

St George's Royal Air Force Chapel of Remembrance



A Commemoration and Thanksgiving Service on the
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN 1940

Sunday 18th September 2022



'THE STRONGEST LINK'

'St. George's Chapel is a place of Prayer and Remembrance,
we bid you to pray to God whose presence fills it and
gratefully remember the few whose sacrifice inspired it.'

Words on a plaque on the Chapel door 1943

Officiating Chaplain: Reverend Alison Newman Vicar to St Mark's Church,
Chaplain to 2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron Air Training Corps

Organist: Mr David Thorne BA, FRCO

Trumpeter: Miss Victoria Mace

Flags being paraded: The Canadian Standard

The RAF Regiment Association (Bromley)
Royal British Legion (Petts Wood)
2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron Air Training Corps



Roger the lantern is present from Shorncliffe.
He was blessed at
St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance on
31 October 2021.

On the brass plate are the words -

“In the Shadow of Thy Wings will I rejoice”

Services are at 9.30am every Sunday.
All are welcome. You do not need an RAF connection to attend.

Remembrance Service
Sunday 13th November 10.30am

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**King George V1th called for Sunday 8th September 1940
to be a day of prayer and special services were arranged
in the United Kingdom and Australia**
.....

Please stand for the procession of Reverend Alison Newman and the Veterans, piped in by the Dartford and District Pipe Band.

During the presentation of the Standards and Banners, we sing:

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 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.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chaplain: In the presence of Almighty God, we have gathered to commemorate the Battle of Britain, to give thanks once more for the liberty which that Battle preserved for us and the world. We affirm again our determination to put an end to all armed conflicts; we express our penitence for those occasions when they become necessary; and we acknowledge with sorrow the suffering and destruction they cause.

Please kneel or sit.

Gracious God, we have gathered on this Battle of Britain Sunday to give thanks once more for the liberty which that Battle preserved for us and the world. We remember with gratitude the dedication and heroism of members of the Allied Air Forces. We remember their successors; our colleagues now engaged in many parts of the world and pray that you would watch over them. We pray for the Royal Air Force, that its power and skill may always be used to safeguard justice and peace.

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son. Give us the grace to dedicate our freedom to your service; that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

All: 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.

Please sit.

1st Reading: Psalm 121
Councillor Melanie Stevens

I lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

Please stand.

O Ruler of the earth and sky
Be with our airmen when they fly;
And keep them in thy loving care
Amid the perils of the air.
O let our cry come unto Thee
For those in who fly o'er land and sea.

Strong son of Man, save those who fly
Swift winged across th'uncharted sky;
Each anxious hour and lonely flight
Serenely challenged, day and night.
O'er land and ocean safely bear
All those in peril in the air.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power,
Give peace in sudden danger's hour
Bring calm of heart, and be Thou near
To those who watch and those who fear.
To Thee will rise the grateful prayer
Of those who serve Thee in the air.

O Trinity of Love and Grace
True Guide of all who fly through space,
In peace and war, 'mid friend and foe,
Be with them wheresoe'er they go.
So shall our praise with Heaven's blend
And joyful hearts to thee ascend.

Please sit.

2nd Reading: John 15 vv 9-17
Cadet Amelia Nevard
2427 Squadron (Biggin Hill) Air Training Corps

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another.

SERMON

Reverend Alison Newman

Please kneel or remain seated.

During the intercessions, sing the response to the Taizé chant.

Chaplain: Let us give thanks for the service rendered in peace and in conflict to the peoples of this and of other countries by the Royal Air Force, the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force: for peace preserved, for peril averted.

All: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders, praying especially for the King and Government of this land. We pray that they may uphold the value of freedom and that they may preserve peace and the dignity of human rights.

All: O Lord hear my prayer,

Let us pray for the peoples and communities of the world. We pray for those whose lives are torn apart through warfare, violence and terrorism and we pray for the work of all peacekeepers and reconcilers.

All: O Lord hear my prayer,

Let us pray for all those who serve today in the Royal Air Force and the Forces of the Crown, especially for those currently on active military duty. We pray for their safety and well-being as we give thanks for their devotion and courage.

All: O Lord hear my prayer...

Please sit.

Luna Habitabilis
read by Margaret Wilmot

The time will come, when thou shalt lift thine eyes
To watch a long-drawn battle in the skies,
While aged peasants, too amazed for words,
Stare at the flying fleets of wond'rous birds,
England, so long the mistress of the sea,
Where wind and waves confess her sovereignty,
Her ancient triumphs yet on high shall bear,
And reign the sovereign of the conquered air.

Thomas Gray 1737

'Elegy' by George Thalben-Ball

Please stand.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

**Air Cdre John Bell OBE recites
Sir Winston Churchill's words.**

The gratitude of every home in our island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, turned the tide of the world war, by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

After a brief pause, the Trumpeter will sound

LAST POST

silence

REVEILLE

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.

Please kneel or sit.

Chaplain: We pray for our King, for the Queen Consort and for all the Royal Family at this time of bereavement. We offer to them our deepest sympathy and condolence.

Let us also pray for our United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, grateful to God for Queen Elizabeth II's remarkable life and selfless commitment to the promises she made at her Coronation. Her Majesty has been a part of all our lives and we shall miss her deeply.

We beseech you Almighty God, that your servant Elizabeth, who by your mercy received the government of this realm, and who dedicated her life entirely to the service of her people, may now rest from her labours in the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding. Through the same Christ our Lord. **All:** Amen

We remember those who attended services here and have died recently, Sheila Cureton, Pat Dunkley, Marinette Mantle, Victor Farmer and Tony Ferrison. May they rest in peace.

As we give thanks to God for the freedom and peace in which we live we dedicate ourselves to building a world in which there is justice and peace for all, and where men, women, and children love their neighbours as themselves and we all play our part in establishing justice in our community. In the name of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pledge ourselves to work for peace: peace in our homes, peace in our communities, and peace in the world. **All:** Amen.

On this Battle of Britain Sunday let us praise God for those who planned, prepared and fought to the end, that our country should not be helpless before the challenge of an invader. Let us also offer ourselves anew to the service of God and of our neighbour.

All: Teach us good Lord to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.

Please stand.

BLESSING

Chaplain: We will remember, in gratitude, in grief, in hope, in love and may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit remain with you and all those you love, living and departed, now and forever more. Amen

Standards are returned for the

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND ROYAL SALUTE

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.



**Flags bearers depart followed by Reverend Newman and
the Veterans, to the Dartford & District Pipe Band.**

**The Congregation departs to
The RAF March Past**

H W Davies and G Dyson

**A collection will be taken at the exit doors for the
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and
the upkeep of the Chapel**

Please join the Friends of St George's Chapel.

[Blue forms](#) are at the back of the Chapel.

By becoming a friend you will be helping to keep this Chapel as a place of worship with Sunday and special services.

The Friends of St George's Chapel - www.rafchapelbigginhill.com

The Chapel and Museum are open

Tues to Sun 10am to 5pm.

01959 422414

The Museum - www.bhmm.org.uk

Remembrance Service

Sunday 13th November 10.30am

Please let us know if you wish to attend.

Seats will not be specifically saved.

Number attending is needed for fire regulations.

Email stgeorgesrafchapel@gmail.com

or leave a message on [01959 575197](tel:01959575197)

This Service booklet was printed by **THINKPAD** of Biggin Hill.

The Friends of St George's Chapel Committee

is very grateful for their help.

