

## Remembrance at Langstone Church



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 22 children from Langstone Primary School attended a special service of Remembrance at Langstone Church led by the Revd. Alison Littler and Councillor Ted. The children were asked to bring with them a small wooden cross adorned with a simple poppy. On the back of each cross, the children wrote the name of a person known to them who had passed away in one of the World Wars.

In a moving service the children reflected on the meaning of Remembrance. They were asked by Revd Alison to name a relative who had passed away during the time of conflict. She said that

because so many lives had been lost it was unlikely that anyone living today would not be able to find someone connected with their family who had died.

She explained that the poppy has since become a symbol of hope and endurance at Remembrance because it was this little flower that sprang up in the mud and devastation of the battlefields in northern France. Councillor Ted told the children that there were also cornflowers which grew among the poppies and this is the French symbol of Remembrance. A very special Garden of Remembrance was then created where the children planted their crosses in neat rows around a central poppy wreath.



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As part of this reflective experience, the children were shown one very special grave, which belonged to local war hero, Wallace Dean. Wallace was reunited with the rest of his family members in death. He died, aged just 22, from illness caused by the horrors he had suffered in the war. As a determined young man, Wallace had signed up, aged 17 to serve his country. Having been bombed on a ship, spent time in a fishmeal factory, survived oil polluted seas off the shores of Norway, he ended up in hospital in North Wales. He now lies in peace beside other members of his family in the graveyard of Langstone Church.

Article submitted by Linda Stevens (R.E Co-ordinator at Langstone Primary School)