



## **Remembrance Thanksgiving and Dedication**

The War Memorial, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

**Sunday 12 November 2023**

**10.45am**

[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/mayor](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/mayor)



# **Service conducted by**

## **Reverend Dr Jeremy Ive**

Vicar of Tudeley and Capel with Five Oak Green,  
Capel United Church  
The Mayor's Chaplain

Assisted by

## **Chaplain (SCC) David Houston RNR**

TS Brilliant. Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets

## **Lt Colonel Ian Kelso**

Officer Commanding, Skinners School CCF  
Narrator

## **Peter Blackwell JP DL**

**Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch, Royal British Legion**  
Declaiming Officer

## **Lt (SCC) Matt Vanns GCGI RNR**

Parade Commander

## **Lt Cdr (SCC) Jon Vanns MCGI FlOL RNR**

Parade Marshal

## **David Fawcett**

Director of Proceedings

**Duty Band provided by T S Brilliant Tunbridge Wells  
Sea Cadets**

**Buglers provided by TS Brilliant Sea Cadets  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice Choir  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Salvation Army Band**

## **Laments by Piper Rorie Evans**

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When the parade has formed, the  
Mayor, Councillor Hugh Patterson will proceed to the  
War Memorial

# 2023 Theme of Remembrance

In 2023 we are remembering military and civilian service

Service, the act of defending and protecting the nation's democratic freedoms and way of life, is rarely without cost to those who serve. Physical, mental, or emotional injury or trauma; the absence of time with loved ones; or the pressures that come from serving, highlight why the Remembrance of service is so important.

This year we are exploring Service through several anniversaries and events. We mark the contribution of a generation in uniform who undertook National Service, on the 60th anniversary of the last serviceman to be demobbed. This year also sees the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush arriving in Britain. The ship carried more than 100 serving and former armed forces personnel from the Caribbean, and we are supporting plans to mark the major contribution of the Windrush Generation to the UK. We will also mark the 79th anniversary of D-Day, Commonwealth Day and Black History Month.

# Order of Service

## MAYORS

### CHAPLAIN:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6.8*

We meet in the presence of God. We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the 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

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

### After a short silence, the Mayor's Chaplain says the Absolution:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, 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. Amen

### ALL:

**Amen.**

### 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.

## **BIBLE**

**READING:** Chaplain David Houston (SCC)  
1 John 3: 16 and 1 John 4: 7-12

## **SECOND**

**READING:** Imam Yasser Balesaria  
Prayer for the Fallen and the Opening (Qur'an 1:1)

## **MAYORS**

**CHAPLAIN:** Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples, and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# **Remembrance**

## **DECLAIMING**

**OFFICER:** 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** *(NB – Gentlemen are to remove hats during  
the Last Post and replace on Reveille.)*

## **CANNON**

## **TWO MINUTES' SILENCE**

## **CANNON**

## **REVEILLE**

## **DECLAIMING**

**OFFICER:** When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For  
your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

# **Placing of Wreaths**

## **MAYORS**

**CHAPLAIN:** Let the Mayor place a wreath  
Let the Deputy Lieutenant place a wreath  
Let the Royal British Legion President place a wreath  
Let the Member of Parliament place a wreath  
Let the Officer Commanding of 579 Field Sqn place a wreath  
Let the Representative of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment  
place a wreath  
Let the Senior Police Officer place a wreath

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice Choir will sing 'Steal Away', 'Homeward Bound', 'Nearer my God to Thee', while wreaths are placed by representatives of service organisations, political parties and local groups, and members of the public.

Wreaths will now be laid by members of the community starting with the ex-force's groups under the direction of the Parade Marshal. Members of the public who wish to lay a wreath, please come forward now to the right-hand side of the War Memorial, where the Wreath Marshal will guide you to lay your wreath.

We would ask that wreath layers attend alone unless they require assistance. Please do not attempt to approach the War Memorial from the left-hand side. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Following the laying of the wreaths please join in with the following hymn.

**HYMN:**

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid the rage did sleep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
And bid their angry tumult cease,  
And give for wild confusion peace;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
Your children shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

# Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**MAYORS**

**CHAPLAIN:** Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, remembering the servicemen and servicewomen who have died in the defence of their country, as well as all who have suffered as a result of conflict or terror, each one known to God. May God give peace.

**Reply: God give peace**

For all members of the armed forces and all those who put themselves in danger for their country or for the good of humanity, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return. May God give peace.

