



**ST GEORGE'S
ROYAL AIR FORCE CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE
BIGGIN HILL**

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
Sunday 8th November 2020 at 10.30am**

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"



**Officiating Chaplain: The Venerable Dr Paul Wright,
Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley**

**Organist: Mr David Thorne BA, FRCO
Soloist: Miss Claire Jones
Trumpeter: Mr Nigel Garrard**

From the Archdeacon's office:

The Venerable Dr Paul Wright

Paul Wright has been ordained for 40 years and has been Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley since 2003. He studied Theology at Kings College in London, going on to Oxford for a post-graduate year. He was ordained at St George's, Beckenham.

At heart Paul is a parish priest, even though in his current role he has had to take on responsibility for being part of the Bishop's Leadership Team in the Diocese of Rochester.

As Archdeacon he has responsibility for 60 parishes. This includes the oversight of the clergy licensed to those parishes, but he also takes some direct responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and deals with applications to re-order both the buildings and the interior under the Church's Faculty Jurisdiction process. He works with five Area Deans to ensure the local church is supported in the best possible way.

He has worked with a number of charitable trusts over the years, including the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum Trust, and is always keen to ensure his ministry is engaged in such a way as to 'make a difference'.

Poppies

A cascade of handmade poppies flows from the wooden cross outside the Chapel. These poppies were donated from all over the UK and from abroad. This was arranged by Katie Edwards, Museum Director and Margaret Wilmot, Chapel Verger. Over 8000 poppies have been received, but virus restrictions prevented a planned display flowing from the top of the clock tower.

Poppy and flower decorations in the Chapel are arranged by Mrs Barbara Hodges.

**A collection will not be taken during the service.
As you leave the Chapel, there will be a box or plate outside.
Please give generously for the Royal British Legion**

***In keeping with Government guidelines,
please do not sing at this service.***

***Please stand for the procession and while the ATC Banner is
presented by Cadet Sergeant Joseph Sampson.***

Chaplain: We are gathered together to worship Almighty God and to remember with gratitude and affection those who sacrificed their lives while serving in the Armed Forces in the two World Wars, and in all subsequent conflicts. We look back in sorrow for all those who suffered injury and loss; we recall those who are suffering in conflicts in our world today, and we look forward to that day when the kingdoms of this world will be ordered by God's peaceable reign.

In our prayers today, we re-affirm our commitment and dedication to the gospel of justice, peace and reconciliation, and we look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who by his death has destroyed death and having won the victory, now reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Please sit

Chaplain: Let us pray. Almighty God, whose power the heavens, the earth and the sea proclaim, whose love toward us is wondrously revealed in Jesus Christ, and whose Spirit produces everything that is good; we acknowledge your infinite majesty, and with heart and voice we glorify your name.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Chaplain: Let us confess to Almighty God the sins and shortcomings of the world; pride, selfishness, and greed; evil divisions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to further that peace which God wills for his children.

Short silence

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive us what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may act with justice, love with mercy, and walk with humility before you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chaplain: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**1st Reading 23rd Psalm
read by
Cadet Sergeant Alex Winton
of 2427 (Biggin Hill) Squadron, Air Training Corps**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Miss Claire Jones

'The Lord is my Shepherd' by Howard Goodall.

2nd Reading Romans 8:31-39

read by

Councillor Julian Benington

God's Love in Christ Jesus

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

The Venerable Paul Wright

Please stand for the Act of Remembrance.

Gareth Welsh: Army Veteran with service in Northern Ireland and Iraq

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us remember before God and commend to His sure keeping those who have given their lives for freedom and justice in two World Wars, in many times of conflict through the years and in times still recent in locations throughout the world, particularly those whom we have known and whose memory we treasure.

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: We will remember them.

LAST POST

2 minutes silence

REVEILLE

Miss Claire Jones

'Do not stand at my grave and weep' by Robert Prizeman

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glint on snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the gentle, gentle autumn rain

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
When you awake in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight
I am the soft, soft starlight, starlight at night

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Chaplain: Let us commit ourselves anew to the service of God and our neighbour; that we may help, encourage and comfort others and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of nations.

All: Lord God our Father, we commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between 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. Amen.

Please sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Paul Grant: 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;

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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;

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

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;

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

For all who have lost someone dear to them, in a time gone by or in recent months.

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Margaret Wilmot: 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 forever.

Let us pray for God's continued blessing upon this Chapel of St George. Eternal God, we recall the devotion of those who, over the years, have come from many lands to make a pilgrimage to this place. We rejoice that this is a living Church and give thanks for all those who have served you faithfully here.

