

Going over the top from the trenches during the First World War
(photo: Wikipedia Creative Commons)

via the research will be used to develop interactive teaching sessions and workshops for the pupils, uniformed groups and care home residents. A website will also be created to tell the stories of the men through words, pictures and audio soundtracks.

The project will culminate in a public exhibition in St Andrew's Church in November, and two pieces of artwork will be created to hang outside St Andrew's and Church of the Resurrection, Drayton, in time for Remembrance Sunday.

A similar project is taking place at **St Faith's Church, Lee-on-Solent**, where worshippers aim to tell the stories of some of the men from the town who fought and died during the war. They'd love to invite the families of some of those soldiers, sailors and airmen to hear the stories told at the Remembrance Sunday service at 9.30am on November 11.

They're now researching the backgrounds of the 27 men from the town listed on the war memorial on the seafront. The names are listed on www.stfaithslee.org/world-war-one. If you are related to one of these

men, do contact the vicar via the website.

And **St Peter and St Paul's Church in Wymering** will host an indoor street party on November 10 to mark the anniversary. There will be themed entertainment and respectful commemoration at the event, between 6.30pm and 10pm.

Guests are invited to wear outfits dating from that era. Tickets are £7.50, available from Lorraine Mitchell on 07779-193604. The church will also host a Service of Remembrance the next day at 10am.

The role of the Church during the Great War has been explored by Portsmouth priest Canon Alan Wilkinson in a book which was reprinted in 2014 and is still available.

'The Church of England and the First World War' which was first published in 1978, explores in depth the role of the Church during the conflict using biographies, newspapers, magazines, letters, poetry and other sources in a balanced evaluation. It is available on www.lutterworth.com.

Churches' bells will ring out to mark centenary

CHURCH bells rang out across the country on November 11, 1918, to help proclaim victory and peace at the end of the First World War.

Partly that's because bell-ringing was restricted during the four years of war, so ringers spontaneously volunteered to ring on Armistice Day as an expression of their relief that the war was over.

Those working in the Royal Dockyard in Portsmouth were given special permission to leave to ring the bells of our cathedral and St Mary's, Portsea, at 12noon. The ringing continued at intervals until the evening.

So it seems appropriate for church bells to be rung again 100 years later. Our cathedral will be just one of the churches where peals of bells will sound on November 11. As is the custom on Remembrance Sunday, the



Bell ringers at St Mary's Church, Brading

peal will be half-muffled.

Another way in which bell ringers will be marking the anniversary is by recruiting 1,400 extra ringers - in memory of the 1,400 ringers thought to have lost their lives serving their country

during the First World War.

New recruits can sign up via the 'Ringing Remembers' initiative, which means they can learn to ring in time for the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

Many are reporting that they

are doing so in memory of and to honour a relative who had died in the Great War.

Chris Cockel, who has been learning to ring in our cathedral since January, said: "My motivation for learning to ring was my great grand-uncle, who was a ringer in Cambridgeshire, who was killed in the First World War."

If you are interested in learning in time for November 11, please email bells@big-ideas.org.

The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers is also compiling archives of those historic bell-ringing events from 100 years ago, in honour of those ringers and non-ringers killed in the conflict.

They will also come together for Evensong at Portsmouth Cathedral on May 12, 2019, and at Winchester Cathedral on May 19, 2019, to ring bells in memory of those who died during the conflict.

Army chaplain awarded Military Cross

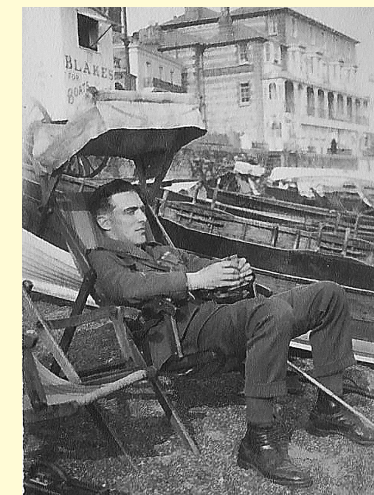
HE was an army chaplain who was stationed in Portsmouth at the end of the First World War.

The Rev Herbert Butler Cowl volunteered to become a Wesleyan chaplain in 1914, and served with the Durham Light Infantry on the western front near Armentières.

He was severely wounded during heavy enemy bombardment at the front. On his journey back to England, he was aboard the hospital ship Anglia when she was hit by a German mine in the Channel.

As a result of Herbert's actions on that day, he received the Military Cross for exemplary gallantry. He was the only known chaplain to be awarded the Military Cross medal for his action on a ship during the Great War.

He was never fit enough to



The Rev Herbert Butler Cowl in Southsea

resume overseas duties, but worked as a chaplain in the garrisons and home camps in Colchester and Portsmouth.

His life and faith have been recorded by his granddaughter Sarah Reay in her book entitled 'The

Half-Shilling Curate' - the family's affectionate name for him.

It uses his own letters and writings to describe the conflict, from Christmas Eve 1914 until after hostilities end in 1919. It illustrates the value of faith and the balance between serving God and carrying out his duties as a captain in the British Army.

Herbert was one of 5,000 chaplains who served with the British Army during the First World War, 179 of whom died while serving their country.

One review of the book said: "Love and decency shine from the pages in both words and photographs." For more details, see www.halfshillingcurate.com.



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