

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Parish of Central Windsor

Service of Commemoration on VE Day



A warm welcome to
St John the Baptist Parish Church
for our service today.

Service conducted by
The Revd Canon Sally Lodge, Rector

Organist: Robert Jones

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE: Solemn Prelude “For the Fallen”
by Edward Elgar

Please stand as the Civic Party and ministers enter in silence

THE GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Heaviness may endure for a night:
All But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:
All A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe.

We come together conscious of our need for God’s forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace on this continent. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other’s company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God’s will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version of the Lord’s Prayer

<i>All</i> 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.	<i>All</i> Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.
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HYMN

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, Alleluia
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, Alleluia
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, Alleluia
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
from Psalm 103*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Please sit

Cllr Simon Bond, Mayor of Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Zechariah 8. 3-8 *Living safely and at peace*

³Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. ⁵And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ⁶Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the Lord of hosts? ⁷Thus says the Lord of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; ⁸and I will bring them to live

in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Please stand

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Please sit

Michael Harding, Churchwarden

2 Corinthians 5.16–21 *The call to be reconciled*

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting

the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

Please stand

All Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
All that glory may dwell in our land.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
All Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.

cf Psalms 84, 89

HYMN

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns,
with them in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)
Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

TALK Cllr Neil Knowles
Armed Forces Champion
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Please sit

PRAYERS

Please sit or kneel

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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.**

AN ACT OF COMMITMENT

Please stand

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

O Lord our God,
as we remember, teach us the ways of peace.
As we treasure memories, teach us to hope.
As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past,
help us to make your future in this world,
until your kingdom come.

All **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace;
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE SOVEREIGN

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

HYMN

Please stand

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

THE BLESSING

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth,
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,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

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.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Imperial March by Edward Elgar

The ministers and people depart

**The Rector and Wardens would like to thank
Lodge Brothers Funeral Directors
for generously supporting this service
by printing the orders of service**



If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the “Faith & Life” section on the Church of England website:
churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe

If you don't already, would you like to receive an email with details of next Sunday's service, including the order of service? You can send a request by scanning the QR code or visiting our website and selecting the icon to the bottom right of the home screen.



windsorchurches.org.uk



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