

***Communal Act of Remembrance***  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
**Sunday 12th November 2023, 10.50am**



*From 10.30-11.30am, the section of The Common from the corner of Church Road to Common Gardens will be closed. Please use all this space to congregate safely and try to refrain from gathering along the church yard path, not least because the loudspeakers are facing the road.*

## **The Gathering**

As a community we gather on this Remembrance Sunday, in marking the time, when on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, 105 years ago, the guns fell silent on the Western Front, bringing to an end the First World War. We come to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom that we enjoy and join with people across the nation to pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women. As such, we will observe the collective act of two minutes silence as we stand together and reflect on the price of freedom. The price that is still being paid, with more than 12,000 British servicemen and women who have been killed or injured on active duty since 1945.

“This I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning.” (Lamentations 3.21-23)

### **Poem** – We shall not forget *(read by the Cubs)* *by Andrew T. Murphy and Matt Allen*

We shall not forget the sacrifice of millions;  
We shall not forget the bloodshed and the tears;  
We shall not forget the loss of generations;  
We shall not forget despite the passing of years.

Yet we shall walk on with courage  
To a day when warfare will cease.  
There will be a way all can flourish  
When the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

We shall not forget the walls we build to separate;  
We shall not forget the steps that lead to war;  
We shall not forget the woundedness of all of us;  
We shall not forget what only love can restore.  
So we will work with humility  
For a day when hatred will cease.  
There will be an end to hostility  
When the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

We shall not forget God's mercy through the centuries;  
We shall not forget the signs of hope in bloom;  
We shall not forget Christ's victory through suffering;  
We shall not forget the life that burst from the tomb.  
So we shall sing of salvation,  
And the harmony will increase.  
Healing will embrace every nation,  
As the bells ring out, ring out for peace.

## **The Act of Remembrance**

We meet in the presence of God.  
Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

**All And also with you.**

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...  
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.

**All We will remember them.**

### *The Last Post – Two minutes silence – The Reveille*

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.

**All Amen.**

### **Hymn** – O God, our help in ages past

**All O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
will bear us all away;  
we fade and vanish, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guide while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

**Poem – In Flanders Fields**

by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD  
(1872-1918), Canadian Army

*(read by a Representative of the Parish Council)*

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.

## Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection on our divisive behaviour.*

The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class from class,

**All God Forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations  
to possess what is not their own,

**All God Forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands  
and lays waste the earth,

**All God Forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**All God Forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, the refugee,

**All God Forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**All God Forgive.**

Let us be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**All Amen.**

**Bible Reading – John 15.9-17**

*(read by the Potten End C of E Primary School Spiritual Leaders)*

A reading from the Gospel of John.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn – Abide with me**

**All Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see.  
O Lord who changes not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe with you at hand to bless,  
though ills have weight, and tears their bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?  
I triumph still, if you abide with me.**

**Hold now your Word before my closing eyes.  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

### **Praying Together** *(led by the Brownies)*

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, especially the peoples of Israel and Palestine and ask that God may give us peace:

for those who have died in the violence of war,  
each one remembered by and known to God;  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

For those who love them,  
and grieve for them;  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

For all members of the armed forces  
who are in danger this day,  
and all who pray for their safe return;  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**



For children and adults  
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,  
political, military and religious;  
giving them true wisdom;  
Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

God of truth and peace,  
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never know.  
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.

## The Roll of Honour

Let us remember before God  
and commend to his sure keeping,  
those who have died for their country in war.  
Those who we knew and whose memory we treasure,  
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity...

*The names of those who died from this community are read out  
by Councillor Graeme Elliot and Deputy Lieutenant Darryl Keen*

### *Laying of Wreaths:*

*Deputy Lieutenant, Darryl Keen QFSM DL  
(on behalf of His Majesty King Charles III)*

*Councillor Graeme Elliot (on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council)*

*Brian Davies (on behalf of the Royal British Legion)*

*The Parish Council*

*Potten End Brownies*

*Potten End Scout Group*

*Crong Explorer Scouts*

*Potten End C of E Primary School*

### *Darryl Keen, Deputy Lieutenant:*

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

*(the Kohima Epitaph)*

## **Act of Commitment**

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living  
and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**All We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**All We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**All We will.**

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that the earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All 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!**

**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 Dismissal

God grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,  
unity, peace and concord,  
and to us and all God's servants,  
life everlasting;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

**All Amen.**

We go in the peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*The priest and uniformed groups depart.*

***We have a retiring collection  
for The Royal British Legion  
– the collection buckets held  
by members of the Scouts,  
can be found near the  
entrances to the churchyard.***



**Please join us for refreshments in the Church Room.**

Many thanks to all those who made this service possible. In no particular order (and sorry to those who we might have missed): Darryl Keen QFSM DL, Councillor Graeme Elliot, Crong Explorer Scouts, Holy Trinity Church, Mike Lovatt, Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council (especially in getting permission for the road to be closed), Potten End Brownies, Potten End Scout Group, and Potten End C of E Primary School.