

Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 10 November 2024

11.00am

Led by

Revd Richard Coombs
Rector of Cheltenham

Assisted by

Roy Roberts, Chairman, Cheltenham Branch, Royal British Legion
Deacon John Andrews, and community contributors

Music led by

Cheltenham Silver Band and Cheltenham Choral Society

Order of Service

Welcome and introduction

Revd Richard Coombs

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

Revd 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, 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, Lydbrook Band

Two-minute silence

The Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph
Roy Roberts, 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
Revd 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

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**

The Lord's Prayer

(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**

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Revd 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.

Commitment:

Cdt Henry Hall 125 (Cheltenham) Sqn

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.

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.

Poem – Mametz Wood by Owen Sheers (2005)

Read by Annie-Schmidt-Martin, Year 8 Pates Grammar School

For years afterwards the farmers found them –
the wasted young, turning up under their plough blades
as they tended the land back into itself.

A chit of bone, the china plate of a shoulder blade,
the relic of a finger, the blown
and broken bird's egg of a skull,

all mimicked now in flint, breaking blue in white
across this field where they were told to walk, not run,
towards the wood and its nesting machine guns.

And even now the earth stands sentinel,
reaching back into itself for reminders of what happened
like a wound working a foreign body to the surface of the skin.

This morning, twenty men buried in one long grave,
a broken mosaic of bone linked arm in arm,
their skeletons paused mid dance-macabre

in boots that outlasted them,
their socketed heads tilted back at an angle
and their jaws, those that have them, dropped open.

As if the notes they had sung
have only now, with this unearthing,
slipped from their absent tongues.

**Poem: Call to the Living by Algernon Black
Read by Stuart Elton**

This is a call to the living,
To those who refuse to make peace with evil,
With the suffering and the waste of the world.
This is a call to the human, not the perfect,
To those who know their own prejudices,
Who have no intention of becoming prisoners of their own limitations.
This is a call to those who remember the dreams of their youth,
Who know what it means to share food and shelter,
The care of children and those who are troubled,
To reach beyond barriers of the past
Bringing people to communion.
This is a call to the never ending spirit
Of common people, their essential decency and integrity
Their unending capacity to suffer and endure,
To face death and destruction and to rise again
And build from the ruins of life.
This is the greatest call of all
The call to a faith in people.

**Blessing
Revd 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)

Abide With Me

**Sung by Cheltenham Choral Society,
accompanied by Cheltenham Silver Band**

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.