

A Poem about War and Hope

Written for Blessed Thomas Holford RC Secondary School Assembly Jan 2000, only months after the children had arrived in Manchester with little or no English. (arranged for the 'Cohesion' album, 2001)

Before the War

Before the war the clouds were grey
because things were still forbidden.
Our schools had all been taken away
We had to keep them hidden.
Friendships breaking
Looking for help
Unhappiness
Bombs
Nights without sleep
Nightmares
Trying to keep our language
Tension
Stress
Playing, but full of care.

During the War

During the war I saw a child who could not play
That was all he really wanted.
Those long, long days, little food, no water, just dismay,
Kindness, not cruelty: only that was needed.
Hope
Endless war, fear
NATO our saviour
20,000 hours in a day
Hopeless
We sometimes felt we faced an enemy without mercy
Thanks for being alive
Cruelty and kindness
Days without food
Protect the little ones who had no chance to play.

After the War

It's strange to feel happy and yet feel sad
For we lost so many friends
Together we'll advance, feel glad
That hope it never ends
Teachers killed in Kosova
Solidarity
Happy but sad
Good friends
Good teachers
A 14 year-old boy
especially remembered
Thanks to Britain
Together we'll move forward in peace, forever.
Together we'll move forward in peace, forever.

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