**Reply: God give peace**

Let us also remember to pray for our country. We pray for His Majesty Charles our King and His Royal Highness William Prince of Wales. We pray too for the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the leaders of all political parties, all Members of Parliament, and those who exercise responsibility at all levels of government. As a nation we pray, May God give us peace.

**Reply: God give peace**

**Amen.**

Let us join together in saying 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.**

# The National Anthem

**ALL:**                   **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.**

(NB – Marks of Respect to be Paid)

## The Blessing

**MAYORS**

**CHAPLAIN:**

O God of the nations,  
as we look to that day when you will gather people  
from north and south, east and west,  
into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom,  
guide with your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel  
for the nations of the world, that all people may spend their days  
in security, freedom, and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord

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

**Amen.**

Whilst the parade is forming up. **Piper Rorie Evans** will play a Lament.

## The March Past

Would members of the public please be mindful of those taking part in the March Past.

Compliments will be paid at the War Memorial and to the Mayor who will take the salute from the War Memorial.



**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.**

The poem was written in 1915 by John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Armed Forces in Northern France. Three years later he was to die in a Military Hospital on the French Channel coast, within sight of Britain and it is said that on his deathbed he murmured "Tell them this, if ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep."

Flanders and Picardy, in Northern France, saw some of the most concentrated and bloodiest fighting of the First World War. There was complete devastation: buildings, roads, trees, and natural life simply disappeared. Where once there were homes and farms there was now a sea of mud – a grave for the dead where men still lived and fought. Only one other living thing survived. The poppy, flowering each year with the coming of the warm weather, brought life, hope, colour and reassurance to those still fighting.

After the war Moina Michael, an American War Secretary with the YMCA, bought red poppies with money given to her by work colleagues, and sold the flowers to raise money to help needy ex-servicemen. Her French colleague, Madam Guerin, proposed the making of artificial poppies, and their sale, to help both ex-servicemen and their dependents. The first Poppy Day, held in Britain on 11 November 1921, was a national success, and Major George Howson, who had founded The Disabled Society to help those disabled in the war who now seemed unemployable, recognised that the making of the artificial poppies might offer opportunities for his Society. His proposals were put to the British Legion (now the Royal British Legion), founded by Earl Haig, formerly Commander in Chief in France, and the outcome was the establishment of what we now know as The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, which employs mainly disabled people, making poppies, wreaths and other items associated with today's Poppy Appeal. So, from John McCrae's emotive poem has arisen a powerful and achieving international charitable organisation, which has helped many thousands of people. (Copyright No. 5156)

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Join the Legion and become part of an international network of people who care about British Armed Forces personnel, ex-Servicemen and women and their families. You don't have to be a member of the Armed Forces community to join — membership is open to all. The Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch 07766 313047 can keep you in touch with local events and anniversaries. Annual membership is £18. Call 0800 3077 773 or go to [www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership)

# Tunbridge Wells Cemetery Civic Event

A Civic Event at the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery has taken place on Remembrance Sunday in Royal Tunbridge Wells, since the Garden of Remembrance was formerly opened in September 1951.

The Mayor, Cllr Hugh Patterson, invites fellow citizens of the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells, to attend the Laying of Wreaths at the four War Memorials in the Cemetery, commencing at 12:30pm.

The first Wreath will be laid by the Mayor at the Cross of Sacrifice in the WW2 Garden of Remembrance, followed by other local organisations laying their Wreaths.

Wreaths will then be laid at the Civilian War Memorial in the Garden of Remembrance. The Garden of Remembrance is located close to the boundary wall with the Nevill Golf Course.

The Mayor will then lead those attending the Event along Remembrance Way to the WW1 Cross of Sacrifice, where Wreaths will be laid.

The Mayor will then walk to the RAF Memorial, situated close to the Cemetery Chapels, to lay a Wreath followed by other organisations.

There are 73 CWGC WW1 War Graves, 63 CWGC WW2 War Graves and 18 Civilian WW2 War Graves in the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery. 24 CWGC WW2 Graves were serving members of the Royal Air Force.

The Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery have published two books, 'Remembered' and 'Remembered Two', which record all the lives of the service woman and men, who were buried in the Cemetery during the two World Wars. The two books will be available to purchase at the Friends Chapel after the laying of the Wreaths.

The Event will conclude at 1:10pm.

**Please take care in the Garden of Remembrance if it is wet.**

**The stone paving surfaces are slippery.**