



ECHO

10TH NOVEMBER 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr

100 YEARS OF THE REMEMBRANCE POPPY

The Venerable John Barton writes:

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies grew, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write "In Flanders Fields",

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.

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict.

Exactly 100 years ago, on the 11th Nov 1921, poppies of remembrance were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries. Hostilities had actually ceased three years earlier at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

At ceremonies around the world this Sunday, people will wear a red poppy.

Around 30 million poppies are sold each year in the UK and beyond by the Royal British Legion. All the proceeds are used to provide serving and ex-service personnel with financial support, advice, employment, mobility, housing and mental health facilities. Here in France the Legion works hard to support former service personnel and their families.

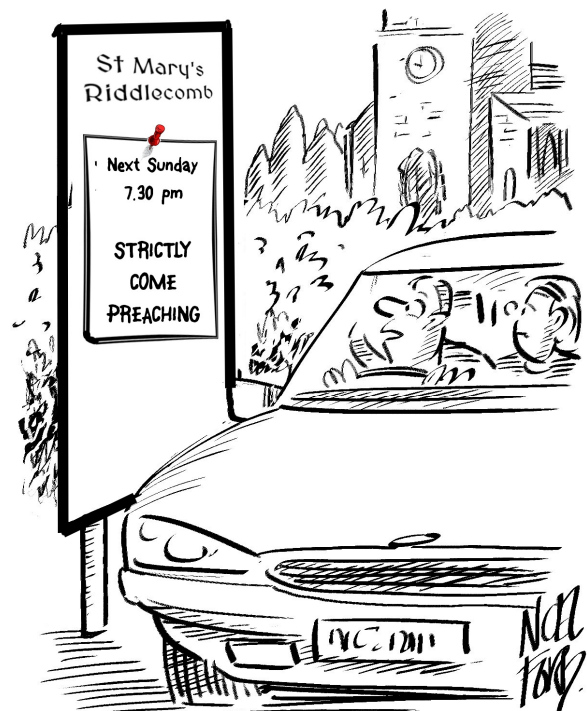
Today we are more aware than ever that battles are fought mainly by young people, and many of those who survive bear scars for life. The act of 'remembering' will not only look back to mark their sacrifice, but also yearn to learn lessons for the future.

Reflecting on the poem, 'In Flanders Fields', the American professor Moina Michael, wrote:

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.



<http://www.rblfrance.org/>



Everyone agreed that the new Vicar had
livened up the worship at St Mary's



GATHERING TO CELEBRATE ADVENT TOGETHER

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT

ECO

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

www.ourchurch.fr

Sunday 14th November

10:30 am - Online Service for Remembrance Sunday

This will be a special service including an Act of Remembrance with a 2-minute silence at 11:00am French time as we remember all those who have died in war. We will show on-screen in our Field of Remembrance the names of anyone whom you would like to be remembered. Please send any names you would like to be included by no later than 18:00 on Friday 12th November to

contact@ourchurch.fr

There will be a Zoom Virtual Coffee Bar, as usual, after our service

Tuesday November 16th

19:00 - An Iona Service of Evening Prayer

This is a short service of prayer and readings from the Bible which is available as a video and also as a Podcast to download and listen to at the close of the day. We also provide the order of service in .PDF for you to download and keep so that you can follow it on your smartphone, tablet or computer if you wish.

Friday November 19th

19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing

Please note the change in date to Friday for our regular service of prayer for those in need of God's healing touch at this time. If you would like us to pray by name for anyone in this service, please send their first name to **contact@ourchurch.fr** by no later than 18:00 on Thursday 18th November.

With the beginning of the Advent season, and the start of the Church's New Year, ECO will be organising its 4th in-person worship in 6 months in the South of the Occitanie Region on **Thursday 2nd December** by kind invitation of Les Marguerites Restaurant in Alet les Bains.

After a sharing of Communion during worship starting at 15:00, you are invited to stay for tea and some of Antoinette's delicious home-made cake afterwards.

Because we will be meeting inside the restaurant (unless it is miraculously sunny and warm for December), we have to limit our numbers slightly more than we do when in the garden to ensure proper social distancing. Please therefore send an e-mail as soon as possible to **contact@ourchurch.fr** if you would like to book place(s) to join us.

*At a recent public meeting of the Anglican Church, the Archdeacon expressed some concern that people attending the occasional ECO in-person worship events might be confused and think that these were in some way connected to the Church of England. For the avoidance of doubt, therefore, please note that ECO is a fully-registered and recognised independent religious organisation **and is not in any way part of any other church or group.***

We use a variety of liturgies provided by the Iona Community and other churches and welcome members of any other church to our Online worship as well as to our occasional physical worship but do not ask you to break your links with any other church to which you might belong.



Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart

Apart from being Remembrance Sunday, this Sunday is also the 2nd Sunday before Advent, for which the Gospel Reading is Mark 13:1—8. Our friend in the Diocese of St Albans, Margaret Pritchard Houston has published a short video about this reading entitled "Jesus And The Temple". You will find a link to this on our web page for this Sunday's Service.