



WAR WIDOWS' ASSOCIATION
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying

12.30pm 7th November 2020

The service will be conducted by The Revd. John Vincent CF, the
Association's Honorary Chaplain

Through the Generations – Moving Forward Together

Why we gather here today

Since the formation of the War Widows' Association of Great Britain in 1971, it has been the tradition for the Association to hold this Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. The tradition started in the early years before the War Widows' Association was included in the national Act of Remembrance on the Sunday.

Our Saturday service is an occasion when War Widows, young and not so young, with their families, meet to remember their loved ones who died in the service of their country.

This is a personal and poignant ceremony, which continues to offer our members a time and place to meet, to remember the past, and offer hope for the future.

The War Widows Cross-: The founder members of the War Widows Association decided that they wished to lay a tribute, made of flowers, to their fallen loved ones. They chose white chrysanthemums, as they were plentiful in November. The shape of the cross reflects the wooden cross, which traditionally marked the place where a soldier had fallen on the battlefield.

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(Registered Charity No: 1002656)

Introduction and Welcome

Revd. John Vincent CF

It has been a very strange year and strange for us meeting virtually when we would normally be gathered, of course, in Whitehall at the Cenotaph. But it is good to be here and at least virtually to meet together to remember those who we love but see no longer. I have chosen to introduce this part of the service from the Guards Chapel, where I normally work, and I am stood today in front of our memorial garden where we have soil that has been brought back from Flanders from where some of the fiercest battles of the First World War took place; brought back here to a place of love and security and a place where we can gather our thoughts and remember all those who've lived and died in the service of their country. Some words from Psalm 46.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Reading

Read by Mrs Moira Kane (Chair Elect, War Widows Association)

John 15:9-13: (Jesus said) As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Prayers

Led by our Chaplain:

Eternal God, you are the shepherd of our souls, the giver of life everlasting.

On this day when we commemorate and commend to you those with a special place in our hearts whose lives were given in the service of their country, we are glad to remember that your purposes for us are good, that you gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world, and that you lead us by his Holy Spirit into the paths of righteousness and peace.

Merciful Father your purpose is to fold both earth and heaven in a single peace. With sorrow we confess the sins and shortcomings of the world and our share in what is wrong.

Almighty God, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Saviour gave 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 forever and ever.

Amen.

Remembrance led by Chairman, Mary Moreland, MBE

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

‘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.’

Response: ‘We will remember them.’

Last post

(Those in uniform to salute on the first note and drop salute on the last note.)

**Silence
Reveille
Flowers of the Forest**

**‘When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Your
Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today’**

Read by our Chairman Mary Moreland, MBE

The Chaplain says: In memory of those who died, may we be better men and women; and in gratitude to God, may we live as those who are not their own but who are bought with a price. **Amen.**

The Laying of the Wreath

**This year the War Widows’ Association Cross was placed at the Cenotaph by
Mrs Chris Dzuiba,**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Written by Mrs Kay Todd an early member of the Association

The President, Baroness Fookes will lead the Association saying:

**We will recall
Our yearly tribute, placing
The hopes and dreams that slowly had to fade.
We will go on
The lonely future facing
Knowing too well the sacrifice you made.**

**We will forget
The loneliness and worry
The pain of parting and the tears we shed.
Forget as well
The aching and the longing
Keeping our memories of the times we shared.**

**We will remember
Heads held high with pride
We will keep vigil With our
men who died.**

Final Prayers

Led by our Chaplain

God of goodness and truth, we offer our broken spirits for your healing, our searching for your guiding light.

Grant that our remembrance this day may be consecrated for practical service, and the world made better for our children's children.

Receive our prayers for the well being of all people, especially those who mourn and for all in distress, both known and unknown.

God of righteousness, hear our prayer for the life of our country. Bless the Queen and those in positions of authority. We especially remember our patron His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

God of infinite mercy, we trust in your good purposes of peace for all your children. We pray for those who at this time face danger in the defence of justice. Watch over those in peril and support those who are anxious for loved ones. Remove from the hearts of all people the passions that keep alive the spirit of war, and in your goodness restore peace among us; for the sake of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed rest; to the Church, the Queen and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants' life everlasting.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen.

Long live our noble Queen.

God save the Queen.

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious.

Long to reign over us:

God save the Queen.

Our grateful thanks to:-

- Metropolitan Police
- WO1 Simon Towe, Army Senior Drum Major
- The Bugler provided by The Army School of Ceremonial, ITC Catterick Garrison
- The Standard Bearer, Mr Steve Dockerty, Royal British Legion, Richmond Branch.

