

Press Release (11 October 2011)

### Remembrance Day Poppy Installation at St Paul's Cathedral



(Artist's visualisation)

Over 5,000 poppies will be scattered under the dome of St Paul's in an art installation on Remembrance Day, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

From ground level the poppies appear to have fallen randomly, but when viewed from the Whispering Gallery the poppies form an image of three child soldiers; one from the First World War and two from more recent conflicts

\*\*Photo/filming opportunity from the Whispering Gallery – 8.30am, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011\*\*

The 30 foot wide installation created by artist Ted Harrison highlights the involvement of children in war. Although declared illegal by the UN some 250,000 under-age children are currently active combatants - most having been forced or coerced into volunteering. Thousands are killed, wounded or traumatised every year.

The installation is part of the St Paul's Cathedral Arts Project, an ongoing programme which seeks to explore the encounter between art and faith. Recent projects have included installations by Antony Gormley, Mark Alexander and Martin Firrell.

Artist Ted Harrison said;

*"The poppy is now a universal symbol of remembrance. At the time of year when we rightly recall British soldiers, sailors and airmen who have given their lives for their country, this work is a reminder of the many children who have also, throughout history, died as members of the armed forces. Today a UN convention forbids the conscription of anyone under 18 years of age, but the convention is widely ignored. It is estimated there are*

*250,000 children worldwide in military service, a third of whom are girls. When the work is viewed from above I hope something of the innocence of these children is conveyed along with a sense of innocence betrayed."*

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Treasurer of St Paul's, said;

*"In Ted Harrison's moving tribute the past and present are brought together in a poignant way through Remembrance poppies, scattered to shock us and warn us that history repeats itself. The human faces can only be fully seen from a sacred height. Placed in the cathedral this tribute reminds us of the tragedy of violent conflict. It is a wake-up call to us all to protest against the wickedness of arming children to fight, and die, in our wars. It is also a timely reminder that human beings should remember better - not to be comforted but to be challenged"*

Visitors to St Paul's Cathedral will be able to view the artwork on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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**For more information and images contact Hannah Talbot +44 (0) 20 7246 8321 or email [hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)**

**\*\*FILMING/PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITY, 8.30am, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011\*\***

There will be an opportunity for interior filming/photography from the Whispering Gallery at 8.30am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

If you wish to attend please contact Hannah Talbot, [Hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:Hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk) 0207 246 8321

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Listings Information:**

Installation by Ted Harrison for Remembrance Day at St Paul's Cathedral

Dates: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Times: 8.30am until last admission at 4pm (the Whispering Gallery is open from 9.30am with last admission to the galleries at 4.15pm)

Address: St Paul's Cathedral, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD

Nearest tube: St Paul's

Phone number: 020 7236 4128

Website: [www.stpauls.co.uk](http://www.stpauls.co.uk)

Prices: Standard admission charges apply

### **St Paul's Cathedral**

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as a enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

**Ted Harrison**

In his 40 year career Ted Harrison has been a BBC Radio 4 reporter and presenter, a television documentary maker, lectures and a cartoonist. He now focuses on his work as an artist and writer, dividing his life between Kent and Unst in Shetland, the far south and the far north of Great Britain.