Welcome
Good morning everyone, and welcome to this, our annual Act of Remembrance. Could you please ensure that all mobile devices are switched to silent mode? Thank you.

Today we are marking Remembrance Day with some readings and reflections. We will observe a 2 minutes’ silence.

Why is Remembrance Day important?
Armistice Day commemorates the signing of the truce between the Allies and Germany which brought an end to World War I at 11am on November 11th 1918- the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. Silences and acts of remembrance have been held annually ever since to remember the suffering and loss during the conflict.

Remembrance Day is often held on the Sunday closest to Armistice Day, and is a day when we remember all those who have been killed during wars.

A Reading: Anthem for Doomed Youth, Wilfred Owen
The loss of a generation between 1914 and 1918 has been graphically depicted in Wilfred Owen’s poem “Anthem For Doomed Youth”. This poem captured the experience of the young men who died or were injured and who left millions of loved ones grieving.

Wilfred Owen was killed in action on November 4th 1918, one week before the Armistice, one of the millions whose lives were snuffed out before they could reach anything like their full potential.

What passing bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns,
Only the stuttering rifles’ rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling them from sad shires.
What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls’ brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds.
Remembrance Day

Thoughts from Baden-Powell
In 1928, Lord Baden-Powell summarised why it is important for us, as Scouts to observe Remembrance Day with a shared moment of silence.

‘When we observe the Silence what shall we ask of ourselves in those solemn moments of thought? Could it not be to think out and resolve that in our turn we shall see with a new outlook and henceforth do, each of us, our bit to bring about peace and goodwill in world affairs? In the …Scout Movement we are trying to do our little bit in this direction, by bringing together in friendship and under common … ideals the future generation of every country in the world’.

It is important on this day to remember all those who have been killed, or affected in conflict. Soldier and civilian alike, regardless of nationality, we must remember all those who found themselves in circumstances over which they had no control, wherever and whenever they occurred.

The role of Scouts at home
As we remember, let us also have in the forefront of our minds the tens of thousands of Scouts who served in both World Wars. Many Scouts served on the fighting fronts, alongside many more who carried out vital functions at home. There were Scout coast watchers, Scout messengers, Scout first aiders. Scout Leaders served in the Scout International Relief Service during the last few months of the Second World War, bringing aid and comfort to displaced persons, refugees and survivors of the concentration camps. They did so, knowing that they were using sticking plasters to try to heal deep wounds but as one member said, "we can’t do much but it’s better than doing nothing".

Scout Roll of Honour
Scouts responded magnificently in both World Wars. They did not shrink from danger. These young men’s sacrifices stand as an example down through the years to all of us involved in Scouting today and in the future. Let us therefore remember our fellow Scouts with humility but also with a deep sense of pride and gratitude.

The following names are taken at random from our Rolls of Honour.

1. Private/ Piper Charles Arthur Munro Anderson, 8th Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders.
   Killed in action 25th September 1915, during the Battle of Loos, aged 20. Scout, 1st Larkhall Troop, Scotland.


Shared Moment of Silence
We will now observe 2 minutes’ silence in which I hope we will reflect on and remember all those who died, especially members of our own families and others known to us.

A Reading: For the Fallen, Laurence Binyon
We will now close with an extract from a poem by Laurence Binyon.

They went with songs to battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.