**RESOURCES TO HELP COMMEMORATE
ARMED FORCES DAY Saturday 25th June
ARMED FORCES SUNDAY 26th June**

*When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.* Deuteronomy 20:1

Armed Forces Day gives us the opportunity in our congregations to support and pray for the work of the many from within our Presbyterian family who serve in the Armed Forces as Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen and also those Ministers of our Church who serve as Chaplains.

We currently have one PCI minister serving as a regular chaplain in the RAF, seven in the Regular Army, and one in the Army Reserve.

In addition, we have a number of ministers who act as chaplains to local units of the Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps (youth organisations sponsored by the Army and RAF respectively), which provides significant opportunity to reach out to largely unchurched young people within our own community at home.

**A Pastoral Challenge**

In our pews we have many families who have loved ones who are either serving or have served within the Armed Services. We can use Armed Forces Day as the incentive to make a pastoral call to those individuals and/or families.

**What We Can Pray For**

**The Frontline** Pray for all members of the Armed Services, especially those (including Reservists) who find themselves in difficult and troubled places around the world:

* For God’s protection over them and for them to be brought back safely to their loved ones.
* For wisdom, compassion, skill, health and strength.
* For those who have to make life and death decisions, often in a split second.
* That God would use them to protect the vulnerable and to overcome evil, to bring peace and justice and stability, that through them the world will be a safer place.

**The Victims** Remember those who are the victims of conflict, both members of the Armed Services and civilians, in particular those who have experienced physical and mental injury in the course of their military service:

* For healing for those with serious life changing injuries, that they will be able to come to terms with what has happened and for them to find fulfilment and fullness in life which is found in Christ.
* For healing for those who are mentally scarred and traumatised.
* For those who have been bereaved, that they will be filled with God’s strength and surrounded with His comfort and peace.

**The Carers** Pray for those who care for them in body, mind and spirit:

* For our Chaplains, serving with and ministering to personnel who are deployed or in barracks.
* That God would continue to call and equip those from our Church to serve within the Armed Services as Chaplains either full-time or as reserves or with cadets.
* That our church would be represented within the Chaplaincy of the Royal Navy.
* That God would open up opportunities to share the good news of the Gospel.
* Give thanks for the work of ‘Help for Heroes’ and ‘Walking with the Wounded’ (and other similar organisations).
* For those who serve within the Armed Services as medical professionals.
* For those dedicated to the welfare of service personnel and their families.

**The Families** Pray for the families of service personnel:

* So often living under pressure and anxiety.
* For all who have loved ones who are deployed and who worry for their safety.
* For those who see the results of war reflected in the wounds of spouses, parents and children.
* For those who mourn.
* For those who have to move home on a regular basis.
* For families who are separated due to deployments or married unaccompanied postings or mobilisation of Reservists.
* For families affected by not only conflict overseas but also as a result of the Troubles.

Your Intercessions for all of the above will be greatly appreciated not just on Armed Forces Sunday but regularly throughout the year; and your support in this is greatly appreciated by the Forces' Panel.

**A Prayer for Armed Forces Day**

Almighty and eternal God,

We commend to you in prayer and your gracious keeping
those who serve in the Armed Forces of our Country at sea, on land and in the air.
Where they find themselves in danger,
we ask that they would know the protection of your mighty arm.
Where they find themselves separated from their families,
we ask that they and their families would know the embrace of your care and companionship.
For those who live with the scars of war in body, mind or spirit,
we pray that they would find their healing and peace in Christ.
May those who serve and who have served know that nothing can separate them from your love.
And may all of us, by recognising the cost of peace paid through the sacrifice made by many,
resolve to live in the way of peace, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace we pray.

 Amen.