

# POPPY TRAIL








**Invite your local community to join you on this Poppy Trail in your church or local area to help families engage with the act of remembrance. This is a great way to get to know local families and build goodwill in your community, reflecting together on war and peace, and how Christians respond to these issues.**

Invite people to find eight different coloured poppy posters around your space.






Each poster (pages 2-9) offers a different perspective on remembrance and includes a letter from a hidden message (Thank you), with questions, discussion and a QR code link to video content containing a poem, stories, animations, etc.

The accompanying activity sheet (pages 10-11) provides more visual fun and a place to write the found letters. At the end of the Poppy Trail, reward a prize to participants who find the hidden message. A suitable prize may be as simple as a warm drink and snack.

## Plan your event

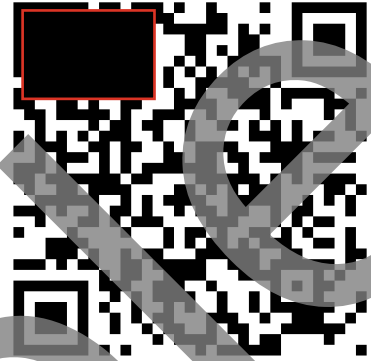
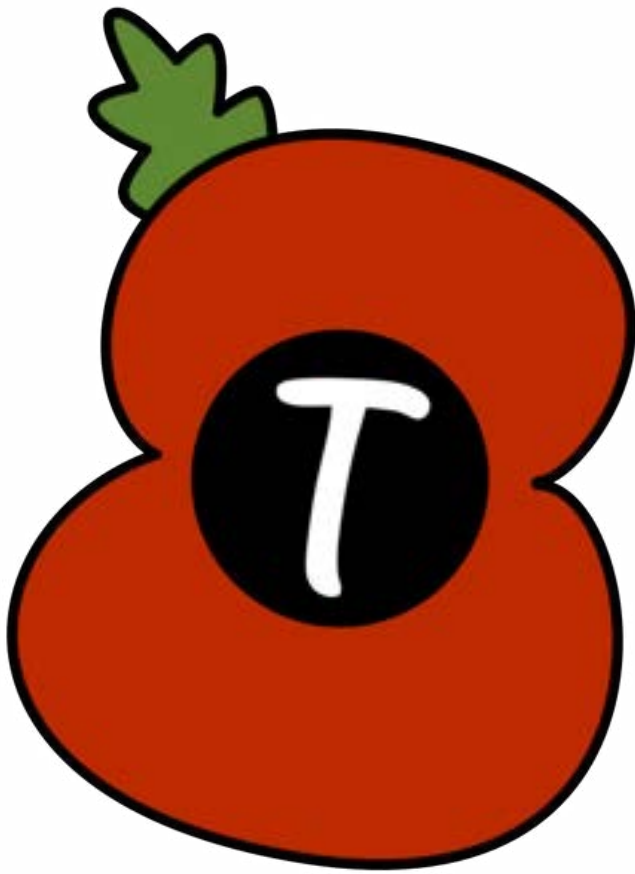
-  You may want to choose a particular day and time or leave the trail in place for a few days for people to access at a convenient time (think about how and when participants will collect and return the activity sheet for their prize).
-  Choose eight suitable locations for posters around your church building and/or grounds, including your war memorial if you have one (this is where the red poppy poster should go). Or involve local shops or businesses, asking if you can place a poster in their windows for people to find. You may be able to gain permission to place the red poppy poster near the public war memorial – most towns and villages have one. If your posters are all over town, you may want to provide a map detailing the locations. The posters can be visited in any order.
-  Do a risk assessment to ensure you're not encouraging participants to go anywhere unsuitable.
-  Advertise your event in your community, using the poster provided on page 12.
-  You may want to approach your local primary school to offer school groups the opportunity to visit the trail during the school day. Scout and Guide groups might also be interested.

