Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 8 November 2026

11.00 am



Led by

Rev'd Canon Richard Coombs Rector of Cheltenham

Assisted by

Patrick Hards, Cheltenham Branch Royal British Legion Rev'd Deacon John Andrews and community contributors

Music led by

Cheltenham Silver Band and Cheltenham Choral Society

Welcome and Introduction

Rev'd Canon Richard Coombs

Hymn: O God Our Help in Ages Past

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'd Canon 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

Patrick Hards, 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

Patrick Hards, 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’d Canon 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

Rev’d 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 servicemen 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, for all who have lost their livelihood and security and for all who mourn their dead,

(Here follows a short silence)

Rev'd Deacon John Andrews

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

Rev'd Canon 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:

St Edwards CCF

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: The Soldier, by Rupert Brooke

Isla Parkins, Bournside School

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field That is for ever England. There shall be In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware, Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam, A body of England's, breathing English air, Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away, A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given; Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness, In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Poem: Call to the Living by Algernon Black

Read by William Gibb

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

Rev'd Canon 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

The Mayor Councillor Martin Horwood 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.