

World War I Centenary Poppy Memorial



The idea for this project began on a country walk in Derbyshire. Jane Everett and Maria Ashburner were talking about how they could mark the centenary and combine their ideas with the Commemorative Mass which was already being planned in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. From this small beginning grew the amazing installation which has been experienced by hundreds of people during fourteen emotional days in November.

Since that lovely summer walk, over twenty thousand poppies have been created by people of all ages throughout the community. The children had fun together at messy church during the summer holidays making poppies from recycled plastic bottles, clay, felt and even baked poppy bread.

Every church in our partnership responded with enthusiasm and became part of the project. The choir had people from all the parish churches: the sick and housebound of our partnership were active participants, historians in the parish conducted research, gardeners planned and created the remembrance garden, crosses were painted and inscribed, flowers arranged and finally the installation was completed.

Special thanks go to Donna Caldwell who designed the installation and all those volunteers from the partnership who welcomed our visitors from far and wide.

We will remember them.

Joan Formosa

Benedict Partnership