



“Warwick Poppies 2018” Collegiate Church of St Mary Warwick

Newsletter Number 5 – July 2018

Welcome to the fifth of our newsletters, keeping you up to date with progress on our exciting campaign to mount a massive display of handcrafted poppies in St Mary's Church Warwick, as part of the centenary commemoration of the end of World War I in October to December 2018, and to raise money for the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**, and **St. Mary's Church**.

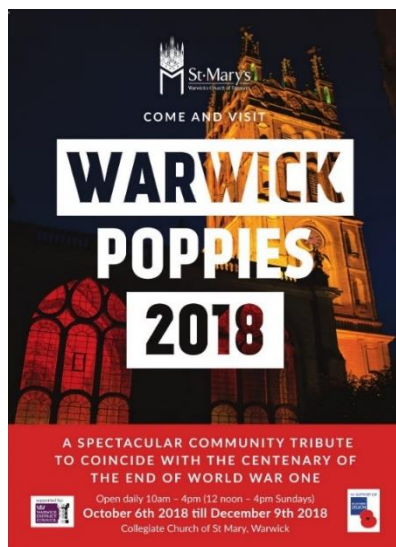
We need them in by the end of July!

We are delighted to announce that we have significantly exceeded our minimum target of **11,610 poppies** – one for every life lost from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in World War I.



We are now busy counting them and preparing them for display. Further contributions will be very welcomed, but **we need your poppies to be handed in to one of our Poppy Drop stations by the end of July** so that we can complete this work ahead of mounting the exhibition during September.

Alternatively, please contact us if you have made poppies you would like to donate and would like us to collect. Your generosity and support has been inspiring. Thank you so much!



The display will be open from Saturday October 6th until Sunday December 9th. Entry will be free.

Here is a preview of our new eye-catching publicity for the exhibition. Designed especially for us at no charge by James Cooper Creative using an original image donated by Linda Scannell photography.

Gala Dinner – tickets now on sale

The Poppy Display will be formally opened at a charity fund-raising **Gala Dinner to be held in St. Mary's Church on Friday 5th October**, hosted by our Patron, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

The planning is at an advanced stage for what will be a **fantastic evening with a reception, three course dinner, musical entertainment, an auction of items "money can't buy", and a raffle**, with many prizes generously donated by local businesses.

Tickets are £50 each. The evening will start at 7pm for a 7.30pm meal, and the dress code is black tie or dark lounge suit. **To apply for tickets** please email us at contact@warwickpoppies.org.uk or call 07702-261199.

When the Battle's O'er – commemorating the signing of the Armistice



The cease fire at the end of the First World War occurred at **11am on the 11th November 1918**, however the Armistice was signed earlier that morning. To commemorate this, at **6am on Sunday 11th November this year, pipers will play the tune “When the Battle's O'er” at War Memorials up and down the country**. In Warwick, the commemoration will be led by **local piper Andy Walker**, who will then play further pieces for us in St Mary's Church in front of our display of poppies.

... and after why not enjoy breakfast!

In conjunction with **Warwick Royal British Legion**, we have organised a breakfast to follow this event, and tickets are

available for £10. Please contact us via email to contact@warwickpoppies.org.uk, pop into Warwick Tourist Office, or call Tony Glover, local Chair of the RBL, on 07709-806325.

Isabella and Peter

Last month we were delighted with the gift of this fabulous poppy which has been created by Isabella Robinson and her Grandad Peter Lewis.

Spanning the generations, they crafted the poppy together and then came to St Mary's Warwick to donate it to Warwick Poppies 2018 - and we couldn't be more grateful!



Your moving messages

We've seen some incredible personal memorabilia over the last few months, and we have been very moved by the messages attached to many of your Poppies.

Typical was this example donated recently. *"In memory of Arthur Hopkins. 11th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. From your Great Grandson Jonathon. Never known, always loved, and never forgotten".*



Messages such as this really bring home the purpose of our project.

The Christmas Truce

Local historians, Alan Reed and Sir Andrew Hamilton are giving a **lecture** in front of our Poppy display in St. Mary's Church on **Thursday 6th December on the famous Christmas Truce of 25th December 1914**, when troops on both sides of the conflict temporarily set down their arms.

They are co-authors of four well received books about the First World War (*Meet at Dawn, Unarmed, We Good... We No Shoot, Stolen Lives and Where Are The Boys?*). Copies are available for sale in St Mary's Church shop.

The lecture and accompanying display have been kindly sponsored by the Royal Warwickshire Regimental Association. **Free tickets for this event, to include refreshments, will be available soon. Please note the date in your diary.**

Warwick District U3A – Study Trip

Alan Reed is also leading a Warwick District University of the Third Age (U3A) First World War Battlefields Study Trip on Sunday 19th – Thursday 23rd August 2018.

Full details of the trip are available from Ann Bailey at ann.bailey@care4free.net or on 07745 165493.

Poppy Drop Stations

Poppies can be left at any of our **"Poppy Drop" Stations** until the end of July. We are grateful to these businesses for their kind support. At any of them you can **deliver your knitted, crocheted, or crafted poppies** for us collect and include in the display. The "Poppy Drop" stations are:

- St Mary's Collegiate Church, Old Square, Warwick.
- Fusilier Museum, St John's House, Coten End, Warwick.
- Warwick Wools, 17 Market Place, Warwick.
- Thomas Oken Tea Rooms, 20 Castle Lane, Warwick.
- Quilters' Den, Smith Street, Warwick.
- Market Hall Museum, Market Place, Warwick
- Sew Arty, Station Road, Kenilworth.
- Royal Fabrics and Haberdashery, 4 Church Walk, Leamington.
- Priors House Care Home, Old Milverton Lane, Leamington Spa.
- Leamington Art Gallery & Museum, Pump Rooms, The Parade, Leamington Spa.
- Coopers Estate Agents, 22 New Union Street, Coventry

If, however you are unable to "drop off" your Poppies, please contact us and we will arrange for them to be collected.

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