



VJ Day 75 years on – 15 August 2020

Commemoration and Act of Remembrance Ecchinswell War Memorial 10.50am

Introduction

We gather today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the entire Second World War generation, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front. We give thanks for all who have lived and died in the service of this country and we celebrate again the peace and liberty that we enjoy because of them.

As we continue to face some of the most challenging times since the end of the Second World War, now more than ever it is important to unite in recognition of service to the nation, just as communities did 75 years ago.

Prayer

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve thee as thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

Reading

Matthew 5:1-12 from the Sermon on the Mount

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Act of Remembrance

Heavenly Father, we give thanks on this special day of remembrance for the sacrifice of those who have died for their country in conflict, those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and for all those who have lived and died in the service of others.

We pray for our armed forces and all those engaged today in upholding the causes of justice and peace in our world.

We celebrate the freedom that we enjoy in this country and pray that we may never take it for granted but strive always to work with other nations to build a prosperous and peaceful world.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Two Minutes Silence

We observe 2 mins silence as we remember those who have died in the cause of freedom. Our 2 minutes silence is brought to a close with the words of the Kohima Epitaph:

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

The laying of wreath

Wreaths are laid in memory of all those who have served their country particularly those who served in the second world war. Names of the fallen are read out:

Francis Bowsher, Richard Gunter, Cecil Hiscock, Alfred Thame, William Thame

'For the fallen' by Laurence Binyon

**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.**

**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.**

Prayers

For the Queen.

We give thanks for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth the Second; for her unstinting devotion to duty and her unswerving commitment to the service of all her peoples. Grant that she may be so strengthened by God's grace and guided by his spirit, that following in the way of Christ with her whole heart, she may come at the last to his eternal kingdom. **Amen**

For the leaders of the nations.

We pray for those upon whom the responsibilities of government are laid, and for

all who, through positions of influence and authority, serve the well-being of this nation, the Commonwealth and the world. Give them the courage and integrity always to do what is right; that upholding honour and justice, and restraining evil and oppression, they may enrich our common life and further the cause of goodness and truth. **Amen**

For our armed forces.

we commend to god the men and women who serve today on the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air force; and all who support them in their mission at sea, on land and in the air. We pray for Her Majesty's forces no matter where they serve. May they meet danger with bravery and, facing whatever lies before them with discipline and loyalty, truly serve the cause of justice, freedom and peace. **Amen**

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women

**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.
Amen.**

Blessing

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and upon all those you love, this day and for evermore. **Amen**