

# Giving thanks.....

At this time of year we give thanks for the harvest at Harvest Festivals and for the people who gave their lives serving their country on Remembrance Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> November) or on Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup> November).

There are lots of ideas on the following pages that you might like to try at home.

Please send me some photographs of anything you make to

[grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com)

Best wishes  
Deborah



Hello! Thank you so much for the lovely ways in which you have welcomed me to the benefice. I'm so pleased to be joining you, and very much look forward to meeting you - in these strange times that may take longer than I would like! In the meantime, please do feel free to contact me. Every blessing, Morna

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Have you visited the benefice website, you can view the weekly newsletter and find the links to our weekly online services.

<https://yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/>

Meet our new vicar, Reverend Morna



If you didn't manage to get to one of the Benefice services of thanksgiving you can still view the Church of England's online service celebrating Harvest & the Season of Creation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/celebrating-harvest-and-season>



A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

Need some help explaining Coronavirus to children, take a look at this new free book illustrated by Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler.

[https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus\\_ABookForChildren.pdf](https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf)



This organisation has useful advice on talking with children about bereavement

[www.childbereavementuk.org](http://www.childbereavementuk.org)

Harvest festivals are traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox (about Sept. 23). In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October.

### **What are Harvest Festivals?**

Harvest Festivals are celebrations of the food grown on the land.

Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both worldwide and very ancient. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival'.

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving services supported the work of the local foodbanks and were held outside.





## Activities to try at home .....



There are lots of apples around at this time of year, visit the website below to find out how to make an apple birdfeeder. When you have hung it up watch out for the birds and remember that God created every one of them!



<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/apple-birdseed-homemade-bird-feeders-kids/>



You could decorate some biscuits to look like a scarecrow for your snack.



Or cut an apple into thick slices, spread with chocolate spread & decorate with sprinkles!  
(ask a grown up to help you cut the apple).



Think about all the things you would like to than God for, make a paper cross and write them on, you could decorate it with Autumn leaves



Find a empty tray from your recycling and add a handle. Take your basket with you on an Autumn walk looking at the beauty of God's world around you. Can you collect something beginning with each letter of

C R E A T I O N

You could find some conkers  
For the letter C.....



A picture for you to  
colour....





# Harvest prayer

A time for reflection during 'Harvest festival' celebrations

Dear God,

Each season brings something new for  
us to see and enjoy,

With sunny days and rainy days,  
our crops grow larger,

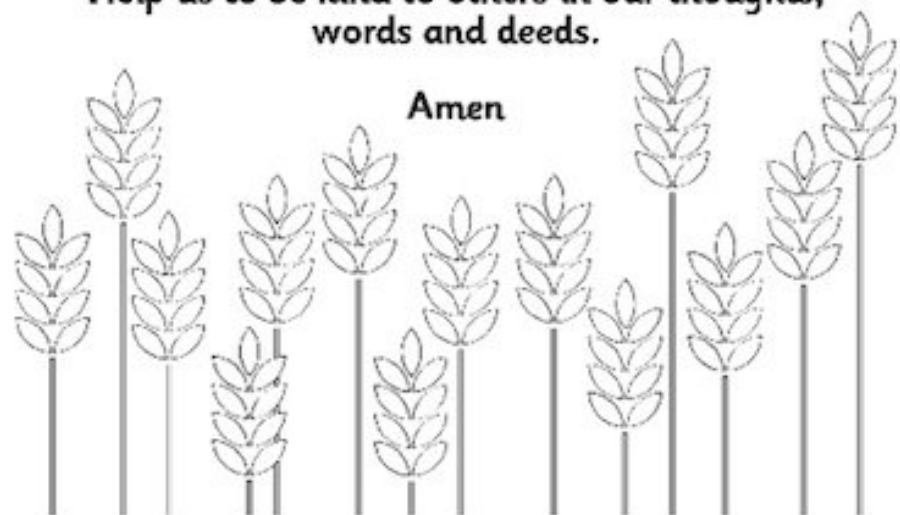
Fruit and vegetables ripen, ready for us to harvest.

