

*Justice and Equality*

# A Service to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre

Sunday 7th July 2019  
2pm

Manchester Cathedral



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On August 16, 1819, some 60,000 people gathered peacefully at St Peter's Fields in Manchester for a pro-democracy and anti-poverty rally. The authorities, observing from a high window, panicked and ordered in the local militia along with 600 Hussars, cavalry who had seen action at the battle of Waterloo just 4 years earlier, to arrest and disperse. In the ensuing chaos – to be dubbed 'The Peterloo Massacre' – at least 15 people died and several hundred were wounded, many with life-changing injuries. For the most part, the churches took the side of the authorities. Indeed, two of the magistrates who gave the fateful order were members of the clergy.

***"At Waterloo there was man to man, but here it was downright murder."***  
***Waterloo veteran James Lees (25) who died as a result of his injuries***

Two hundred years later the bi-centennial of Peterloo, is being commemorated. The issues of injustice and inequality protested then are still with us in different forms. This service will have three themes: penitence for the church's complicity in the past, celebration of all that goes on in this city now to promote and build justice and equality, and re-commitment to those worthy goals. There will be participation from our Manchester faith communities, and all are welcome to join us.

***"Grant us, O God... a city of peace, where order shall not rest on force but on mutual respect."***  
*from the Civic Prayer for Manchester*

[www.peterloo1819.co.uk](http://www.peterloo1819.co.uk)

