



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

VETERANS AND REFLECTIONS SERVICE

Saturday 26th June 2021



Chaplain: Reverend Alison Newman BD Hons

Organist: Mr David Thorne BA, FRCO

Soloist: Miss Claire Jones

Please do not sing during this service.

**Please stand for procession of
Chaplain, Reverend Alison Newman**

Welcome

Chaplain: O Lord, today we honour our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us. Amen

Please sit

'Oh God our help in ages past' sung by Claire Jones

Participating in this service will be six veterans assisted by Katie Edwards and Pauline Garlick.

Veterans' Memories

Anne Galley: A night of heavy raids at Biggin Hill.

Harry Winters: A prisoner of war.

'D Day Dodgers' recorded by veteran John Clarke who was at Monte Christo, Italy. Those who took part in this operation were call the D Day Dodgers.

Peter Lemon recalls one of his memories of World War II

Alec Borrie reads his favourite poem ; 'In Flanders Fields'

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.

'Be thou my vision' sung by Claire Jones

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Len Sheppard:

We remember the passing of veterans in the last two years.

His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh

Group Captain Ken Parfit, aged 96, flew Lancasters 61, 97, 246 Sqns

Flight Lieutenant Jan Baxter aged 100, Polish pilot with RAF WWII

Squadron Leader Tom Rosser DFC age 100, Spitfire Pilot 682 Sqn

Wing Commander Peter Bailey age 99, D Day and Operation Market Garden

Flight Lieutenant Freddie Nicoll age 100, Hurricane Pilot 6 Sqn North Africa

Flight Lieutenant Arthur 'Dickie' Bird age 100, 605 Sqn
Group Captain Derek Roke age 98, Spitfire Pilot 44 Sqn
Joan Potts age 102, WAAF in Command Ops Room
Eleanor Wadsworth age 103, Last Air Transport Auxiliary pilot of WWII
Gladys Eva age 100, Last WAAF plotter, Fighter Command Operations

Katie Edwards:

We remember those, known to us, who died in the last two years.

Keith Allen - Biggin Hill resident, husband to Pam
Tony Betts – Friend of the St George's Chapel and congregation
Diana Firmin – daughter in law to Olive Hay, congregation and Friend of St George's Chapel

Keith Hyett – flew with 601 Sqn, husband to Sylvia
Jean Johnson – wife of Phil Johnson
Cyril Perrin – aged 100, served in Signals '1939-45 'happiest days of my life'
Betty Stevens – Godmother to Eunice and Barbara Reeve, sister in law to Eunice , Friend of St George's Chapel and congregation

Ken Johnson – Museum Volunteer
Linda Richardson – wife of David, Chapel Friend and Museum Volunteer
Mark Wallington – husband to Wendy, Friend of St George's Chapel
Jackie Watson - Member of Congregation and St George's Singers

Pauline Garlick:

We remember those whose ashes are in the Garden of Remembrance

2019

Warrant Officer Stanley Willis, 99 Squadron
Leading Aircraftman Reg Findlay, 611 Squadron
Corporal Martin Maidens

2020

Jean Crawley joined husband Leading Aircraftman Bill Crawley Burma Star
Josephine, Smith, joined her husband Flight Lieutenant Arthur Smith, 74 Sqn
Alan Woolford, RAF Air Traffic Control

Finally, we remember Captain Sir Tom Moore, aged 100 reminding us all that 'Tomorrow is a good day'.

Please sit or kneel

Chaplain: Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us.

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression. We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror, for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace. We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

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

‘Elegy’ composed by Sir George Thalben-Ball

Ecclesiastes Ch3 vv 1-8 read by Mrs Margaret Wilmot

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Please stand

Act of Commitment

Chaplain: Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: 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 the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always.

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom come.

All: Amen.

Please sit

'He who would valiant be' sung by Claire Jones

Please stand

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those you love now and forever more.

**There will be a collection at the end of the service.
As you leave, there is a plate by each exit door.**

Departure to 1940s songs - Claire Jones and David Thorne

Services are on Sundays at 9.30am and everyone is very welcome.

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

The Café is open 10am to 4pm

**www.bhmm.org.uk
01959 422414**

www.rafchapelbigginhill.com

ST GEORGE'S RAF CHAPEL OF REMEMBRANCE

This Chapel was built in 1951, replacing an earlier 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".

The names of 453 aircrew of the 52 squadrons of the Biggin Hill Sector who made the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War are inscribed on the reredos which is the actual memorial. Flags of the Commonwealth and Allied countries, whose pilots served in the Biggin Hill Sector are each side of the altar. 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 Chapel has 12 stained glass windows by Hugh Easton, designer of the RAF Memorial Window in Westminster Abbey. The theme is a cloud of witnesses and each depicts the winged spirit of a young pilot embracing a badge in his arms. The badges are of the 7 squadrons operating from Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain, - Fighter Command, No 11 Group, the Station crest with its motto "The Strongest Link" and portraits of the Spitfire and Hurricane.

The Aircrew Association Memorial Window shows the ACA badge of a three-bladed propellor surmounting the RAF roundel with the inscription - "Dedicated to British, Commonwealth and Allied Aircrews". -

In St George's Room, (now part of the Museum), is 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 to October 1940 and of the army, a reminder of its invaluable support. Four other stained-glass windows depict ground support activities, so vital for the air victory. The scenes are aircraft servicing, parachute packing, rescue services and ground control. You may spot something strange about the descending parachutist!

In the war only six Military Medals were awarded to the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Three of these Military Medals were awarded to WAAFs serving at Biggin Hill in the Battle of Britain. They are shown on the Ground Control window. Roads in the Married Quarters were named after these WAAFs Henderson, Mortimer and Turner.