armistice, *Peace between Peoples and Nations*.

Three key themes help define what we mean by Peace:

## Harmony not hostility

...in relationships between individuals – and in relationships between communities, peoples and nations. *Tolerance* is half way there, but the goal for true peace is not *tolerance* but *harmony*.

## Order not chaos

...in our inner lives, in our homes, and in the wider world – though to find inner peace amidst the chaos, we often need the prayer of serenity:  
*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

## A sense of contentment or completeness

...a sense that there is, and always will be, enough, that everything that matters is in place, that nothing more is required – think “the Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want” (23rd Psalm), or “give us this day our daily bread” (and that is enough – the Lord’s Prayer), or “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well” (fifteenth century English mystic Dame Julian of Norwich) – all with a profound trust in the goodness of God, and ultimately in the goodness of all that God has made.

We are planning a **Peace and Wellbeing Fair** for a Saturday in the new year, but before that, we have a *Peace and Justice Week* planned for this November. On the global scale, many have observed that *without justice, there will never be peace*. And this isn’t a justice of punishment or revenge (‘an eye for an eye’ leaves the whole world blind) – this is God’s ‘justice for the poor and oppressed’, a justice of putting things right and starting over, without retribution or revenge.

**The UN’s current global goals** include (at number 16) “Peace, Justice, and strong institutions” – in other words, the rule of just laws in every place, not just in theory, but exercised in practice as well.

It is a worthy goal to work towards, and we should indeed work towards it in every place. But in the mean time, we also ‘pick up the pieces’ in the midst of the chaos. These are the two dimensions of the church’s work for Peace and Justice: campaign for what is right, and in the mean time, tend the wounded. It isn’t either-or, it’s both.

That’s the foundation of our **Peace and Justice Week** in November – five evenings on five absolutely current themes, local, national, and international, all of them directly impacting people right here in the Lune Valley. It deliberately leads into the Armistice Centenary and the seventieth anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Do join us for a week that promises to be both informative and inspiring. More than a dozen speakers are already booked, and you can follow the latest programme details at [www.these4parishes.co.uk](http://www.these4parishes.co.uk)

**In the mean time**, join us any Sunday at 10.45am, and see what else is going on in the weekly bulletin at church, or at [www.these4parishes.co.uk](http://www.these4parishes.co.uk) (updated weekly)

*Michael Hampson*  
(vicar of Hornby)

