

Remembrance Sunday – 14th November 2021

Read Matthew 5.1-10

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Remembering dates is important. Some are easy like Christmas and our own birthday, but it's not always easy to remember other people's birthdays or special anniversaries. Imagine how you would feel if no-one remembered your birthday – no cards, no presents! Memories of certain events are also important. Remembering good parties, or fun days out with friends, or going to a special football match or concert. Can you think of some good memories that make you feel happy?

Of course, we also remember sad events. We may remember a day when a member of our family died, or when someone we love became ill. Sad memories are hard but they are also important. When someone we love dies, we want to remember what they were like and the good things that we shared together, so the memories help us to cope with the sadness of their death. Sometimes it helps to talk to another person about sad memories.

Today is Remembrance Sunday when we think about those who have died as a result of war or conflict. It is a day when we give thanks for the sacrifice they made so that we can live in peace now. Why do you think it is important that we should remember them? Why do we have special services in church today?

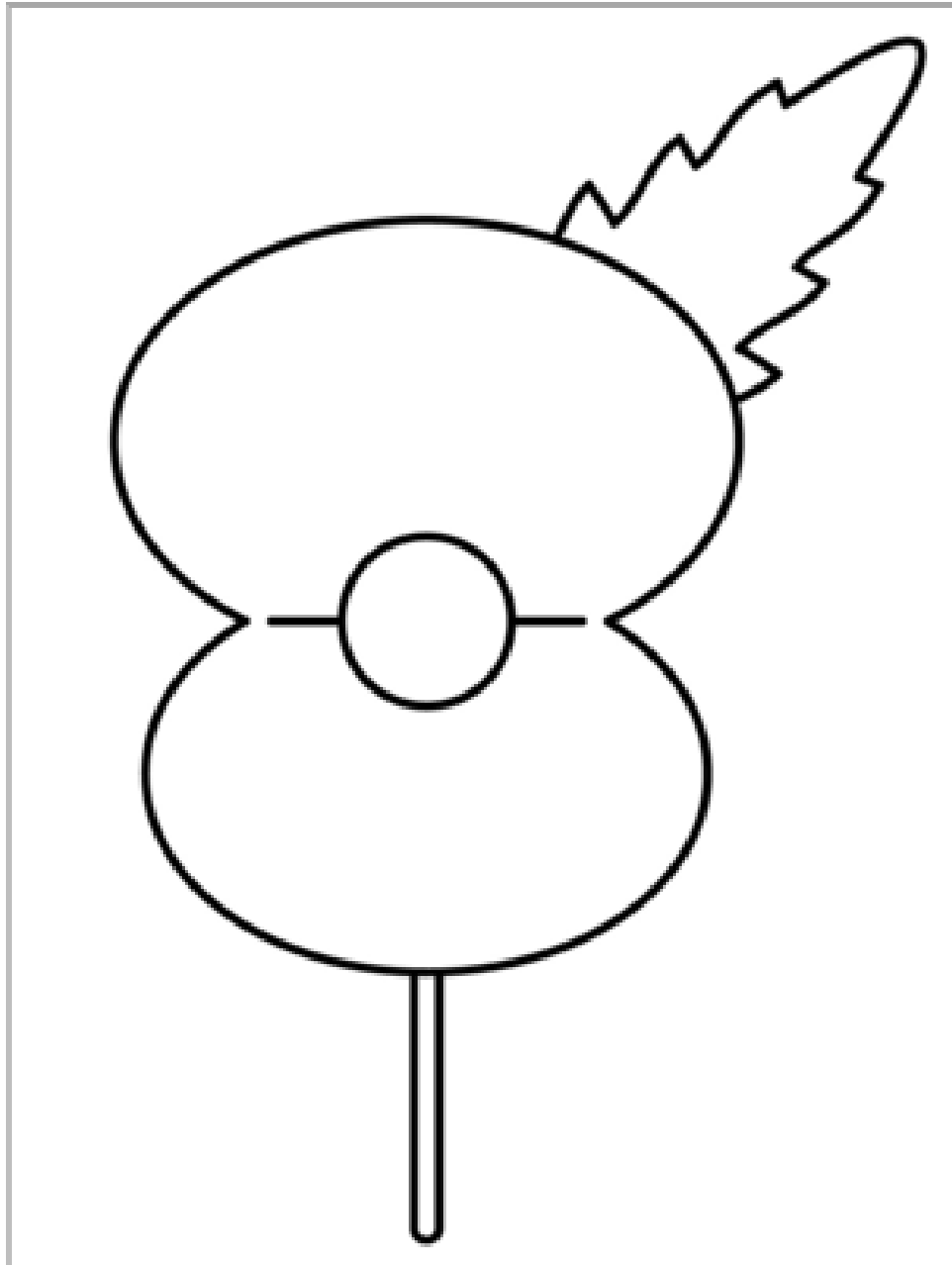
Many people wear a red poppy at this time to show that they are remembering the people who died in the wars. Do you know why a poppy was chosen as a symbol of remembrance?



We often see images on television of countries that have been affected by war. Buildings are damaged, people are injured or killed, no-one feels safe. We don't want to live like that; we want to live in peace. Do you think that we can help create a peaceful world, or is it just for world leaders to do this? What do you think you could do to help us live together in peace – in your own community, in this country, and in the world?

Activities

- You will need a bowl of water and a few pebbles.
Place a bowl of water in the middle of the floor. Drop a pebble into the water and watch the ripples spread out. Imagine that this pebble is a droplet of love.
God calls us all to be like droplets of love in a world where there is hatred and war.
Drop another pebble into the water and watch the ripples spread outwards.
If we could let our love spread like ripples on the water, God's love would spread through all the world and there would be peace in the world.
As you drop your pebbles in the water say a prayer, asking God to help you spread love to everyone you meet.
- On the outline of the poppy write a short phrase or prayer on each petal. On one petal write a prayer for those who have died as a result of war or conflict. On the other petal write a prayer for peace.



Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for memories.

We remember when we were little, our first day at school and our first friends.

We remember having good times on holidays and on trips.

We remember those we can't see anymore.

We thank you that in our memories we can enjoy all these people and places again,

And when we have bad memories help us to not to be afraid.

We know that you are always with us and you will love us forever. **Amen**