

Remembering Together

In November you may see many people wearing Poppies. These are a symbol to remind us of all those who have died during conflicts and wars.

The poppy was chosen as a symbol because after World War One poppies grew in the battle fields. John McCrae wrote a poem about these poppies encouraging people to remember all those who had died.



The leaf of the poppy points to 11'Oclock to remind us to stop and remember on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.
An agreement to stop fighting during WW1 was signed on November 11th, 1918.

Why do you think it is important to remember all those who fought and died in war?

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." What can we do to try and bring an end to wars and conflict?

Some people choose to wear white poppies in remembrance of those who died but also as a symbol that they want peace and no more wars.

A remembrance prayer

Dear God,
This Remembrance Day we remember all those who have fought and served during wars. We remember the soldiers of all races who worked together for peace and justice.

We remember those who served as doctors, nurses, paramedics and other keyworkers putting themselves at risk to help others.

We pray for all those in governments around the world that you would give them the hearts and wisdom of peacemakers. Where there is conflict in the world would you bring your peace.

Help us to remember and learn from the wars of the past so that we can help to create a future of peace.

Amen



The black poppy remembers the contribution of all those from Black, communities during times of war. Hundreds of thousands of Black soldiers fought and died during World War One.

What can we do to make sure the contributions of all races are accurately and actively remembered?

Not only soldiers die in wars, who else can you think of that is affected by wars?

The purple poppy is in memory of all animals who have died in wars. Animals including horses, dogs and pigeons all served during World War One.



Remembrance Activities

Joshua 3 – 4

When God's people entered the promised land, they set up stones which they had collected from the river Jordan.

The stones were there as a reminder to help the Israelites pass on the story of what had happened to their children.

Why not visit a local war memorial together, spend some time reading the names and thinking about the real people with families who fought and died in the wars?



Ecclesiastes 3 v 1–8

There is a time for everything...
Read this passage together and think about what sort of time we are in now. Verse seven talks about a time for silence.

Why not encourage your children to use the silence at 11 O'clock on the 11th of November as a time to remember and a time to pray for peace in our world?

Young children might find it easier to focus with a simple craft activity or by watching a video like the beautiful animation 'poppies' created by CBeebies while they take part in the silence.



There are many different designs and colours of poppies worn.

If you were designing a poppy to reflect everybody who we want to remember that fought for peace and justice what design would you put on the poppy?

Share your ideas and decorate this poppy outline together.

