

Sharing
ANZAC
With children



 Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

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ORGANIC RESOURCES 😊

All our **Kids Friendly resources** are ever-evolving "works in progress". So if you have ideas, websites, resources and stories to share or add please let us know. And if you notice any mistakes in this resource please alert us.

This document is intended as a resource for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. The information it contains is not prescriptive. The Book of Order and its subordinate standards contain the Church's official rules and directions. Any perceived conflict between the information contained in this resource and the Church's Book of Order and subordinate standards is entirely unintentional.

Sharing ANZAC with children

ANZAC Day is celebrated every year on April 25 to remember and honour those (New Zealanders and Australians) who have served and lost their lives in the two world wars and other major conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

Did you know? ANZAC is an acronym for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and was first used in World War 1.



ANZAC Day has becoming increasingly significant for all ages in NZ society as it offers us a time to focus on the reality of war today and the significance of war in our history as a country. It can also be used as a time to focus on peace. ANZAC offers us wonderful opportunities as churches to share the history, stories and people of our churches and nation with children.

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ANZAC Worship: Stories from our churches

ANZAC @ St Heliers Presbyterian

I love the way ministers Pauline and Stan Stewart share ANZAC with children. They invite the congregation's war veterans to wear their medals to worship on the Sunday closest to ANZAC day. The veterans proceed in to the organ (a rare treat for the children of 9 am community church.) The veterans are introduced to the children and one of them shares a story from his/her war experience. Projected for all to see are photographs of the young soldier (or nurse).

"I want to honour these amazing people in our midst," says Pauline "and I want the children to know that they too were once young and faced some difficult and challenging times, just like all of us do from time to time. More important than sharing the story of ANZAC, I want to share the stories of life and help children and the elderly become friends." This year 86 year old Dorothy Gardner will also visit the children in Godzone (the children's programme) to tell them about her days as a nurse during the war.

A Story from Rev Nikki Watkin, Kohimarama Presbyterian

"I remember in my last parish visiting an elderly man who told me many stories over my years of visits. One particular story will always stand out. He was a soldier in World War II serving in Italy. His job was to draw maps of the area. One day during the time of the notorious battle of Monte Cassino he was walking some distance with a fellow soldier. They stopped for a rest and his friend pulled out a tin of pineapple – a rare treat for both of them. He remembered this meal as being extraordinarily special as they ate the fruit and drank the juice. He told me it felt like they were sharing Communion. The next day his friend was killed in battle. It had been their "last supper", he concluded. These stories that are sitting in the memories of our congregations are treasures to be shared. Find time to draw them out and share them with the children in your churches."

Sharing from Rev Sharon Ross Ensor, Wadestown Presbyterian

"Anzac is an important day in our nation and very worth sharing with children. On the Sunday closest to ANZAC we invited a parishioner veteran and fighter pilot in WWII (he has since died) to talk to the children about his experiences and to show them his medals. He was very reflective and a little sad, even regretful, about what he'd been caught up in all those years ago...It was really moving for all ages to hear. We've also shared stories like "The Bantam and the Soldier" by Jennifer Beck (really good), also "The Duck in the Gun" by Joy Cowley. One year we shared the story of men who were interned on Matiu (Somes Island) in Wellington Harbour for the duration of the war because they were Italian or German...."Enemy aliens" they were sometimes called. Angela, our children and families worker at the time talked to the children about her grandfather who was one of those interned, leaving a wife and children on the mainland to 'fend for themselves'...one of the many extraordinary 'lost stories' of the war. On the year ANZAC fell on a Sunday I used Sting's version of Fragile (which he quite coincidentally recorded on Sept 11, 2001), with images from WW I and II as an opening to worship followed by a prayer about our fragility and our need for God...It seemed to strike a chord with adults and children."

More worship ideas:

- **Reflective worship idea:** Steve Taylor (www.emergentkiwi.org.nz)
Give a poppy to everyone as they arrive. Hold the poppy as a tangible object during reflections on the theme from dark to dawn that could include photos, music, dance and scriptures such as: *voluntary sacrifice (John 15:13); that forms a new community (1 Peter 2:9, 10); practising forgiveness and grace (Ephesians 2:13-14); and in our dying, resurrection life is born (Galatians 2:20)*. After the reflections, invite the congregation to place their poppy on a wooden cross wrapped in barbed wire as an act of thanksgiving.
These ideas are inclusive of all ages (being careful with the barbed wire), and there are a range of children's stories (listed below) that could be read in place of (or as part of) a sermon. Children love and respond well to reflective worship and rituals.

- **Focus on Peace:**

Anzac can be a good time to focus on peace. Some questions to reflect on could include: What is peace? Where do we find it? How do we share it?

