



FELIXSTOWE
REMEMBERS



Civic Service of Remembrance

Sunday
12 November 2023

9.45am
St John's Church,
Orwell Road

also

10.45am
The War Memorial,
Felixstowe Sea Front

and

12pm
Felixstowe Cemetery
at the war graves
of combatants
from both sides during
the Two World Wars



Gathering of Civic Officials

Welcome

The Reverend Canon Andrew Dotchin

Hymn

During the singing of this hymn the standards are brought forward

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

After Psalm 46, Richard Bewes (born 1934)

The Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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

For service men and women who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
For civilian women, children and men whose lives
are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence
the anger and hatreds of humanity;

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, asking
for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace;

All our prayers we bring together in the words which Jesus taught:

**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.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter
all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, in the same way
they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (*Matthew 5v1-11*)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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 question, 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.

We Will Remember Them

Readings are from the Royal British Legion CD "We Will Remember Them".

Reality in Afghanistan - Read by Richard Baker

My pain feels cold and selfish
My anguish very small
My reality insignificant
Compared to ones that fall
Young men with broken bodies
Their Comrades lie in sacks
Devastated parents
Their sons will not come back.

My pain will ease and lessen
My anguish slip away
Reality in Afghanistan
Two brave men died today
Young men with shell-shocked faces
Growing old before their time
Are living breathing testament
To this shallow pain of mine.

I wrote this poem when I was in Camp Bastion in Afghanistan, working for the NAAFI. I was wallowing in self-pity as my partner had just sent me a 'Dear John' e-mail. All those helicopters coming in with the dead and wounded moved me greatly and put my own small problems into perspective. I am proud to have served our brave service men and women in Afghanistan in my own small way.

Phil Williams

At Daybreak - *Read by Joanna Lumley*

I listen for him through the rain,
And in the dusk of starless hours
I know that he will come again;
Loth was he ever to forsake me:
He comes with glimmering of flowers
And stir of music to awake me.
Spirit of purity, he stands
As once he lived in charm and grace:
I may not hold him with my hands,
Nor bid him stay to heal my sorrow;
Only his fair, unshadowed face
Abides with me until tomorrow

Siegfried Sassoon

Wherever you Are - *Sung by The Military Wives Choir*

Wherever you are my love will keep you safe,
My heart will build a bridge of light across both time and space.
Wherever you are, our hearts still beat as one.
I hold you in my dreams each night until your task is done.
Light up the darkness, my wondrous star
Our hopes and dreams, my heart and yours, forever shining far.
Light up the darkness, my prince of peace.
May the stars shine all around you may your courage never cease.

Wherever I am, I will love you day by day.
I will keep you safe, cling on to faith, along the dark dark way.
Wherever I am, I will hold on through the night.
I will pray each day a safe return, will look now to the light.
Light up the darkness, my wondrous star
Our hopes and dreams, my heart and yours, forever shining far.
Light up the darkness, my prince of peace.
May the stars shine all around you may your courage never cease.
May your courage never cease...

Paul Mealor – compiled from love letters to military spouses and partners

Aftermath - Read by Lt General Sir John Kiszley

Have you forgotten yet?

For the world's events have rumbled on since those gagged days,
like traffic checked while at the crossing of city-ways: and the haunted
gap in your mind has filled with thoughts that flow like clouds in the lit
heaven of life; and you're a man reprieved to go. Taking your peaceful
share of time, with joy to spare. But the past is just the same - and
war's a bloody game...

Have you forgotten yet?

Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you'll never forget. Do
you remember the dark months you held the sector at Mametz.
The nights you watched and wired and dug and piled sandbags on
parapets? Do you remember the rats; and the stench of corpses rotting
in front of the front-line trench.... and dawn coming, dirty-white,
and chill with a hopeless rain?

Do you ever stop and ask, 'Is it all going to happen again?'
Do you remember that hour of din before the attack - and the anger,
the blind compassion that seized and shook you then as you peered at
the doomed and haggard faces of your men? Do you remember the
stretcher-cases lurching back with dying eyes and lolling heads.
Those ashen-grey masks of the lads who once were keen and
kind and gay?

Have you forgotten yet?

Look up, and swear by the green of the spring that you'll never forget!

Siegfried Sassoon

Bring Him Home - *sung by Alfie Boe*

God on high, hear my prayer
In my need, you have always been there
He is young, he's afraid
Let him rest, heaven blessed.
Bring him home (*repeats*)

He's like the son I might have known
If God had granted me a son.
The summers die, one by one
How soon they fly, on and on
And I am old, and will be gone.

Bring him peace, bring him joy
He is young, he is only a boy
You can take, you can give
Let him be. Let him live
If I die, let me die. Let him live
Bring him home (*repeats*)

Kohima – *read by Vera Lynn*

I've always thought how important Remembrance Day was, but when you have something specific in your mind it seems to mean so much more. I always recall my trip to Burma. Being actually with the boys that were fighting, and you get a different feel, you get a much closer feel because you see how they react and what they are like. So, that is what I think of...

