

Introduction

The 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 was commemorated on two days earlier this year – VE Day in May when we remembered the end of fighting in Europe and VJ Day in August when we remembered Japan surrendering and fighting all around the world ending. There has been some form of fighting going on somewhere in the world every year since then, but there has also been an International or World Peace Day marked every year since 1981. This has been fixed to 21st September since 2002. So, the 40th World Peace Day will be marked in 10 days' time. And yet, still many do not know about this UN sponsored day, where all the member nations have a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peaceful collaboration, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The coronavirus disease has added a new dimension to Peace Day 2020. For the first time in history, people all over the world are having the same concerns about how we rebuild the world beyond the pandemic.

Although the video at the following website was made a few years ago, it is still relevant today: https://youtu.be/V3_dl-yl74s

Who will you make peace with on 21st September, or what will you do to spread awareness of this day? Some of our activities give suggestions.

The bible passage is from 2 Corinthians 5:19

God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.

(Contemporary English Version)

This is only one verse from the bible. Maybe your activity on World Peace Day (see activity 5) will be to memorise this verse, or a simple variation of it, such as:

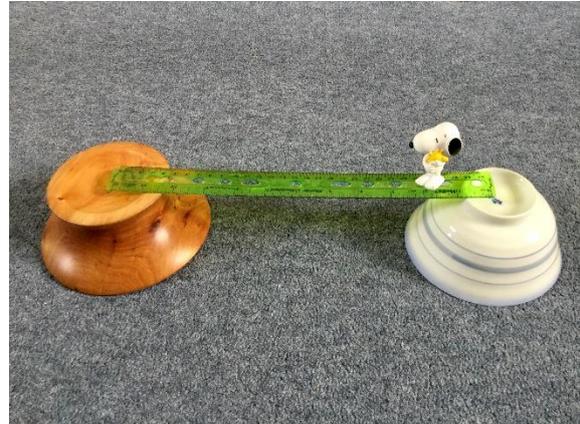
**In Jesus, God gives peace to this world.
He has asked us to share his peace.**

Activities:

1. Build a bridge

You will need: something to make a bridge out of – you could use dried spaghetti and mini-marshmallows, or cocktail sticks and soaked dried peas, or rolled-up newspaper sheets and sticky tape, or planks of wood and rope, or Lego bricks

Make a bridge between one spot and another. See how strong it is by placing some increasingly heavy objects on it. Please post your results to our Facebook page: what could your bridge carry? how long was your bridge? Or you could e-mail Hazel with a picture of your bridge. Here are two that others made earlier this week.



Talk about the way a bridge can be a symbol of bringing two sides together when something divides them. What sort of things divide people? Some people see Jesus as a bridge – what do you think they mean?

2. Grandma's wartime orange drop cookies

For 35-40 cookies, you will need: 1 tbsp orange rind grated, Juice of half an orange, 80g butter, 200g honey, half an egg beaten, 150g SR flour, 1½tsp baking powder, pinch of salt.

Heat the oven to 350f or 180c or gas mark 4.

Mix together the butter and honey. Sieve flour, baking powder and salt and add to the honey mixture. Fold in the beaten egg, orange rind and orange juice. Put in the fridge for half an hour. On a greased tray, put teaspoons of the



mixture onto the tray, not too close together as they tend to spread! Cook for 8-10 minutes. ENJOY!!!