Some scriptures promoting peace: *Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* *John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

The United Church of Canada have a good "All age service for peace" http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/seasons/peace_u4p.pdf
(pages 16 – 19)

See also Wadestown Presbyterian's all age peace event "Picture Peace" below.

- **PowerPoint tributes**

There are many ANZAC tributes on youtube. Try this 6 minute tribute to the ANZACs http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY_ezjs0vkl&feature=player_embedded# with music (Amazing Grace and Last Post) or this 1 minute tribute with the Last Post <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDqg5J6aaZQ>
Or you could make your own using photos of your parishioners who served in the war.

- **ANZAC Hymn:** "Honour the Dead - A Hymn for ANZAC" (2008), Shirley Erena Murray and Colin Gibson, text in English and Maori. Available from www.hymns.org.nz/ourhymnbooks.php. This hymn also honours the conscientious objectors in our history of war.



Wadestown Presbyterian Church 'picture peace' together.

'Picture Peace' was an idea of one of our members Jacki Newell, which caught the imagination of a few others. Jacki dreamed of many people from our congregation creating a mosaic to capture our commitment to bring peace to the world as followers of Christ.

We 'pictured peace' over the weekend of Hiroshima Day, August 4-6.

Our church was reorganised into several prayer 'stations' with a small labyrinth and prayer corners which offered resources and symbols to help focus our reflection on and prayers for peace.

The mosaic was created in the hall. Everyone was invited to drop in during the weekend and add a tile or two to the peace picture. A good number of people found that just adding one tile wasn't enough. "Mosaic-ing" is addictive!

Jacki ran a children's peace session on Saturday afternoon, reading stories about peace and creating some symbols of peace with the children e.g. paper cranes, doves.

We invited some people who are committed to peace-making to talk to us on Saturday afternoon. Michael Watson talked about peace within ourselves, Chris Marshall talked about peace within our community and Glenn Barclay talked about peace within our world. All of this took place in the hall where some sat and listened and others listened while they continued with the mosaic.

Saturday ended with a shared meal and watching a movie, Bagger Vance, which looked at a man's story of finding peace within himself and reconciliation with his community.

On Sunday morning we brought the experience of the weekend to our all-age worship. The service was a potpourri of reflections on peace including a short claymation film by a group of our children of Joy Cowley's book "The Duck in the Gun". We also placed colourful paper cranes (made by some of our children) on a bare branch as a sign of our prayer for peace and our commitment to be peacemakers.

Picture Peace was a fantastic weekend. Our speakers provided us with challenging and 'edgy' thoughts about what it means to be faithful to Jesus' call to live in ways which embrace justice and peace. It was great fun to work on the mosaic together. The project was one which all ages could take part in.

We now have a gorgeous mosaic which celebrates peace and issues the ongoing challenge to 'seek peace and pursue it' (I Peter 3:11) which we will be displaying outside our church for all to see and enjoy.

Thanks Jacki for pursuing your dream and helping us to get caught up in it.

Rev Sharon Ross Ensor

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“Sunday School” ideas and activities

- **Set up** your special place e.g. Invite a child to light the Christ candle, to remind them that “Jesus, is the Light of the World” and ever present with us.
- **Invite someone from the congregation** to talk to the children about their experience of war. Get them to bring pictures, medals and other memorabilia. Allow time for questions –children often have many questions about war and they are often things we do not think to explain.

The children of St Thomas Aquinas School in Winton asked these questions:

What type of guns did they use? Did they use swords? Thomas 8yrs

How did the war start? Who did they fight? Chloe 8yrs

Why was war at Turkey and not NZ? Georgia 8yrs

Who made war? Shann 7yrs

Were all the wars in the same place? Bella 8 yrs

What time did they have to go to bed at war? What do they sleep on? McKenzie 8yrs

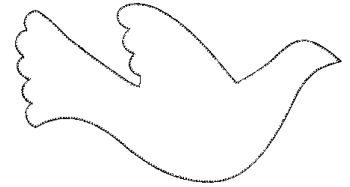
- Share a story from one of the books below e.g. **My Grandad marched on ANZAC Day** and talk about what the girl learnt and what we have learned from the story.
- **Share scripture e.g. Matthew 11:28-30** “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
- **Play a game** or relay in which children try carrying loads –on their back, bags hanging off ends of a broom over shoulders, on heads. Talk about how it feels to carry something heavy. Then take the load off and compare. How does Jesus take the load off for us?
- **Lie on the ground** in the quiet or with gentle music playing and simply breathe in and out as you thank God for peace in our country.
- **Look at an atlas/map/globe** and find some countries that are at war e.g. Burma, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, North/South Korea –or pick one country you could share a bit about and then find where it is and pray for it.
- **Create** a wreath, or make poppies or doves (as above)
- **Create a wreath** prior to ANZAC Day that could be laid at a local community service. Styrofoam wreaths make these simple to pin on red flowers (e.g. bought leis that have been undone) or made poppies.