## Preparation

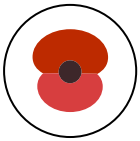
-  Print out and laminate the eight different poppy letter-posters (in colour) to give out to shops or place around your space, e.g. on trees, fence posts, in a window or on a gate. You may need to get permission from the council if you are using any public areas.
-  Print out copies of the Roots Poppy Trail activity sheet for participants (in colour, double sided).
-  Plan refreshments or prizes to give out to children and families who complete the trail. Consider common dietary needs for any edible prizes.
-  (Optional) Provide pencils or felt tips to complete the activity sheets.
-  Recruit a number of a number of volunteers to help you host and run the event, as follows:
  - Welcome host – give out activity sheets and instructions for the trail. The trail explores themes of war and sacrifice, as well as hope and peace, so hosts may want to acknowledge this could make some feel sad, but in Remembrance we can share these feelings together.
  - Finish point host or team – give out refreshments and prizes for completed trails. This is a good place to greet participants and make them aware of other family activities and upcoming Remembrance services, or looking ahead, your church's Christmas programme.



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Listen to a poem about  
Remembrance day poppies



The red poppy reminds us of the millions of people who have died fighting in wars, and shows respect for the armed forces community. The tradition of wearing a poppy began after the First World War over a hundred years ago.



Look at the names on your church or town war memorial. Do you see any people that have the same first name or surname as someone you know? Write them on your activity sheet.

Every name on that list is a person who lived an ordinary life around here, until they went to war and never came home.

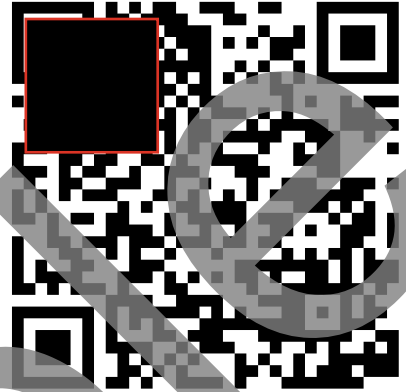
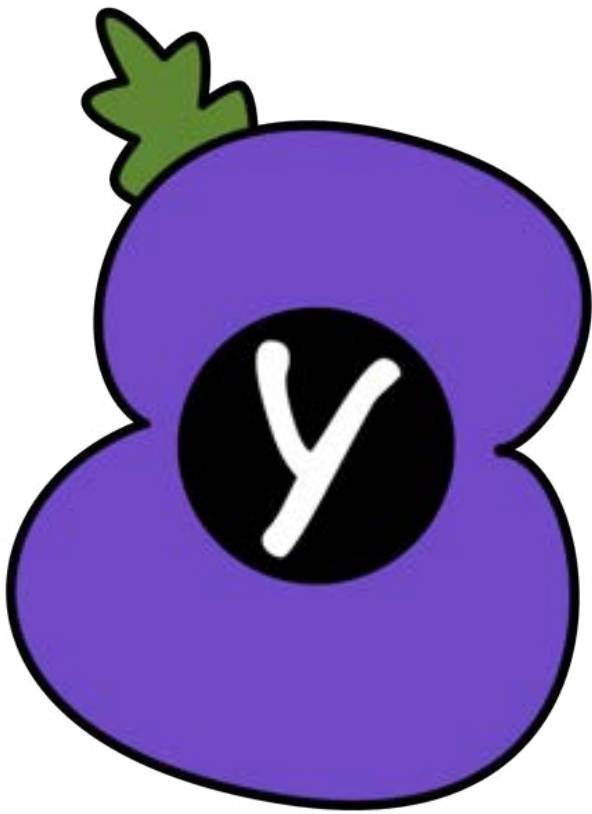


Jesus said, 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.' **John 15:13.**

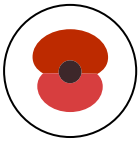


Quiz: How many poppies were sold in the UK last year?  
A. 5 million      B. 30 million      C. 70 million





Watch this video about animals that helped humans in wars.