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

*Kohima was the turning point
of the Japanese offensive into India in 1944.
It claimed the lives of more than 4,000 British soldiers
together with 7,000 Japanese forces between April and June 1944.*

Hymn

During the singing of this hymn the standards are returned and an offering is taken in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st 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 Christ, the Universal Lord,
who suffered death by nails and sword,
from all assault of deadly foe
sustain thy soldiers where they go;
and evermore hold in thy hand
all those in peril on the land.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace
Who fills with strength the human race;
Inspire mankind to know the right,
Guide all who dare the eagle's flight;
And underneath thy wings of care
Guard all from peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,
Praise from the air, the land and sea.

In Memory

The Standards gather in front of the Rood Screen.

Cllr Mike Deacon, Deputy Mayor of Felixstowe, reads the following:

Remember Ypres, Gallipoli, the Somme, Mons and Verdun.

Remember the Western Desert, El Alamein, the Normandy beaches.

Remember Coventry, Dresden, Hiroshima and the Burma Road.

Remember Korea, the Falklands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, East Timor, Afghanistan and the Gulf.

Remember Myanmar, The Middle East, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, and the too many places across the world where conflict persists.

Remember the courage, the comradeship, the ingenuity,
the spirit of working together for a common cause,
the planning together for a better world that would come with peace.

Remember the call to arms, the patriotic songs, the partings which were
such sweet sorrow. The sound of the drum, the skirl of the pipe,
the prayer that God would be on our side.

Remember the carnage; the colossal horror of war.
Remember the widows of sixty years and more, the old men and women
who never knew their fathers.

Remember the love that was lost, the wisdom wasted,
the minds that are still pained by memories.

Remember the families bereft by recent wars and conflict.
Remember this day the children who will die while nation fights nation.

Remember the One who asked us to remember them.
God, remember us; and forgive us our sins against you and humanity.

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 people, peace and concord;
and to us and all 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.

Amen.

*Please remain in your places whilst the Standard Bearers leave the Church
Cadets are asked to stay in the church until those not in uniform have left.*

*After this service please proceed to the War Memorial on the Sea Front
for the Act of Remembrance. Please take this Order of Service with you.*

PLEASE NOTE: *If you parked outside the church please move your car as
soon as possible to allow the Parade to form.*

At the Town War Memorial

Bidding Prayer

*led by Revd. Canon Andrew Dotchin
Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe*

Hymn

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

Under 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 guide while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

The Act of Remembrance

Revd. Canon Andrew Dotchin

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

Ode of Remembrance

*Darren Aitchison, Chair of Felixstowe Branch
of the Royal British Legion*

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.
We will remember them.

Last Post

The Silence

Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

*Darren Aitchison, Chair of Felixstowe Branch
of the Royal British Legion*

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

Wreath Laying

*Wreath bearers are called forward by name of organization.
Personal Crosses and tributes are laid after the parade.*

The Prayers

Revd. Canon Andrew Dotchin

For the Departed.

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Armed Forces of the Crown

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces of the Crown serving all around the globe:
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.

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

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Those present are invited to lay personal tributes at the War Memorial

*Please join the Mayor and the Cadets at 12pm at Felixstowe Cemetery
for a short ceremony at the war graves of combatants
from both sides during the Two World Wars.*

*The Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion invites all veterans,
serving military and partners to Felixstowe & Suffolk Bowls Club
in St Edmunds Road from Noon.
Hot food will be provided, and the bar will be open.
It would be great to see you there.*

Hymn

During this hymn wreath bearers move to the Town Hall for the Marchpast

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 thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross 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!

*The singing of the hymns at the War Memorial is accompanied
by a contingent of The Band of the Felixstowe Salvation Army Corps.*

*Words to Hymns and Songs are reproduced with permission
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Wreaths will be laid by and on behalf of;

David Sheepshanks *on behalf of*
The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk
Mayor of Felixstowe *on behalf of*
Felixstowe Town Council
Cllr Mark Jepson *on behalf of*
Ms Therese Coffey MP
Cllr Steve Wiles *on behalf of*
Suffolk County Council
Cllr Amanda Folley *on behalf of*
East Suffolk Council
Cllr Mike Deacon *on behalf of*
East Suffolk Labour Group
War Widows Association
Royal British Legion
Submariners Old Comrades
Association
23 Parachute Engineer Regiment
Coldstream Guards
Royal Anglian Regiment
Old Comrades Association
Royal Green Jacket Association
Royal Engineers Association
Suffolk Regiment Association
RAF Association
RAF Regiment Association
TS Landguard Sea Cadets
356 (Felixstowe) Squadron
Air Cadets
Felixstowe Detachment
Royal Artillery,
Suffolk Army, Cadet Force

Orwell District Scouts
Girlguiding Colneis District
Level 2 Youth Project
Felixstowe School
HM Coastguard
National Coastwatch Institute
Suffolk Constabulary
Suffolk Constabulary Cadets
Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service
Felixstowe Masters Mariners
Felixstowe Merchant Navy
Association
Mission to Seafarers
The Seafarers Charity
Bethesda Baptist Church
Church of England Rural Chaplain
and
The Women's Royal Air Force
Association
Parish of Felixstowe,
St John with St Edmund
St Felix Catholic Church
Temple of Light
Christian Spiritualist Church
The Salvation Army
Felixstowe United Services Lodge
Royal Antediluvian
Order of Buffaloes
Old Felixstowe Community
Association
The Felixstowe Society
Ukraine 2 Felixstowe



VETERANS' GATEWAY

The first point of contact
for veterans seeking support

veteransgateway.org.uk