- **Make poppies** to wear. A simple paper pattern can be found at http://www.bigactivities.com/crafts/remembrance_day/poppy.php or for video instructions see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6BMRogBIpg>



- **Make peace doves.** Cut out a dove shape (google "paper dove template") from card and cut a horizontal slit through the centre. Concertina fold an oblong shape of paper and poke through slit, opening both sides to make wings. Colour. Hang with a thread.



- **Prayer:** Invite children to offer prayers for peace or use the prayer of St Francis or this adaptation (you could make a bookmark or fridge magnet of this for families to use at home.)

The prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy;
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
 much seek
 to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 and it is in dying that we are born to
 eternal life.

Amen

A peace prayer

Dear God
 As I live every day,
 Help me to be a channel for peace.
 May I bring love where there is hatred
 and healing where there is hurt;
 joy where there is sadness
 and hope where there is fear.
 I pray that I may always try
 to understand and comfort other people
 as well as seeking comfort and
 understanding from them.
 Wherever possible
 may I choose to be
 a light in the darkness
 a help in times of need
 and a caring, honest friend.
 And may justice, kindness, and peace
 flow through my heart forever.

Amen

For more resources on teaching children about peace contact jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz

Ideas for sharing ANZAC at Home:

- As a family **make a wreath** together and attend a local ceremony to place it at the cenotaph.
- **Visit your local library** to find some of the books below.
- Look at a world map and see where there is war. **Pray** as a family for peace in those countries.
- This is a great opportunity to **talk to older people** in your family about their experience of war. What were their experiences? How did it change them?
- Make **ANZAC biscuits** together - These biscuits were popular during both world wars, as women at home could send them overseas and know they would still be edible after weeks at sea. Soldiers would break them up into pieces for breakfast or enjoy them with a cup of tea.

Classic ANZAC Biscuit Recipe

There are many different recipes for ANZAC Biscuits. Like most old-styled biscuits, ANZAC Biscuits never have eggs, as these were in short supply during war times.

You will need: 50g Flour, 75g Sugar, 2/3 cup Coconut, 2/3 cup Rolled Oats, 50g Butter, 1 tblsp Golden Syrup, ½ tsp Bicarbonate Soda, 2 tblsp Boiling Water

To make: Mix all of your dry ingredients together. Melt the butter and golden syrup together. Dissolve the bicarbonate soda in boiling water, and mix into the butter and golden syrup. Make a well in the centre of your dry ingredients, and mix in the wet mixture. Place spoonfuls onto a greased tray and flatten with a fork. Bake at 180C for 15 – 20 minutes. The biscuits will appear soft on cooking, but will harden up as they cool.



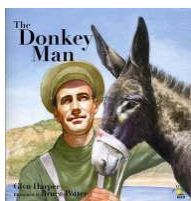
- **Participate** in an ANZAC event – children could take photos which you could look at later and talk about what was happening and why.
- Perhaps there are **medals** passed on in your family that are taken out at this time. Only the person awarded or issued medals may claim those medals as his or her own. He or she wears the medals on their left breast. Others (those who did not earn the medals) may honour the service of a relative by wearing **medals** on the right breast. Some veterans may be seen wearing medals on both breasts—their own on the left, and a relative's on the right.
- **Wear rosemary** –a sprig pinned to your clothes serves as an emblem of remembrance.

Children's books:



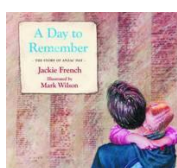
Wearing the Poppy, by A.J. Toledo

The story of the first ANZACs is told through the experiences of one family, whose letters, diaries and memories bring to life New Zealand in the First World War. Explains how the red poppy came to symbolize a lost generation and fills in the gaps for young New Zealanders who are discovering their own family history.



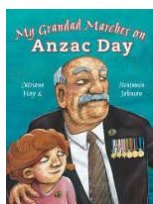
The Donkey Man, by Glyn Harper

Story of Roly, the donkey who became New Zealander Richard Henderson's donkey during the First World War campaign at Gallipoli. Together they collected wounded soldiers from the battlefield and transferred them to ANZAC Cove to board hospital ships.



