



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a practical 'easy-to-use' resource to help and encourage church families enjoy a time of worship together, explore the Bible, pray and grow in their faith in the comfort of their own homes.

Church@Home provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session every Sunday using a Bible reading selected from the Church of England Lectionary. Each session lasts approximately twenty minutes and provides age-related material for toddlers to teenagers to accommodate everyone in the family. Thought-provoking questions, fun activities and crafts bring the Bible story to life as well as creative prayer ideas to help families focus, learn and grow in their faith together. Additional teaching and craft suggestions are also provided for families with very young children.

Church@Home can also be used as a fun way to help families connect with other families on Sunday mornings too during this time of distancing. Invite everyone to begin **Church@Home** at the same time and perhaps set up a WhatsApp group where families can share what they have done, or discuss the topic further together.

If your family or families in your church are using **Church@Home** please let us know. We would like to keep in contact, find out how you are doing as well as hear how **Church@Home** is helping families grow in their faith, so that we can share and inspire others during this time of distancing.

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Thank you 



Sunday 8th November 2020

3rd Sunday before Advent
(Remembrance Sunday)

Greatest love **John 15:13**

Time to focus...

As you gather as a family, find a place on the floor, around a table or even in the garden. If possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of the worship time. Quietly stare at the flame as you pause and prepare for a time of worship as a family...

Set the scene...

Do you have a good memory? It is easy to remember your own birthday but sometimes people forget other birthdays. No one does it on purpose but how can that make the other person feel? If we don't remember people's birthdays it's as if we're saying they are not important or that we don't care about the contribution they've made to our lives.

Watch the story...

Three great films to watch on Remembrance depending on your children's age...

0-5yrs = [CBeebies](#) / 5-11yrs+ = [The Poppy Story](#) / 11yrs+ = [Remembrance Day](#)

Explore the story...

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who have given their lives at war serving our country. We wear a poppy to help us to remember that they gave everything they had and how we live today is partly a result of their sacrifice. Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front as the flower flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling.

Those who died serving in our armed forces gave up everything to protect us, to show they care and that they loved their country. They served because they believed they were doing the right thing. They gave their lives to give us the freedom we enjoy in this country. We must remember them.

For Christians, it's also important to remember how Jesus died. He told his followers this: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). There is nothing more greater or precious than this sacrifice. Jesus died because He loves us He gave his life, because he loved us, to give us the freedom to be in God's family, forever. Jesus did all that God required of him and there was nothing more that could be given. Jesus was given by God to be the ultimate sacrifice of love (John 3:16). But today, above all else, is a day to remember those who gave their lives for those who they left behind. We will remember them.

End with a prayer...

Spend a few moments of silence saying thank you to the soldiers who gave their lives for this country in wars. Thank God for your own good memories of key people in your life. Finally, thank Jesus for giving up his life on the cross for you and for everyone.



Sunday 8th November 2020
Remembrance Sunday

Greatest love

Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Creative Activity/Prayer: A poppy attached to a small wooden cross bringing together the two key symbols of remembrance and the Christian faith. Create a paper chain of crosses by folding a length of paper into a fan or an 'accordion'. Draw a cross on the top making sure that the left and right arms of the cross touch the folds at the sides. Cut out the cross shape - remember not to cut along the folds on the left and right edges. The crosses should be linked when the paper is unfolded. The amount of crosses depends on the number of folds you make. Now make poppies of the appropriate size cut from red paper to decorate the centres of the crosses. Click on this link for some [poppy](#) templates and instructions.

5-11s...

Activity: Oil and water will not mix, however hard you shake them up. See this link for [instructions](#). However, opposites can be brought together if something else is added that reacts with both - add some washing-up liquid. In war, people quickly take sides and often refuse to come together to solve their differences. Talk about the things that cause people to distrust and hate each other?

Creative prayer: In the German city of Cologne, an artist created a '[wailing wall](#)' in the Cathedral - it was popular with over 30,000 messages expressing concerns and prayers for world peace. Create your own huge peace wall adding your own words, pictures about war and peace.

11-18s...



1) What sorts of things cause people to distrust and come to hate each other?

2) Why is making peace harder than making war?

3) What does Matthew 5:9 reveal about the character and nature of God?



Justice means 'to make right'. Is there someone that you need to forgive?



When peacemakers sow seeds of peace they will harvest justice (James 3:18).

"The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends" - John 15:13