



# “Warwick Poppies 2018” Collegiate Church of St Mary Warwick

## Newsletter Number 4 – April 2018

Welcome to the fourth 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/November 2018, and to raise money for the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**, and **St. Mary's Church**.

### Progress

We are delighted to report that we are well over **two thirds of the way** towards meeting our minimum **target of 11,610 Poppies** – one for every life lost from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment alone in WW1. **Poppies are arriving daily** with community contributions **from schools, voluntary groups and hundreds of individuals**. Parcels have arrived from Australia, USA, Canada, across Europe and even from Malawi! We are truly grateful for the wonderful support we have received.

### Fish and Chips (and Poppies too!)

The project needs to raise money to meet the costs of publicity for the campaign and mounting the display of poppies later this year. On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March we held a **fund-raising Fish and Chip supper at the Lord Leycester Hospital**, with entertainment provided by the **Sing Well Community Choir** who led us in popular songs of the First World War. We were pleased to welcome both the **Mayor of Warwick** and the **Chair of Warwick District Council**. It was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Huge thanks to Heidi Meyer, the Master of the Lord Leycester, for kindly donating the use of the Great Hall for the evening.



### International Poppy Swap – knitting our communities together!

A few months ago, we were alerted to a project in **Warwick, Queensland, Australia** where they are knitting poppies to

contribute to a massive display in Canberra later this year. We established contact and decided on a “poppy swap” – each of us contributing 100 poppies towards each other's display. **Warwick, New York, USA** is also doing something similar, and on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March in St Mary's, our Rector dedicated the poppies that will be sent overseas.



### Warwickshire Young Carers

Using our generous sponsorship from the **Arts Society of Royal Leamington Spa** (formerly RLSDFAS), **Annette Smyth**, a local artist, led the first Poppy making workshop with members of the **Warwickshire Young Carers** group at their regular meeting at “The Gap” community centre in Warwick. They had terrific fun, creating poppies from red paint and out of date medical gauze. We can't wait to see the end results in our display!



### Gala Dinner – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The black-tie Gala Dinner to mark the opening of our poppy display in St Mary's Church will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets will be on sale from late June.

## Workshops

Our good friend **Jayne Canning** from "Painting for Pleasure" in Leamington set up a very successful workshop at **Shop Mobility in Royal Priors** in February. She has also organised future workshops at the **Oddfellows Hall** in Leamington Spa in April, and at the **Westbury Centre**. We are very grateful.



The regular workshops at the **Market Hall Museum** in Warwick continue every month, usually on the first Wednesday at 1.30pm. They have been brilliantly supported and we are very grateful to **Kathryn Seren and Rowan Williams** for co-hosting and organising these with us. There are workshops on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and 6<sup>th</sup> June. Contact the Museum on 01926-412501 for further details. No booking required, all ages and abilities welcomed, and all materials are supplied.

Contact us for details of any of these or other opportunities to get involved!

## Commemorating the signing of the Armistice

The cease fire at the end of the First World War occurred at **11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918**, however the Armistice was signed earlier that morning. To commemorate this, at **6am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

In conjunction with Warwick Royal British Legion, we have organised a breakfast to follow this event, and tickets are available for **£10**. Please contact either ourselves, or Tony Glover, local Chair of the RBL for details.



## Tour of the Poppy Factory, Richmond

Following our successful trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, we have organised a **coach trip and visit to the famous Royal British Legion Poppy Factory** in Richmond on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**. The Poppy Factory supports ex-



Service men and women with mentoring and support. We will leave Warwick at 11am and return at about 6.30pm. **Tickets are £20 and include a tour of the factory.**

If you would like to book a place, please contact us as soon as you can as tickets are limited.

## Making your own poppies

Our website, [www.warwickpoppies.org.uk](http://www.warwickpoppies.org.uk), contains details of knitting patterns, craft templates, and much more information on how you can create poppies we can use for the display. Check it for details or contact us if you need help with accessing the information or purchasing materials.

Our "Poppy Drop" Stations are located over a wide local area, and there is sure to be one near you. We are grateful to these businesses for their kind support. At any of them you can **pick up leaflets, and 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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