The purple poppy reminds us of the animals that we've used to help us during wars. Horses, dogs, dolphins, rats, even pigeons have all been trained to do jobs too heavy or dangerous for humans. I wonder how the animals felt about it.



On your activity sheet, connect the dots to find this animal that served in the war. Do you have any animals you care for? Do you think animals should help humans fight in wars?



The Bible teaches that 'Good people take care of their animals, but wicked people are cruel to theirs.' **Proverbs 12:10**



Quiz: What were slugs used for in the First World War?  
(Answer in the video)

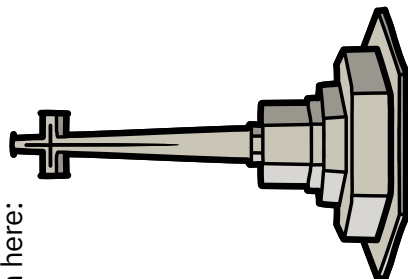


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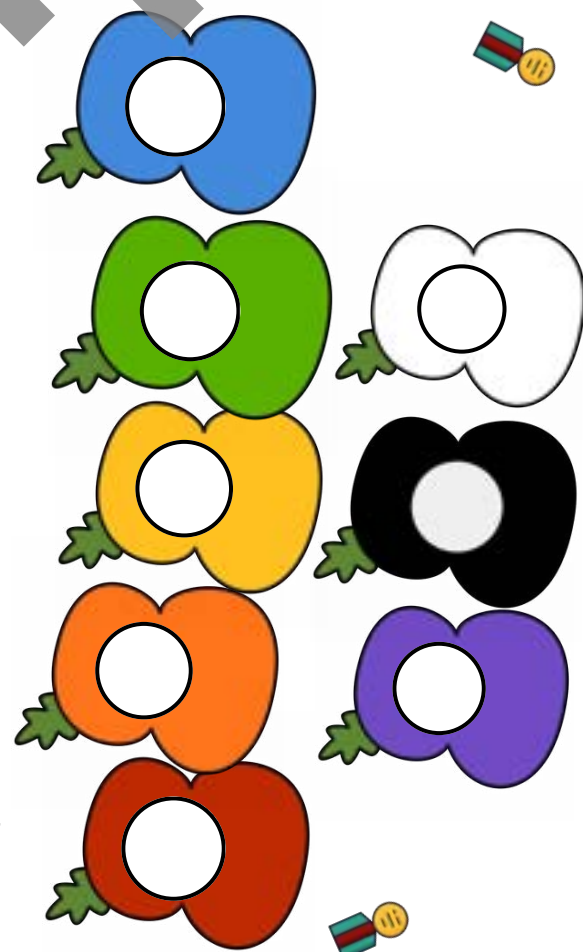
Take this activity sheet with you as you look for the 8 coloured poppy posters. When you find one, write the letter into the correct coloured poppy at the end of this sheet, to discover the hidden message.



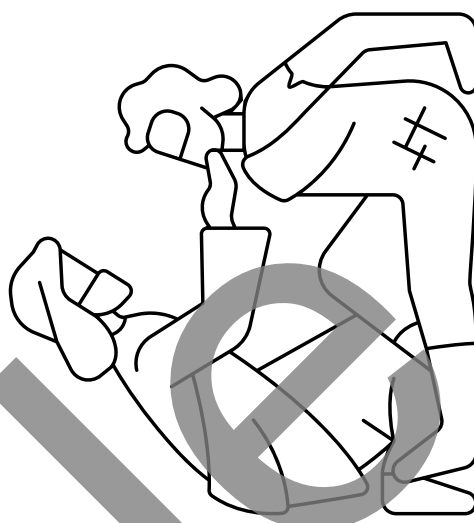
Look at the names on your church or town war memorial. Do you see any people that have the same first name or surname as someone you know? Write them here:



