



## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Abingdon on Thames Act of Remembrance  
Sunday 12 November 2023



**Officiant The Revd Dr Charles Millier  
assisted by Deacon Selina Nisbet**

**Music: Abbey Brass Band  
Drummer: John Shaw**



**A SERVICE  
of  
REMEMBRANCE  
and  
RECONCILIATION**

**10.00 am  
Sunday 12th November 2023**

**Officiating and Preaching: The Revd Dr Charles  
Miller, Team Rector**

**Assisting: Deacon Selina Nisbett, Mayor's Chaplain**

**Wardens**

**Mrs Linda Hobbs & Mr David Pope**

<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Assistant Organist</b>
<b>Dr Peter Foster</b>	<b>Mr Peter Shouler</b>

## ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. During the hymn the ecclesiastical procession enters, followed by the civic procession and standards. The standards are set in their places, and the standard bearers return to the west end of the church.

### Hymn 605

Through the night of doubt and sorrow  
onward goes the pilgrim band,  
singing songs of expectation,  
marching to the promised land.

Clear before us through the darkness  
gleams and burns the guiding light;  
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim,  
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence  
o'er his ransomed people shed,  
chasing far the gloom and terror,  
brightening all the path we tread.

One the object of our journey,  
one the faith which never tires,  
one the earnest looking forward,  
one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain that lips of thousands  
lift as from the heart of one;  
one the conflict, one the peril,  
one the march in God begun.

One the gladness of rejoicing  
on the far eternal shore,  
where the one almighty Father  
reigns in love for evermore.  
Onward, therefore, pilgrim brothers,

onward with the cross our aid;  
bear its shame, and fight its battle,  
till we rest beneath its shade.

Soon shall come the great awakening,  
soon the rending of the tomb;  
then the scattering of all shadows,  
and the end of toil and gloom.

[Bernhardt Ingemann, 1789-1862, tr Sabine Baring-Gould]

## THE INTRODUCTION

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.

## ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us confess 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, remain standing and say:

**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 what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you our God;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest pronounces this absolution:

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. Amen.

The Collect of Remembrance is said:

O 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 for ever. Amen.

*The congregation sits.*

**THE READING** – 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 The Mayor, Cllr Gwyneth Lewis  
OBE

**THE ADDRESS** The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

**INTERCESSIONS** The Revd Deacon Selina Nisbett

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying after each petition: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

Lord, in your mercy

**All** **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy

**All** **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy

**All** **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Lord, in your mercy  
**All** **hear our prayer.**

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

O 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 for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

**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.

Anthem 'So they gave their bodies' Aston

*During the anthem a collection for the Poppy Appeal will be taken.*

*All stand to sing hymn: 358. During this hymn the standard bearers return to the altar rail to receive their standards and remain through the singing of the National Anthem.*

O God of earth and altar,  
bow down and hear our cry,  
our earthly rulers falter,  
our people drift and die;  
the walls of Gold entomb us,  
the swords of scorn divide,  
take not thy thunder from us,  
but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches,  
from lies of tongue and pen,  
from all the easy speeches  
that comfort cruel men,  
from sale and profanation  
of honour and the sword,  
from sleep and from damnation,  
deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether  
the prince and priest and thrall,  
bind all our lives together,  
smite us and save us all;  
in ire and exultation  
afame with faith, and free,  
lift up a living nation,  
a single sword to thee.  
1874-1936

G K Chesterton

The congregation remains standing.

### **THE ACT OF RE-DEDICATION AND BLESSING**

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God  
and our brothers and sisters; 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.

**All** Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves  
to serve you and all mankind,

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.

## **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On him be pleased to pour,  
Long may he reign.  
May he defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice,  
God save the King.

## **THE BLESSING**

God grant to the living, grace;  
to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth  
and all humankind, peace and concord;  
and to us, his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and  
remain with you always.  
All Amen.

The standard bearers return to the west end of the church. Uniformed organisations leave the church with their standards to form the procession on West St Helen Street. The Mayor and Councillors depart.

At the conclusion of the service, all are invited to walk to the War Memorial at the junction of Ock Street & Bath Street for the observance of the two minutes' silence from 11.00 am.



## REMEMBRANCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL



### MINISTER

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

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

### MINISTER

‘The Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.  
The Lord shall give strength to his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.’

Psalm 29.9b, 10

## INTERCESSIONS

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. May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

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

May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

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

May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men, whose lives are disfigured by  
war and terror, calling to mind, in penitence, the anger and hatreds of  
humanity.

May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

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

May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

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.

May God give peace.

All respond: **God give peace.**

## **Prayers Concluding the Intercessions**

Almighty God,  
stretch forth your mighty arm  
to strengthen and protect the armed forces:  
grant that meeting danger with courage  
and all occasions with discipline and loyalty,  
they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;  
to the honour of your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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.  
Amen

**A member of the Royal British Legion will say the**

### **EXHORTATION**

‘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 respond: We will remember them.

**ABBEY BRASS WILL SOUND THE LAST POST**

### **TWO MINUTES SILENCE**

to remember the fallen

## ABBEY BRASS SOUNDS REVEILLE

### LAYING OF THE WREATHS

#### HYMN: O God Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.  
Beneath the shadow of thy throne,  
thy Saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.  
Before the hills in order stood;  
or earth received her frame;  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.  
A thousand ages in thy sight;  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night,  
before the rising sun.  
O God, our help in ages past;  
our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

**A member of the Armed Forces will say the**

**KOHIMA EPITAPH**

‘When you go home tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow we gave our today’.

**THE LORDS 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever,  
Amen.

## MINISTER

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service:  
Will you strive for all that makes for peace? All respond: We will.  
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war? All respond: We will.  
Will you work for a just future for all humanity? All respond: We will.

Merciful God,  
we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:  
May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,  
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer  
Amen.

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King!	Thy choicest gifts in store
Long live our noble King!	on him be pleased to pour,
God save the King!	long may he reign.
Send him victorious,	May he defend our laws,
happy and glorious,	and ever give us cause,
long to reign over us,	to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.	God save the King.

## THE BLESSING

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

The parade will march past the County Hall, with the salute taken  
by the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames.

*For more information and updates visit our website and social media channels.*



[www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)



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