



WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**THE DEDICATION OF WHITFIELD WAR
MEMORIAL AND THE ACT OF
REMEMBRANCE**



**9th November 2014
10.30am**

THE SERVICE

GATHERING

All gather in silence

The Presiding minister:

As we meet before this War Memorial let us remember before God and commend to his safe keeping those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure and whose names are written here. Many lie in foreign lands but the love we shared with them continues now and always in Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces; grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may now, as in the past, truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

O valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that never more shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

These were his servants, in his steps they trod,
Following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor he rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk his cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose Cross has brought them and whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to thy gracious hand.

***The names of those on the War Memorial are read out
by John Funnell of Bomber Command***

Presiding minister:

“This memorial is dedicated to all those who have died for their country from within the Parish of Whitfield. May their names be known and honoured now and in the future.

“We pledge ourselves anew to our work in support of the wartime generations 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.”

The Chairman of the Kent branch of the Royal British Legion:

“The Legion of the Living salutes The Legion of the Dead.”

All: “We will not break faith with you.”

“Remember, O Lord, all those who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of resurrection to Eternal Life, especially the Officers, Men and Women of our Sea, Land and Air Forces, to whom it was given to lay down their lives for the cause of Freedom and Justice. In that place of light, whence sorrow and mourning are far vanished, give them rest, O Lord, the Lover of men. Grant this for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ’s sake.”

All: “Amen.”

**The Choir of Whitfield Aspen School will now sing:
“We will remember”**

The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121.1-2

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Lamentations 3.21-23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run
and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah
40.31

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8

The presiding minister continues:

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

REMEMBERING

From the Living Well Church Vi will say:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

A pupil from Whitfield Aspen School will reply:

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

All affirm:

We will remember them.

The beginning of the two-minute silence will be signalled by the Bugler

The Last Post

Silence

Reveille

The following prayer is said:

Ever-living God

we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all
peoples and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn:

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is 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.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD

John Ellis from the URC Chapel says:
Hear these words from the New Testament

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to
you. I do not give to you as the world
gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.
John 14:27

The wisdom from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of
mercy and good fruits, without a trace of
partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of
righteousness is sown in peace for those
who make peace.
James 3:17-18

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

**The Choir of Whitfield Aspen School will now sing:
“Lord I pray”**

PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayer is led by the Living Well Church:

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 by and known to God;

May God give peace

God give peace

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace

God give peace

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

God give peace

O God of truth and justice,

we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,

and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;

for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

All join together in the Lord's Prayer:

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

RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT

Representative and other members of the public come forward to lay wreaths, light candles or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.

The Kohima Epitaph is said by Greta McDonald a WAAF Plotter.

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

Hymn:

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question,
the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her,
most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are
peace.

The act of commitment is made:

Let us commit ourselves to responsible
living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in
us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed
in the hearts of all people,
And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

Amen

The National Anthem is sung

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!

Blessing:

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all
people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's
servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be with you all and remain with you always. **Amen**

Following the Service refreshments will be served in the Village Hall, where there is an exhibition about the brave men who are named on the memorial and Dover's Western Heights during the First World War.

“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

Ecclesiasticus 44:14



The following names are inscribed on Whitfield’s new memorial to those from the village who gave their lives in armed conflict in service of their country. Their final resting place, where known, is listed with a short description of the surroundings.

Crossing The Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

