

The Chapel of Hertford College, Oxford



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 2020

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This Service of Remembrance is an opportunity for the Hertford College community to join the nation in remembering and honouring those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. We remember too, the pain and horror of human conflict.

In a season of pandemic, matters of life and death are brought into sharp focus, as is our collective responsibility to build a better world. During these unsettled times, remembrance is more important than ever. Our service gives us space to attend to the request of our Hertford forbears, “That those who come after may not forget”. Through songs, prayers, and the laying of wreaths, we recall the dark parts of the human story, offering our lament to God, and giving thanks for the sacrifice of those who died.

Our Act of Remembrance brings past, present, and future together as we commit ourselves, by God’s help, to build a better world as people of peace and goodwill.

The Chaplain 8 *xi* 20

The Bidding

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.

Hymn:

**Our 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 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 its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**

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

The Chaplain says

Longing for the renewal of creation, and seeking the peace of God's kingdom, we are bold to pray:

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.

Act of Remembrance

The Chaplain stands in the chancel, as the representatives of the college come forward. All stand.

Remember Ypres, Gallipoli, the Somme, Mons and Verdun.
Remember the Western Desert, El Alamein, the Normandy

beaches. Remember Coventry, Dresden, Hiroshima and the Burma Road. Remember Korea, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, East Timor, Afghanistan and the Gulf. Remember the courage, the comradeship, the ingenuity, the spirit of working together for a common cause, the planning together for a better world that would come with peace. Remember the call to arms, the patriotic songs, the partings which were such sweet sorrow. The sound of the drum, the skirl of the pipe, the prayer that God would be on our side. Remember the carnage; the colossal horror of war. Remember the widows of sixty years and more, the old men and women who never knew their fathers. Remember the love that was lost, the wisdom wasted, the minds that are still pained by memories. Remember the families bereft by recent wars and conflict.

Remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them. Remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil. Remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during four years of war. Remember those in reserved occupation and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front - the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.

Remember this day the children who will die while nation fights nation. Remember the One who asked us to remember them.

Father, remember us; and forgive us our sins against you and our fellow humanity.

Wreaths are laid by representatives of the Staff and the three Common Rooms.

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping,
those 171 members of this college who gave their lives in the
two world wars and in whose footsteps we walk.

A staff member says:

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

A student President says:

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

All:

We will remember them.

The Last Post is played

Silence is kept

The Reveille is played

The Principal says the Kohima Epitaph:

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

The Chaplain says

Lord God, Father of all,
we pledge ourselves
to serve you and this community,
to bring relief to all who are in need,
and comfort to the sad, lonely, and distressed;
Keep us ever mindful of the struggles

and achievements of former generations,
and of this place where we make our home,
now, and in the days to come.

Amen.

Sermon: The Reverend (Wing Commender) Ruth Hake, MBE

Choir: Russian Kontakion of the Departed (anon, Arr Parratt)

Act of Hope and Commitment

The Chaplain says

Let us commit ourselves to responsible, loving 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.

The Blessing *is given by the Chaplain*

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.

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