

**Address given at the Remembrance Service for Officers and Men of 1/4th, 1/5th,
1/6th and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles who fell at Gallipoli in 1915**

Saturday 24th February 2024

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In the preparation and crafting of this service, two quotations from all the painstaking research and different contributions which have gone into making this commemoration so very vivid and inspiring, have stood out for me as especially poignant. Two months before his death, on the eve of battle, Duncan Lloyd wrote in a letter to his mother:

I write this under the stars by the light of a candle, the sea at my feet and an ever-watchful destroyer prowling within sight, a lovely moonlit night, a splendid country and all God's beauty spoilt by his warring creatures.

It is hard to imagine how his mother must have felt on reading these words, but this glimpse into one human experience reminds us that each young man who fell at Gallipoli had their own families, friends, faith, hopes and fears, and it helps us to remember the personal within the long lists of casualties.

Secondly, the words of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, which we shall be honoured to hear read shortly by the Defence Attache from the Turkish Embassy, extended the hand of friendship and sympathy to the bereaved mothers of foreign soldiers, assuring them that their sons rested in peace in Turkish soil, alongside those who had died on all sides.

The human heart contains so much beauty and love and kindness, as we see in the way God's Creation touched Duncan, even amidst the fear and terrible conditions; and in the deeply compassionate words of Kemal Atatürk as he reached out to embrace the bodies of all the fallen within his country's hospitality.

We see both the creative power and the love of God reflected in such words. Yet humanity also turns away from God, and driven by greed or prejudice or the desire for power, can become those warring creatures of whom Duncan Lloyd spoke.

Today we come together as representatives of different nations, faiths, languages and races to remember the sacrifice and courage of so many young men from across the world who gave their lives in what they believed and hoped would be "*The War to end all wars*".

Over the past 108 years, countries, names, borders and governments have changed, often for the better. Yet sadly, God's creatures continue to wage war and to destroy the beauty and peace which he intended. Duncan's words and sentiments could be echoed in many places across the world tonight, Ukraine and the Holy Land among them.

Yet, as Atatürk said, the soil of every country, and I would say also, the eternal arms of God, receive in peace all those killed in warfare.

In the Gospel of St John, Christ promises his disciples:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The peace of God is a gift which transcends all understanding, and can drive away fear, leading us to reach out to one another in peace, recognising the damage we do to God's beauty around us, and seeking healing instead.

At precious gatherings like these, representatives from across the world remember and grieve for the fallen, giving us the opportunity and the inspiration to work together for peace.

In this service we remember above all those of the Gurkha regiments who died at Gallipoli alongside so many others of different nationalities and regiments; and we honour with them those who have given their lives in active service in the century since then, and all who continue to be caught up in conflict and warfare today.

As we hear their names read out and thank them for their courage - in the silence, with the lament of the pipes and in the laying of wreaths - may we pledge in their name and in recognition of their sacrifice to commit ourselves to work for peace, for the healing of God's beautiful creation, and for the compassion and brotherly love of all his creatures.

Amen.