

ST GEORGE'S

ROYAL AIR FORCE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE

BIGGIN HILL



St George's Day

The Friends of St George's Chapel Service
Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 10.30am

Minister: Reverend Diana Coutts-Pauling BA (Hons)
Pianist: Mrs Sarah Coop BEd (Hons)

THE LANTERNS

The Shorncliffe Trust produce the Lanterns and they honour the fallen and symbolically shine a light on those who sacrificed their lives during WWI and WWII.

The lantern is the classic Eccles Miners' Lantern and due to design features, is safe within buildings and to transport across land, sea and air. Further information about Shorncliffe and the lanterns can be found at: www.shorncliffe-trust.org.uk

RAF Lantern ROGER was named and blessed here on 31st October 2021. ROGER shines his light at Shorncliffe in remembrance of RAF airmen who lost their lives in wartime, together with Navy Lantern JACK and Army Lantern TOMMY.

The West Indian Military Association Lantern is named MARY, and members of the Association are here today.

ROGER is brought here for our special services, and will escort our new Lantern into the Chapel, together with JACK and MARY. ROGER's light will be shared with GEORGE and the congregation will be invited to light their own votive candles to join with their light.

The inscription on GEORGE's brass plaque is:

Friends of St George's
RAF Chapel of Remembrance, Biggin Hill.
With gratitude to all who served at
RAF Biggin Hill.
80th Anniversary of the founding
of the original Chapel
23-04-2023

GEORGE was gifted to the Chapel by the Friends of St George's Chapel. He will be on display in a glass cabinet above the Remembrance Garden Books. At times, GEORGE may visit other venues, where Lanterns are spreading their light.

We thank the Shorncliffe Trust and members for bringing the Lanterns here today.

The collection today is for the Friends of St George's Chapel
towards the upkeep of the Chapel.

***Please stand for procession of Reverend Diana Coutts-Pauling
followed by the Standard of the RAF Regiment,
the Banner of 2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron Air Training Corps
and the Lantern Bearers.***

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed
thy name, O Jesu, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might,
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear their one true light.

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
the King of glory passes on his way.

Chaplain: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Chaplain: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Chaplain: O Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Chaplain: We have gathered here today on St George's Day, to remember the Patron Saint of this Chapel, and to witness the lighting, blessing and naming of this Royal Air Force Lantern GEORGE, and to keep it as a symbol of Light in the Darkest Hours.

Reverend Diana lights a large votive candle from ROGER and gives light to our new lantern, names and blesses it GEORGE. George is then returned the table.

The Congregation is invited to light a votive candle from the taper and share their light uniting with the flames of the lanterns.

Chaplain: We are also here today to give thanks to Almighty God for this Royal Air Force Chapel of Remembrance dedicated to St George and to remember with gratitude its founders and benefactors.

We remember those who have worshipped here over the years and thank God for its living witness to the Risen Christ. Let us remember the presence of God and make our humble confession before him.

Please sit or kneel

All: Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done wrong in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Chaplain: May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Please sit

2 Timothy 2: vv 3-13

read by Mr Paul Grant, Chairman of the Friends of St George's Chapel

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Please stand for the 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 questions, 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.

Remain standing for the Gospel reading

John 15: vv 18-21

read by Mr Chris Shaw, Chairman of the Shorncliffe Trust

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

THE SERMON - Reverend Coutts-Pauling

Please stand for the hymn during which the collection will be taken

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Please sit

The Collection is presented at the Sanctuary

THEY ARE ALL GONE INTO THE WORLD OF LIGHT

by Henry Vaughan a Welsh poet

read by Mrs Margaret Wilmot Chapel Verger and Secretary of FSGC

They are all gone into the world of light!
And I alone sit ling'ring here;
Their very memory is fair and bright,
And my sad thoughts doth clear.

It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast,
Like stars upon some gloomy grove,
Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest,
After the sun's remove.

I see them walking in an air of glory,
Whose light doth trample on my days;
My days, which are best but dull and hoary,
Mere glimmering and decays.

O Father of eternal life, and all
Created glories under thee!
Resume thy spirit from this world of thrall
Into light and liberty.

Please stand to declare our Faith

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Chaplain: Let us pray.

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.

Chaplain: Collect for St Georges Day.

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Almighty God, we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship here, and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you and being filled with the Holy Spirit may become living temples acceptable to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We pray for all war-torn zones of the world particularly Ukraine, and ask that your peace and justice may prevail and that a way is found to alleviate the suffering. We pray for those who are trapped, unable to escape and in fear of their lives.

All: Amen

Chaplain:

We remember those among us who are sick and unable to be with us today and think of those known to us, among them

We also remember those who have died in the Faith, whose anniversaries are at this time

May we share with them in your eternal glory.

We ask God to bless the Friends of St George's Chapel and say together.

O Lord, whose disciples were bound to you in a strong fellowship of love and service; bless all who are banded together as Friends of St George's Chapel. We thank you for their continued support of this Chapel. Deepen within them a sense of purpose in life. Inspire them with a spirit of service and unite them in loyalty to one another and to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chaplain: We say together the prayer of St Richard of Chichester.

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 ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chaplain: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Flag Bearers approach the altar to collect the flags for the National Anthem and salute.

Then, please stand for the National Anthem.

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.

Chaplain: May the Patron Saint of England inspire you and bless you and your families on this our nations Festival Day.

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 all people; 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 upon us and remain with us and those we love, both here and departed, for ever.

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Flag Bearers depart followed by Reverend Diana Coutts-Pauling.

The Front Cover Picture

St George's window, in St George's Room which was part of the Chapel, commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. It depicts St George overcoming the mythical dragon of evil. In the sky above are two British aircraft, a Spitfire and Hurricane and an enemy aircraft going down in a trail of smoke.

The Friends of St George's Chapel

St. George's RAF Chapel is both a memorial to the aircrew who gave their lives flying from the Biggin Hill Sector in WWII and a place of worship. The Friends group was set up in 1991 as the Royal Air Force was about to close RAF Biggin Hill. As the Chapel did not have a parish in the normal sense, it was thought that some people who, although unable to worship regularly here, consider the Chapel special and would like to retain a close association with it, thus helping to ensure that it continued to be a living Chapel with services.

Church of England services are held each Sunday at 9.30am. Special Sunday services for Battle of Britain, Remembrance and The Friends of St George's Chapel and several others also take place. See our website.

Since the RAF relinquished responsibility for the site, and the Museum was built, the FSGC group has been responsible for the maintenance of the roses and grass in the consecrated Remembrance Garden, for the internal fabric of the Chapel, such as candles, communion wafers, wine, flowers, cleaning of Chapel and washroom, payments for organists and ministers as appropriate, and the Spitfire and Hurricane Gate Guardians.

**Could you help in the Garden or in the Chapel?
Help is very much needed –
please email stgeorgesrafchapel@gmail.com
Details of contact and services are available to take,
on the Chapel noticeboard at the entrance.**

Please do come to the Sunday Services at 9.30am
(if only now and then)

and help to keep the Chapel open as a place of worship.

We meet in the Museum café afterwards.
Come along and join us.

The Chapel, Museum and café are open

Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm.

FSGC website - www.rafchapelbigginhill.com

Facebook page - Friends of St George's RAF Chapel Biggin Hill

Museum - www.bhmm.org.uk 01959 422414

