At the war memorial

We stand together in this place
at the heart of our community
and here on level ground.

We have left our homes,
church, chapel and community hall,
to stand together, memory undivided.

Mourning and remembering
have no class and no denomination,
for grief is all our privilege and all our pain.

We stare at names in order,
ranks and regiments, fallen and wounded,
made one equal family in suffering.

One hundred years have gone,
and flowers the colour of blood
touch the wounds we all have shared.

We stand together in this place
on ground made holy by sorrow
and given to us all for all our dead.

We join hands as one,
determined to remember what was lost,
and to forge a more just and peaceful world.

May the memory of all who died,
from every home, every faith and every family,
stir us to stand on level ground, in unity for peace.

(NB: Many war memorials after WW1 were placed, not in parish churches, but in public and shared space in the heart of village, town or city – to recognise that the whole community was united in loss.)