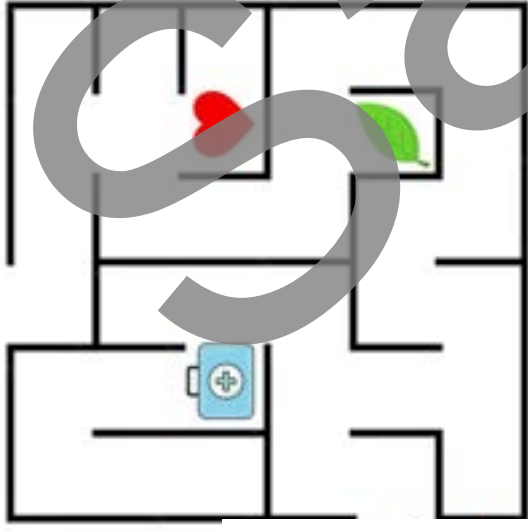
Write the letters from each poppy here to make a message for all those who have sacrificed themselves in war and peace, home and away, long ago or today, to make our world a better place.



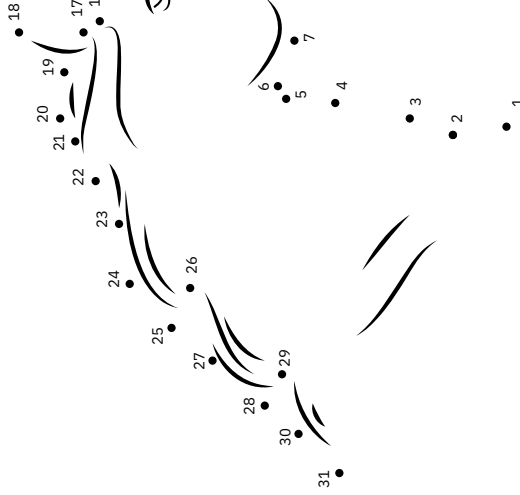
Colour in the picture of the Good Samaritan helping the wounded man.





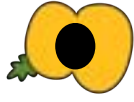


Help the veteran navigate the maze and find all the things needed to recover.  
What helps you when you are in pain?



Join the dots to see this animal that served in the war.

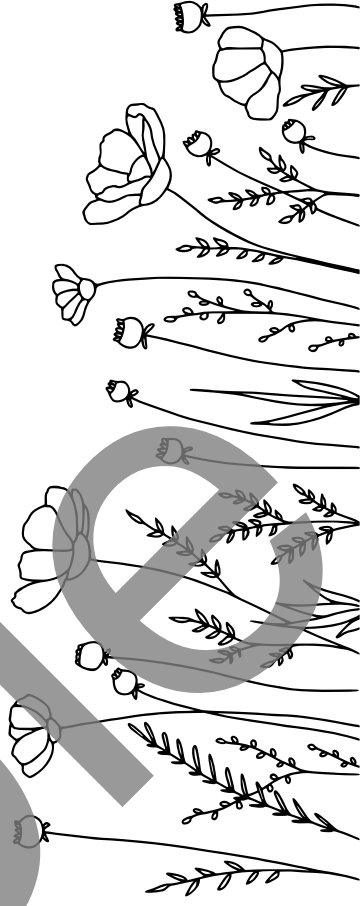
Not everyone gets a medal but all should be thanked for what they've done to serve.  
How many medals can you find?



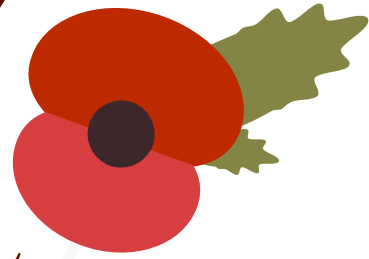
Draw or write the three most important things you'd take if you had to leave your house in a hurry to escape.



Add colour to the poppies that grew in the battlefields, as the land recovered after war.