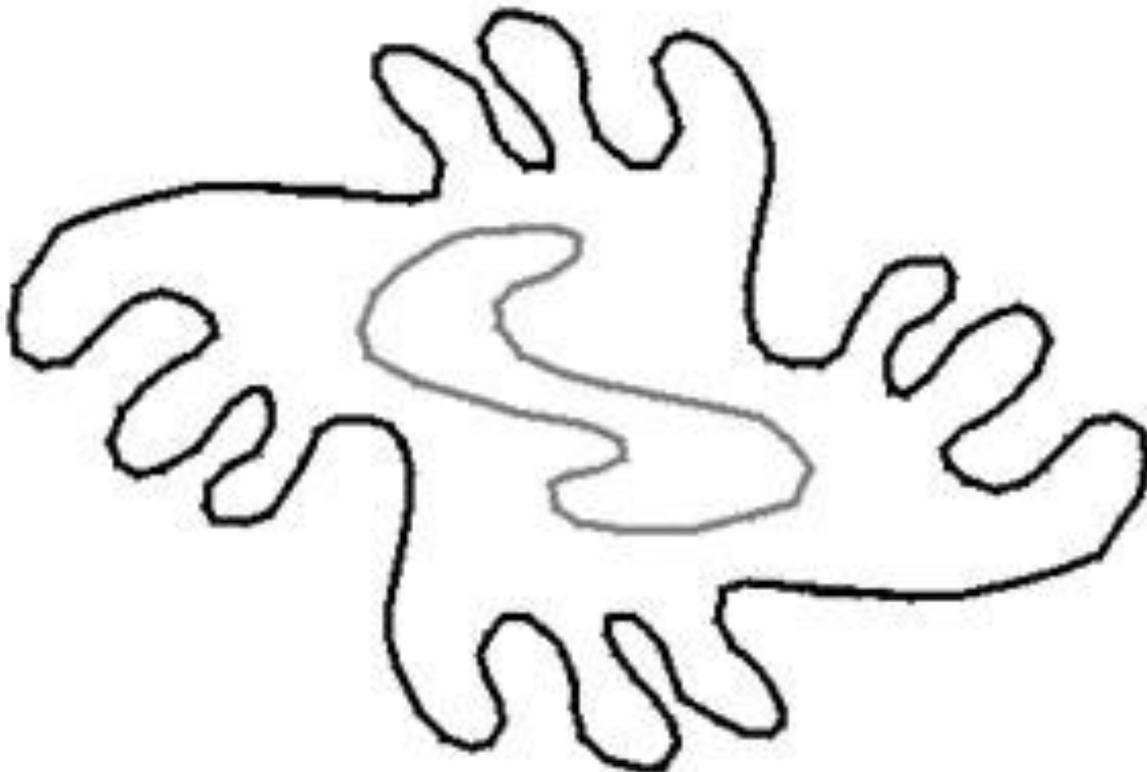
During World War 2 it was difficult to get some ingredients. These cookies use no sugar which was one of those things it was difficult to get.

Talk about: How blessed we are that we do not have difficulty getting anything that we want to eat.

3. No one should bite each other!

You will need: a copy of the West African bi-nka-bi symbol (see below); pens; paper; peace pictures

Draw the outline of the symbol BI-NKA-BI for peace and harmony (it means 'no one should bite each other'!) on your paper, as large as you can.



Fill the outline with either different patterns or different words. You might find a poem about peace to write into the shape (there's one at the end of this document, or you might write one yourself), or you could fill it with patterns of doves and other symbols of peace from your own culture.

Talk about the people you know who are good at bringing peace, at helping to stop arguments, at helping people make friends again. How do they do it?

4. Dove of Peace

You will need: paper or card, pens, scissors

Draw around your hand on white paper or card. Make the thumb into the head of your dove with a beak and an eye. Cut out your dove and maybe add a message, such as 'Peace be with you' or 'World Peace Day 2020' in each of the four fingers that make up the wings. Stick it to some coloured card, or attach a pipe-cleaner, wool or string, so that you can hang your dove outside.



Come and tie your dove to the hedge at St Mary's church, or one of the bushes at St Francis' church for activity 5 to show our support of World Peace Day.

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Talk about: Why do you think that a dove is used as a symbol of peace?

5. Do something on World Peace Day

You will need: imagination

The video at https://youtu.be/V3_dl-yI74s asks what you will do on World Peace Day. You could:

- find out something about World Peace Day or a place in the world that needs peace;
- make something, like a dove or a bi-nka-bi peace collage and place it somewhere that others can see it;
- memorise the bible verse at the beginning of this document;
- make peace with someone that you've not been kind to;
- share something with a friend or relative, such as those yummy cookies.

Talk about: What you are going to do on World Peace Day – Monday 21st September.

Poem: How Peace Begins

Peace begins with saying sorry
Peace begins with not hurting others
Peace begins with honesty and trust
Peace begins with showing co-operation and respect
World Peace Begins with ME!

Hayley Hall, Grade 3, DW Babcock Elementary School, Sacramento, California, USA

Song: Peace is flowing like a river -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0G4KpRcK0Y>

Next date: Friday 9th October 2020

www.facebook.com/MessyChurchWestWickham/