We pray for your blessing to rest upon the people who continue to gather here week by week in worship and Holy Sacrament. Peace be to this Church and all who worship here. Peace be to those who come and go through its doors. Peace be to those who love this place and the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. May God give peace.

All: O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Miss Claire Jones

'We will remember them' - an anthem by John Madden

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

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. We will remember them.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 stand

The Banner bearer approaches the altar.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND ROYAL SALUTE

THE BLESSING

God the Father has brought hope to a divided world in raising Christ from the dead. Now may he strengthen you to walk in his ways and to witness to the love that banishes all fear and overcomes all hostility: And 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

Nimrod (from the Enigma Variations) by Edward Elgar

Please remain seated until asked to leave and gather outside for a short ceremony of laying of wreaths near the Gate Guardians.

**As you leave there is a collection box or plate outside,
please support the Royal British Legion.**



**There will be a short service around the flagpole on the
11th at 11 o'clock.
Gather at 10.50 am. Everyone is welcome.**



Services are at 9.30am every Sunday.
All are welcome but please leave your details on
01959 579157 and Margaret Wilmot, Chapel Verger will contact you.

Much time has been given, to prepare for this day.
Our grateful thanks go to
Reverend Alison Newman, Chapel Chaplain,
Margaret Wilmot Chapel Verger,
Katie Edwards Museum Director and
Volunteers for their commitment
in the organisation of this service,
and to David Spragg of T&C Printers of Bromley
for the printing of this booklet at no charge.

THOUGHTS ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY BY VETERANS

It is time to stand shoulder to shoulder and remember those who didn't return. - Alec Borrie

It is a time for reflection to honour all the sacrifices of those in conflict then and now. I stand with a heavy heart and gratitude for all those who gave so much - Ann Galley

We stand united together and we will remember them - Harry Winter

I know the angels were always present when I needed them in the Second World War. - Peter Lemon

Remembrance is a day for me to reflect on the difference myself and my comrades made, while serving in Northern Island and Iraq, and also the guys who were lost in conflict from the team. - Gareth Welsh



'For the Fallen' - Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

'In Flanders Fields'
Major John McCrae, a Canadian Doctor, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

'War Baby' - Pamela Holmes

He has not even seen you, he
Who gave you your mortality;
And you, so small, how can you guess
His courage, or his loveliness?

Yet in my quiet mind I pray
He passed you on the darkling way –
His death, your birth, so much the same –
And holding you, breathed once your name.

'We shall keep the faith'
Moina Michael November 1918.

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flowers that bloom above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.



ST GEORGE'S RAF CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE

This Chapel was built in 1951, and replaced a station church which was destroyed by fire in 1946. Its simple style follows that of the original church. Sir Winston Churchill said "My personal association with Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain lives in my mind. As a nation we have short memories and it is well that Memorials such as this should bring to our remembrance the cost of our victory in the days when one of our fighter pilots had to be worth ten. They died without seeing the reward of their efforts; we live to hold their reward inviolate and unfading".

Names of 453 aircrew of the 52 Squadrons of the Biggin Hill Sector, who were killed during the Second World War, are recorded on the reredos. Flags of the Commonwealth and Allied countries, whose aircrew served in the Biggin Hill Sector are in the sanctuary. The altar frontal is embroidered (as it was in 1943) with emblems of the British Isles and Allied countries and bears the quotation from Psalm 63 - "In the Shadow of Thy Wings Will I Rejoice".

The body of the Chapel has 12 stained glass windows by Hugh Easton, designer of the RAF Memorial Window in Westminster Abbey. Each depicts the winged spirit of a young pilot embracing a badge in his arms. The badges are the 7 Squadrons operating from Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain, Fighter Command, No 11 Group, the Station crest and motto "The Strongest Link" and pictures of the famous Spitfire and Hurricane.

St George's Room, now part of the Museum, has the Battle of Britain Memorial window illustrating the symbolic victory of St George, our patron saint, over the forces of evil. At the top are the badges of the Squadrons at Biggin Hill during July 1940 to October 1940. The army badge is a reminder of the invaluable support given by the army. Four smaller stained glass windows depict ground support activities, so vital for the air victory. These scenes are Aircraft Servicing, Parachute Packing, Rescue Services and Ground Control. Out of six Military Medals awarded to WAAFs in the war, three Military Medals were awarded to WAAFs serving at Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain. These are shown on the Ground Control window.

The Air Crew Association Memorial Window is lit in the Chapel above the main door. It shows the ACA badge of a three-bladed propeller surmounting the Royal Air Force roundel with the inscription: "Dedicated to British, Commonwealth and Allied Aircrews".

The Chapel and Museum are open
Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm. 01959 422414

www.rafchapelbigginhill.com
www.bhmm.org.uk