Thank you for all of the food we have to eat,

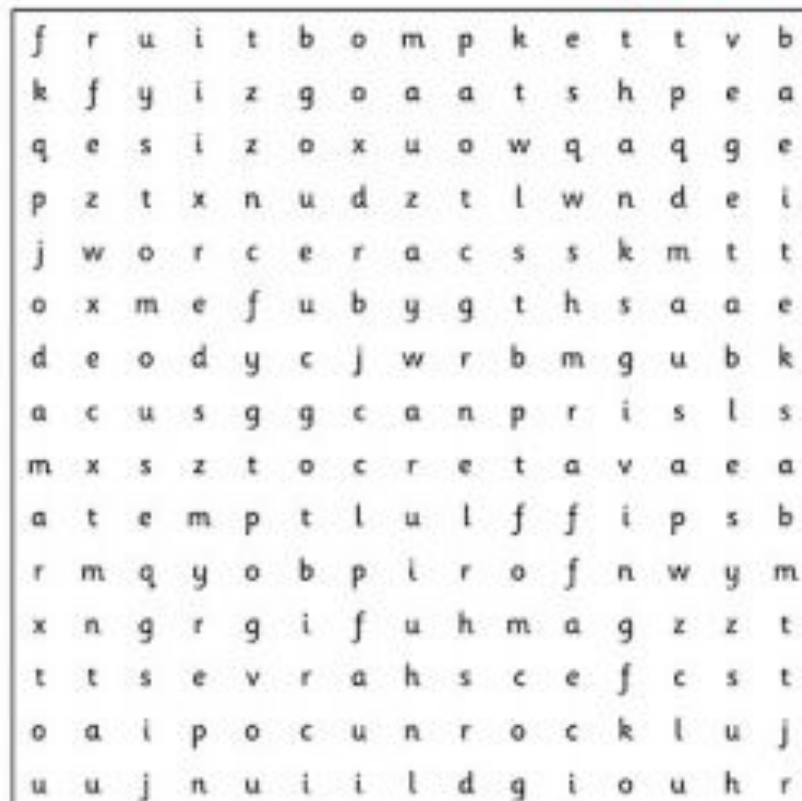
Let us remember people who may  
not have enough.

Help us to be kind to others in our thoughts,  
words and deeds.

Amen



# Harvest Word Search



basket

cornucopia

farm

fruit

harvest

loaf

moon

mouse

scarecrow

thanksgiving

tractor

vegetables

## Remembrance Day.....

Remembrance Day is an occasion of national significance, but many parents believe that its adult themes of sacrifice and death aren't appropriate to share with young children. However by helping primary school-aged children to understand why the nation comes to a halt at 11am to remember the war dead – and, from this year, victims of terrorism, too – we can safeguard its future.

Explain that more than 100 years ago, a war began that was the biggest the world had ever seen. Millions of soldiers had to go and fight for their country to make sure that their country and their families were safe. Many, many of these soldiers died. It is these soldiers we remember on Remembrance Day, as well as soldiers from other wars, such as World War 2, the Falklands and Iraq. Most soldiers didn't want to go to war, but they did so because they wanted to fight for what they believed was right. This is called a sacrifice. We remember them to say thank you for what they did.

It wasn't just trained soldiers who went to war, but ordinary men: brothers, sons and fathers. Remembrance Sunday also commemorates civilians who died, too.



Do you know where the war memorial is in the town or village that you live in?

There maybe names on it of the people from that area who died in the First or Second World Wars.



This is a great clip explaining why we wear poppies on CBeebies

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=utube+remembrance+day+for+kids&view=detail&mid=BD651DAA6E318C38E861BD651DAA6E318C38E861&FORM=VIRE>



Provide your child with an empty plastic bottle and some red paint. They then dip the bottom of the bottle into the paint and print it onto a piece of paper. Create a poppy picture, or alternatively try putting the poppies in a circle to create a poppy wreath. Children can paint the black centre of each poppy, as well as the green leaves.

Or ask a grown up to cut the bottom off the bottle and then paint it red to make a 3D poppy



Door to door selling of poppies is not allowed this year but there are lots of ways to donate, buy your poppies by post or download a poppy at

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Download a poppy to colour and put it in your window to show your support.

<https://storage.rblcdn.co.uk/sitefinity/docs/default-source/fundraising/royal-british-legion-downloadable-colour-in-poppy.pdf>





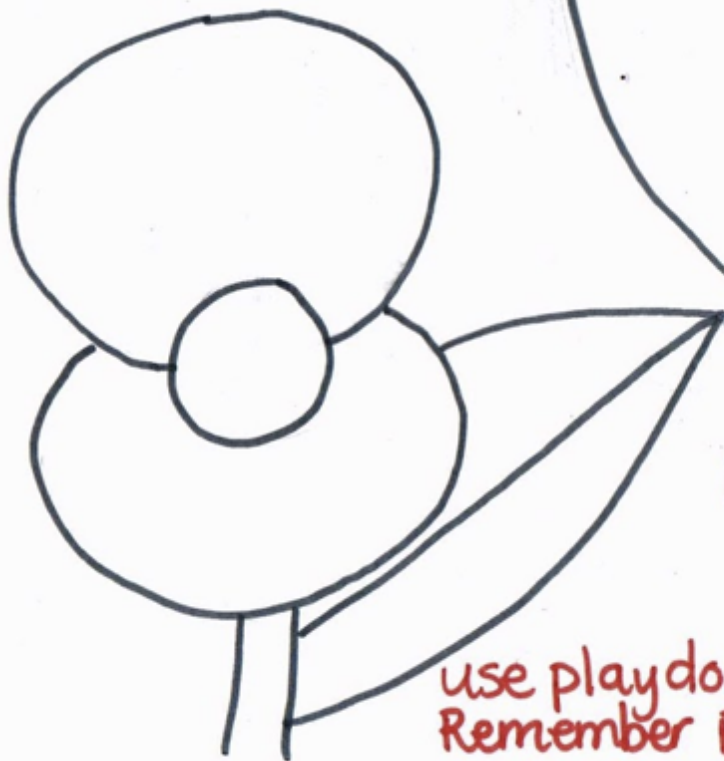
This poppy picture was made from thumbprints, why not have a go?

