



## Remembrance Day Talk – Part One

### HISTORY

- I used to think the Remembrance Day poppy was a British idea
- I recently found out it is more international – like this Church!
- A Canadian idea – Lt Col John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*, Ypres 1915.  
Thrown away but found & published by *Punch*

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

- Inspired an American woman – Moira Michael to introduce use of poppy as a symbol of sacrifice, for welcoming soldiers home (Milwaukee 1918)
- 1920 Idea spread throughout US. Frenchwoman Anne Guerin – who ran an orphanage - started a factory to make poppies
- Mlle Guerin took the idea to Britain & persuaded the Royal British Legion to take it up.
- RBL started its own factory 1922 – staffed by disabled soldiers.
- Many wars since – lots of poppies needed

**SYMBOL – The poppy makes us THINK...**

**Black represents the bad things people do to each other...**

e.g. Fighting, Stealing, Hating, Being greedy

**Red represents the ways people are made to suffer by others...**

e.g. Being blamed (scapegoats), Dying in wars, being scared, Being made poor and homeless

**Green reminds us that there is hope – as Christians we believe this hope is supremely in Jesus – his message, his life, his death and his rising again.**



## Remembrance Day Talk Part 2

(illustrated using ball of red playdough)

God made the world - ever wondered why? To express his love and creativity?

Humanity the peak – intended by God to love each other & care for the world

But it soon went wrong – human beings abused free will to:-

Disobey God (*tear*)

Run away from God (*tear*)

Fight and steal from each other (*tear*)

Exploit the earth and neglect the weak and poor (*tear*)

RESULT?? = a MESS!

God sent prophets with warnings --- (*repair*)

But then more wars etc... (*tear*)

God sent JESUS as the ultimate display of his love

- A new way to live (repair)
- CALLED FOLLOWERS as in our reading to LIVE A NEW WAY (repair)
- His life, teaching (love enemies etc), cross & resurrection (repair)
- A way back open to everyone doers and victims of evil, (repair)

World is still a mess (tears) – so why did he bother?

Bible teaches he is coming back to remake the world the way it should be.

In the meantime we all have CHOICES

- Live in darkness & fear; behave in ways of the world
- OR choose to live in the light as Followers of Jesus and help PUT THE WORLD BACK TOGETHER
- Each time we choose to love instead of hate (repair)
- Each time we forgive instead of retaliating or holding a grudge (repair)
- Each time we welcome someone instead of shutting the door on them (repair)
- Governments & minority groups face choices too – send a peace envoy instead of a bomb,
- With good will and God's help we can make the world more like it is supposed to be.
- and DEMONSTRATE the perfect love of God who is impartial and loves all people.