145 Kenilworth Road
Balsall Common
Coventry
West Midlands
CV7 7EU

21st March 2026

To Berkswell Parish Council

Dear Richard

Berkswell Church Poppy Displays

I write to ask if you would please consider our current work-in-progress project for a grant towards the cost of materials excluding wool.

Last November I sent lots of pictures to Angela Childs (one of Berkswell Church's Church Wardens) of local Churches who had adorned their Church towers and features in crocheted and knitted poppies in honour, recognition and remembrance of those who have given and are still giving their lives in World Wars.

Angela and myself chatted through the feasibility and with full permission from Berkswell Church personnel we have a team of crafters making poppies. This team are all volunteers and are purchasing their own wool. Angeal and myself are the 'spear heads' of this project.

We require a faculty from the Diocese, which is currently being undertaken, to enable us to achieve the cascade on the Church tower, left of the vestry as the main part of the tower is at the rear and would therefore not be visible.

We have taken advice mainly from Wellesbourne Church as they did a display last year and have been extremely helpful. We have fully taken on board their advice and knowledge which includes Health and Safety, Risk Assessment (which has already be done) materials required to secure the poppies to ensure a safe and wonderful display.

These materials include pheasant netting, hessian, rope, ties, pegs and maybe other items as the display is erected which may be required. The cost of these items is circa £350-£400 with the netting currently being priced at £200 (but as I'm not organising this part of the project, I am unsure if VAT has been included).

We require 3,500-4,000 poppies and we are well on our way for our target. We are also hopeful for displays, wreaths and decorations inside the Church as well which Angela and myself will fund ourselves. The displays will be on 'show' for a few weeks prior and after Remembrance Sunday where Berkswell hold the most poignant service as you will most probably be aware of.

The displays be willstored and used for many years to come.

Angela and myself work well together as a team with our different abilities and we are both dedicated to not only The Church of England but being a part of Berkswell Church.

We have a list of people to ask to assist in the many stages

dismantling of the poppies to the Church tower. I am hopeful the senior Scouts will assist with my husband Norman along with members of the congregation a community.

We are keeping a list of *everyone* that is involved, in anyway, in this project and we will make an 'honour board' to be placed inside the Church so that all can see what everyone has achieved.

We feel that not only the congregations of the Church services will savour the finished articles but also the many visitors, walkers and those attending to their loved ones in the Churchyard.

We are humbled, proud and will forever be in debt to those who had and have no choice but to enlist and fight for their country and lost their lives and still losing lives to this very day.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this request for a donation and please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

I know from a past request to Berkswell Parish Council for permission to place a tree on the village green as my late Dad's last wish became reality, I was asked to attend a Parish Council meeting to put forward my request for consideration, which I did and would be more than happy to attend, with Norman if you require me to on this occasion also, however I would love to attend anyway if allowed!

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Jenny Thompson

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cc Charlotte Shadbolt
Richard Drake