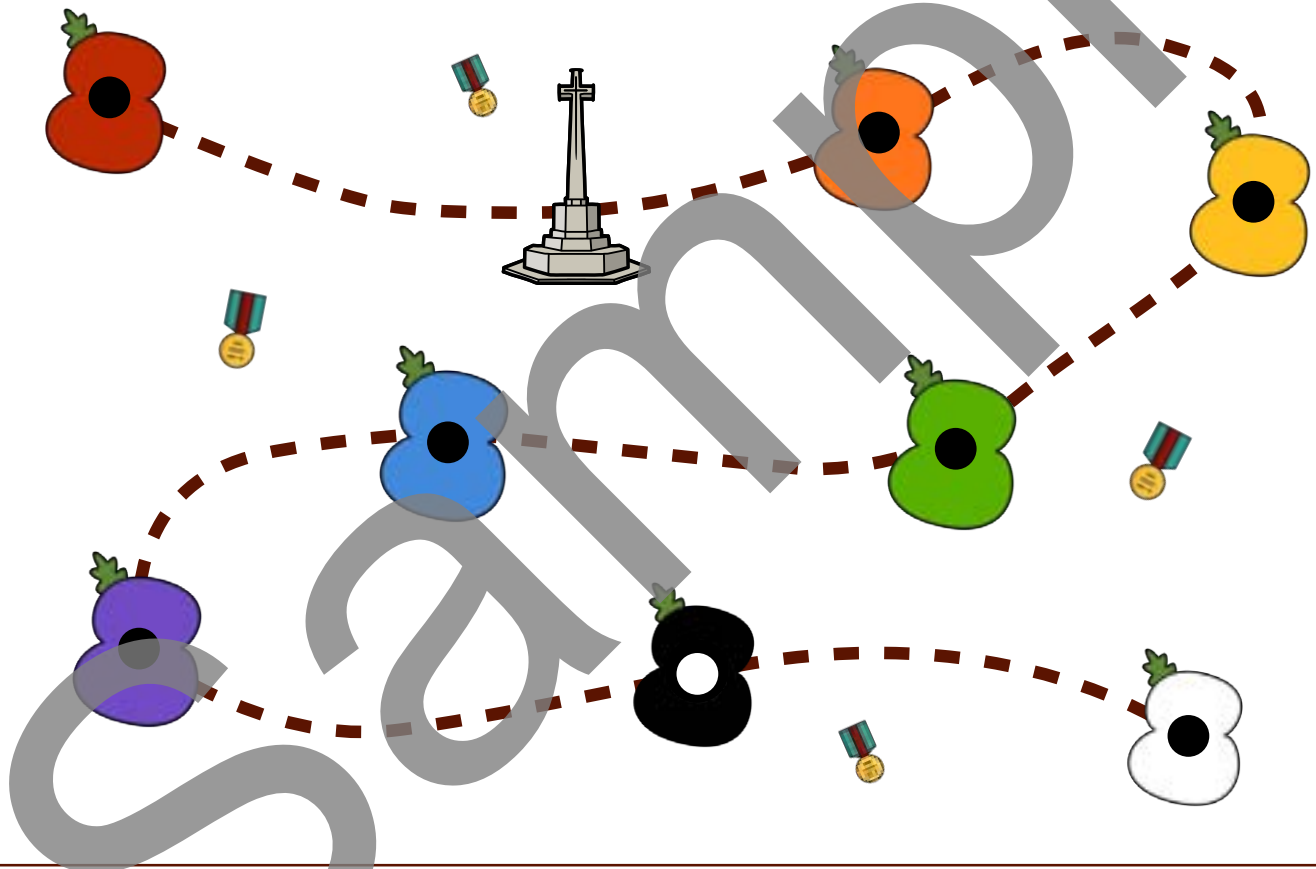


# POPPY TRAIL



**You may have seen people wearing a red poppy,  
but what about poppies in other colours?**

Join our family-friendly Poppy Trail to discover why people  
wear poppies, and find out about all the different people  
– and animals – that we remember at this time of year.



**Location:**

**Time & Date:**

**For more information, contact:**