These poppy cup cakes look yummy!



# Remembrance

He will wipe away  
every tear from their eyes.  
There will be no more  
death, sadness, crying or  
pain. Rev 21:4



Fill the dove  
with play dough  
and pray that  
God will bring  
peace to our world.



use playdough to make a poppy.  
Remember people who have died in wartime.





Poppy Poppy



Poppy poppy what do you say?  
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

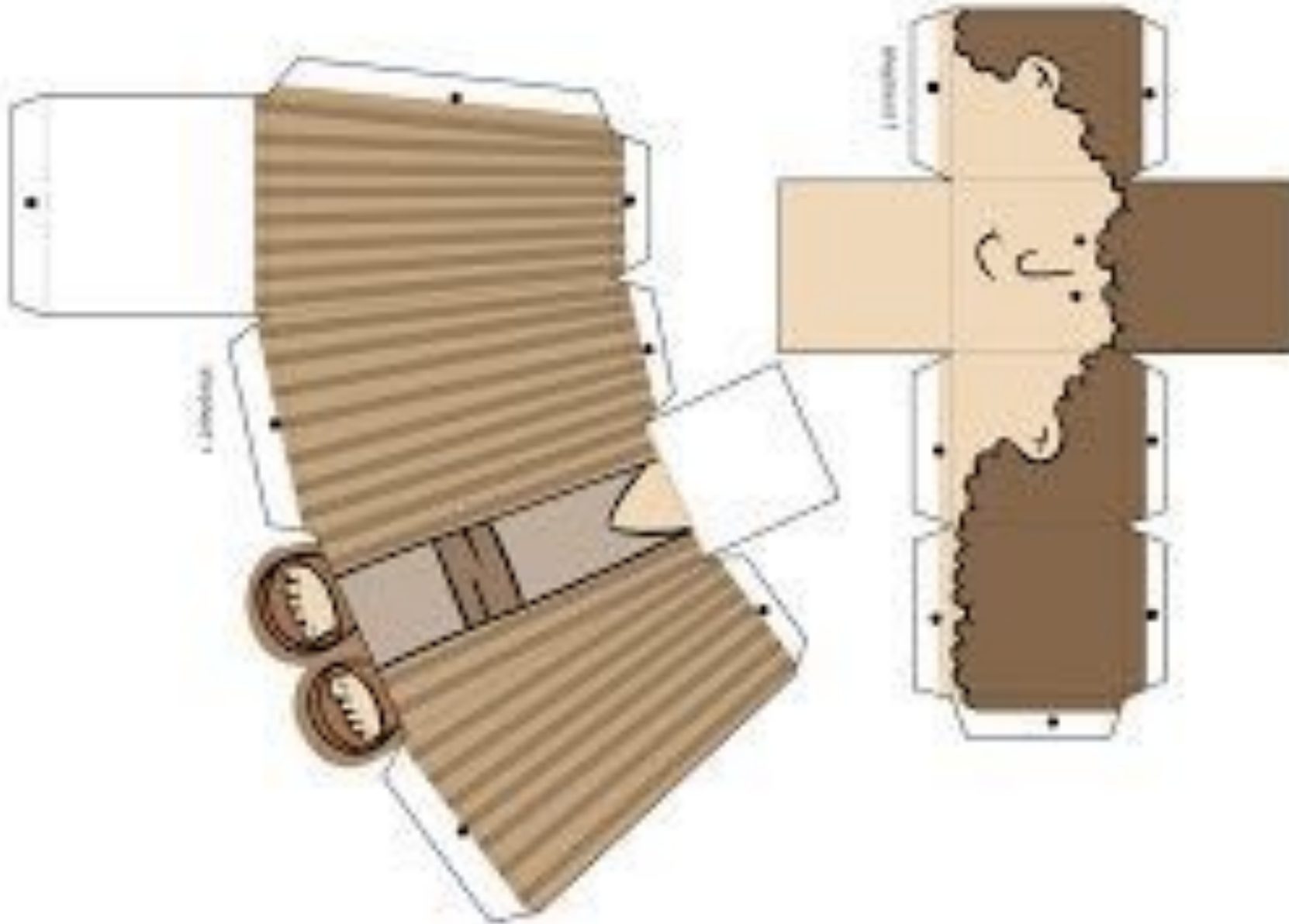
Poppy poppy what do you tell?  
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we  
know?

That peace on earth should  
grow, grow, grow.



Find a large stone in the garden or when you are out for a walk, draw or paint a poppy on it with paint or a permanent marker (if you use paint when it has dried paint it again with PVA glue to make it waterproof). Then take it and put it on the war memorial where you live to show your thanks for the people who gave their lives so that we could live in peace.



Print, cut out and make this model of Jesus

Hide him around the house (bit like Elf on the Shelf) to remind you that Jesus is always with you and that its surprising where we can find him.....

Have fun & send me some pictures of where you found Jesus, even when you weren't looking for him....