A Day to Remember, by Jackie French

Containing reference to the many places the ANZACs have fought, and the various ways in which they keep the peace and support the civilians in war-torn parts of the world today, this is a picture book that looks not only at traditions, but also the effects of war.



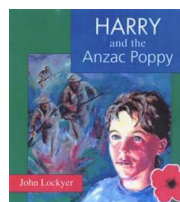
My Grandad marched on ANZAC Day, by Catriona Hoy

A small girl goes to the pre-dawn ANZAC Day service with her father where they watch her grandad march in the parade. Ages 4-8.



Grandad's Medals, by Tracy Duncan

"I love my grandad. We have lots of fun together." Every year Grandad marches in the ANZAC Day parade and wears his medals, walking proudly beside his old comrades. But this year Grandad's best mate is too sick to walk and the number of old soldiers still marching is getting smaller.



Harry and the ANZAC Poppy, by John Lockyer

Harry finds letters in his Great-Grandma's room describing a world Harry's only read about in books. Written by Grandma Kate's father from the Western Front during WW1, they describe being a Kiwi soldier in the trenches and shares the feelings of loneliness and fear experienced. Harry not only learns about the significance of poppies worn on ANZAC Day, but a family secret as well.



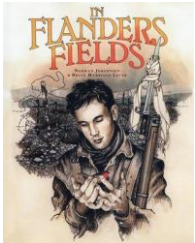
Kei Wareware Tatou: Lest we Forget, by Feana Tu'akoi

Tyson doesn't understand why Mum and Poppa would want to go to the ANZAC Dawn Parade. Why celebrate anything as stupid as war? But then he hears stories about the soldiers in his family and decides perhaps he should go to the Dawn Parade after all.



ANZAC Day Parade, by Glenda Kane

A story in rhyme of the meeting of a young boy and an old man on ANZAC Day. The young boy is wide-eyed and wanting to hear stories of the glories of war and death; the old man, a former member of the 18th Battalion, is sad to remember the reality of what was faced. Story covers the Battle of Crete and includes background information.



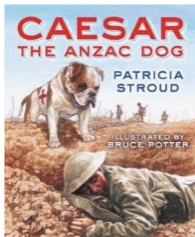
In Flanders Field, by Norman Jorgensen

A young WWI soldier risks his life to rescue a bird.



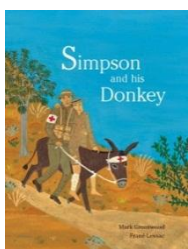
Simpson and Duffy, by Mary Small

Tells the gallant yet gentle story of a volunteer, John Simpson Kirkpatrick, in search of a free passage back home to England and instead lands on Gallipoli. Illustrations of the flowers depicted on Simpson's grave depict the wild flowers that grow on the Gallipoli peninsula.



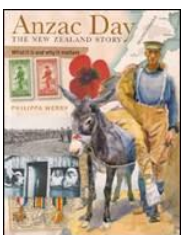
Caesar the ANZAC Dog, by Patricia Stroud

When the New Zealand Rifle Brigade marched down Queen Street to board their transport ship to Egypt and the Western Front in World War I, they were led by their official mascot, a bulldog called Caesar. Trained as a Red Cross dog, Caesar rescued wounded soldiers at the Battle of the Somme.



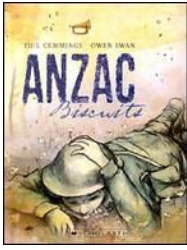
Simpson and the Donkey, by Mark Greenwood

An excellent retelling of the classic story of John Simpson Kirkpatrick and his donkey, Duffy, and how the pair rescued over 300 men over only 24 days during the campaign at Gallipoli. The little known story of how he rescues the playmate of his childhood is also told in this book.



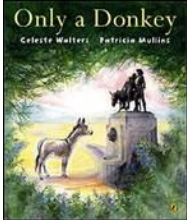
Anzac Day, The New Zealand Story, by Philippa Werry

This fascinating new book reveals the rich history behind Anzac Day in an engaging and informative style, seeking to answer the many questions children often ask their parents and teachers around 25 April every year.



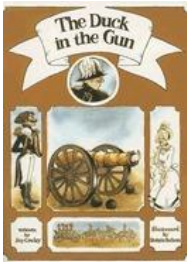
Anzac Biscuits, by Phil Cummings

This is a touching story of a family torn apart by war but brought together through the powerful simplicity of ANZAC Biscuits.



Only a Donkey, by Celeste Walters

This uplifting story of humility, courage and compassion weaves in the heroic Anzac legend of Simpson and the Donkey.



The Duck in the Gun, by Joy Cowley

The war was all ready to begin when a duck was discovered nesting in the only cannon. So for want of a cannon, war was avoided.