

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT THE MARTYRS [contd.]

Photographs of servicemen have been placed on the railings that surround the moat. The Tower of London was where more than 1,600 men swore an oath to the Crown after enlisting for the war. Despite calls to extend the installation beyond 12 November, Mr Cummins has said he never intended the installation to be permanent as it was meant to symbolise that human beings are “transient”: “*The idea was it will only be there for a finite time like we are.*” This is a vital reminder to each of us: our time here is short, eternity is unending – and the only way to prepare for it is for our sin to be cleansed in that ‘Sea Of Red’ that was opened on Calvary.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday, 15 December @ 7.30pm: CHRISTMAS DINNER.

MEETINGS TODAY

- Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am: ‘*The War To End All Wars.*’
- Adult Bible Class – 3.10pm (with Rev. David Stewart, Portglenone)
- Evening Service – 7.00pm: ‘*Living Messages from Dead Soldiers*’ (Wreath laying ceremony at evening meeting).

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“*Tell of His birth at Bethlehem—Emmanuel—God with us!*”

“*Tell of His death at Calvary—God for us!*”

“*Tell of His heavenly gift at Pentecost—God in us!*”

(The counsel of Bishop Taylor Smith to chaplains on the 6th August – two days after the outbreak of war).



WELCOME TO REMEMBRANCE DAY AT THE MARTYRS

‘*Blood Swept Lands And Seas Of Red*’ – an installation at the Tower of London to mark the centenary of the start of World War One by ceramic artist Paul Cummins – has been visited by almost 4 million people. The first ceramic poppy was planted in July and the final one will be added on 11 November. By then, 888,246 poppies will fill the moat, each one representing a British or colonial death during the conflict. The artwork was put together with the help of the stage designer Tom Piper, who said he had wanted to create a, “*fluid and organic feel to it, you could see it as blood, water or life force.*” Placed by 8000 volunteers, the poppies range in height from 15cm (6in) to to 1m tall. [\[continued on back page\]](#)



BISHOP JOHN TAYLOR SMITH WW1 CHAPLAIN GENERAL

A former missionary in Sierra Leone, Africa, and favourite preacher of Queen Victoria, Bishop John Taylor Smith was the Chaplain General to His Majesty's Forces throughout WW1. Popularly known as, "The Evangelical Bishop," three incidents from his life showed how he lived up to this title.

#1: 'ROTTEN TO THE CORE'

When delivering a sermon at a garrison church, with his chosen subject being **the inner life of a man**, the Chaplain-General suddenly produced a large, rosy, ripe apple, and held it up, saying, *"Isn't that a beautiful apple – one that you would choose?"*

"But look," as he deftly split it in half, *"it is rotten at the core. You wouldn't eat it for anything! It's only fit to be thrown away. What is your inner man like?"*

Several years after, when he was touring South Africa, a middle-aged man came up to him and said, *"You won't remember me sir, but I shall never forget the day that you held up an apple with a fair skin, but with a rotten core. I felt, that's me. I was only a young soldier then, but from that day my heart was changed, and I have never looked back on my Christian life's road."*

#2: AT THE BARBERS

Bishop Taylor Smith, while having his hair cut, was trying to talk to the barber about more important matters, but the barber was very talkative and the bishop couldn't get a word in edgeways. Finally the bishop said to him, *"Do you consider yourself religious?"*

"Yes, I do," said the barber, *"I always try to do my best in life."* When the barber had finished cutting his hair the bishop paid him, adding, *"You yourself could do with a haircut."*

"Yes I could," said the barber, *"but I am so busy I haven't had time."*

"Sit down," Bishop Taylor Smith said, *"I'll cut your hair for you."*

"You couldn't cut my hair," said the barber.

"Yes, I could," replied the bishop, *"I'll do my best."*

"Thank you, but your best isn't good enough for me," said the man.

"Yes, you're right," agreed Taylor Smith, *"and your best isn't good enough for God."*

#3: "THREE MINUTES TO LIVE!"

At beginning of WW1 only just over 100 chaplains were in the Army; 65 immediately went to France with the BEF. During War, 4400 were recruited, with 179 dying on active service.

In his quest to get as many evangelical chaplains into the Army as possible, the Bishop, when conducting interviews, would typically ask applicants what they would say or do to save the soul of a man who had only 3 minutes to live.

On one typical occasion a clergyman appeared before Bishop William Taylor Smith and applied for chaplaincy. Because he was a part of the Anglican church of which the bishop was a leader, he felt reasonably sure of the appointment. It is said that Bishop Taylor Smith looked intently at him for a moment, then taking his watch from his pocket said, *"I am a dying soldier on the battlefield. I have three minutes to live. What have you to say to me?"*

The clergyman was confused and said nothing.

Then the bishop said, *"I have two minutes to live. What can you tell me to help my soul?"* – and still no response.

Then said the bishop solemnly, *"I have only one minute to live!"*

With that the clergyman reached for his prayer book, but the bishop is reported to have said, *"No, not that at such a time as this,"* ... and because the clergyman had nothing to say to the benefit of the soul of a soldier who was dying upon the battlefield, he did not receive appointment.

Christ alone is the answer for all men and women (**Acts 4:12**).