

Remembrance Day Service

Welcome
The Mayor, Councillor Matt Babbage

Assisted by
Rev Richard Coombs and other community contributors

Music led by Cheltenham Silver Band and Cheltenham Choral Society

12 November 2023

11.00 am

Service

Welcome: The Mayor, Councillor Matt Babbage

Introduction: Rev Richard Coombs

Followed by hymn

**O God Our Help In Ages Past;
Cheltenham Silver Band, accompanied by Cheltenham Choral Society**

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come:
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne,
Thy saints have dwelt secure:
Sufficient in thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame:
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
Are like an evening gone:
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come:
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Act of Remembrance, Rev Richard Coombs

Let us remember before God
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

**The Exhortation, Roy Roberts, Chairman, Cheltenham Branch,
Royal British Legion**

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.

(All repeat)

We will remember them

**The Last Post sounded by Alastair Stock, principal cornet,
Cheltenham Silver Band**

Two minute silence

The Reveille

**The Kohima Epitaph, Roy Roberts, Chairman, Cheltenham Branch,
Royal British Legion**

“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave
our today”

Prayer for the Peace of the World, Rev Richard Coombs

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed;
Kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all the true love of peace,
and guide with your pure and peaceful wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the world;
that, in tranquillity, your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Deacon John Andrews

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict:
and ask that God may give us peace:
for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered and known to God;
for the homeless and refugees,
for those who are hungry and despairing
and all who have lost their livelihood and security
for all who mourn their dead,

(Here follows a short silence)

Lord in thy mercy

(All respond) "Hear our prayer"

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, infinite in power, wisdom and love, have compassion on those for whom we pray. Help us to respond to all suffering, to further the work of your Kingdom here on earth, through Him who gave himself for us on the cross. Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord. **Amen**

(All say together)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into
temptation; but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 2:1-5, Rev Richard Coombs

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be
established as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.
Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Community contributors

Sue Naydorf

We remember today those who gave their lives in support of safety and freedom for our country and in the cause of liberty for all people. Generations have put themselves in harm's way for the greater good of us all, and we honour their sacrifice. Each of them had hopes for their future and loved ones who prayed for their return. We think of them today and remember them:

El Malei Rachamim - our God, full of mercy - comfort and support all those who remember their loved ones, whose sacrifice we mark today. For those whose lives were changed forever we pray that their loss may be easier to bear knowing that so many people around the world are thinking of them especially on this day.

Zichronam livracha - May their memory be a blessing for us all.

Commitment, Cadet Willian Pritchard, St Edwards Combined Cadet Force

We pledge ourselves anew to our work in support of the wartime generation and to all those in other conflicts since. We promise to do everything possible to help where there is a need, and to ensure that they may enjoy the years that lie ahead in comfort and dignity and contentment.

Poem – Will Staunton and Lucy Paris-Johnstone, Year 10, Balcarras School For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the 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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon

Stuart Elton 'The Man He Killed'

"Had he and I but met
By some old ancient inn,
We should have sat us down to wet
Right many a nipperkin!

"But ranged as infantry,
And staring face to face,
I shot at him as he at me,
And killed him in his place.

"I shot him dead because -
Because he was my foe,
Just so: my foe of course he was;
That's clear enough; although

"He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,
Off-hand like - just as I -
Was out of work - had sold his traps -
No other reason why.

"Yes; quaint and curious war is!
You shoot a fellow down
You'd treat if met where any bar is,
Or help to half-a-crown."

Thomas Hardy

Revd Kevin Devaney

A quote from CS Lewis "You can't go back and change the beginning,
but you can start where you are and change the ending."

And something to connect and lift us all:

"For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe who we are.
We are our grandmother's prayers, and we are our grandfather's dreamings.
We are the breath of our ancestors; we are the Spirit of God.
We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,
we are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions.
we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,
we're the lovers of life and the builders of nations,
we are seekers of truth and keepers of faith,
we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.
We are our grandmother's prayers, and we are our grandfather's dreamings.
We are the breath of our ancestors; we are the Spirit of Love.

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe who we are."

*Ysaye Barnwell
American singer and composer*

Abide With Me;**Cheltenham Silver Band, accompanied by Cheltenham Choral Society**

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see,
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness:
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Blessing, Rev Richard Coombs

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

National Anthem;**Cheltenham Silver Band, accompanied by Cheltenham Choral Society**

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King:
Send him victorious, Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us: God Save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour;
Long may he reign: May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause, To sing with heart and voice
God Save the King.

Laying Of Wreaths

(Civic party to remain in position until all wreaths have been laid)

Civic Party Retires**March Past****Mayor's thanks**

The Mayor wishes to thank Cheltenham Silver Band and Cheltenham Choral Society for leading the music at this Remembrance Day Service.

Safety notice for members of the public

When observing the March Past in front of the Municipal Offices please keep to the pavements.

Thank you.