

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Celebrating Peace

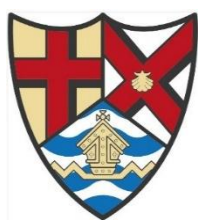
A service of celebration for

VE Day

A commitment to peace and goodwill

11am – 8th May 2025

Felixstowe War Memorial



FELIXSTOWE
TOWN COUNCIL

A Cry for Peace

Citizens, one and all,
Please join this cry for peace,
that you now hear from me.
Remember men and women, old and young,
who died to make us free.

The women left at home did not just sit and wait.
They toiled in harsh conditions before dawn to very
late.

Factories, farms,
other essential jobs,
the women were quick at learning.
They worked, some died,
to keep the home fires burning.

As we remember them this day,
do not forget that every day someone needs your aid,
Do not put away your poppies,
do not let your memories fade.

Let us thank all those who have gone before,
with their colours proudly unfurled.
Join us as united we say,
Peace to the world, this day.

God Save The King

The Collect for Peace

Revd Penny Brinkley

Chaplin to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe

O God,
from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed:
Give unto thy servants that peace
which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts
may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee we being defended
from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Readings

Wg Cdr Kim Balshaw RAF (Retd)

Unmentioned in Despatches

Some of them never come home to fanfares, they dump their kit-bags
down at the door, kiss their wives and let their children wrestle them
down to the kitchen floor, switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey,
search for the local football score.

Some of them skip the quayside welcome, dodge the bunting and
cannonade, make their landfall in silent harbours, nod to the coastguard,
but evade the searchlight of public scrutiny like those engaged in the
smuggling trade.

Some of them land at lonely airfields far removed from the celebration,
hang their flying gear in a locker, cadge a lift to the railway station, make
for home and take for granted the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.

Some of them miss the royal salute, the victory parade along the Mall,
the fly-past, the ships in formation passing the cheering crowds on the
harbour wall. Remembered only by friends and relatives, some of them
never come home at all.

(Poet: Peter Wyton)

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him.

(Luke 22v47-51)

Prayers

Revd Penny Brinkley

Chaplin to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe,
and for the good example they have given us;

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for nations still devastated by war,
for their people and their leaders,
and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars;
for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others;

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown,
and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression;

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary
or lost hope as a result of violence or terror;

for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust;

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace;

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served;

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

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.**

Act of Rededication

*Revd Penny Brinkley
Chaplin to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe*

We fought for peace,
that the world might never again
know such violence and destruction.

Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes
and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

With the help of God, we will.

We fought for justice,
that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again
take root in our societies.

Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice
never have the final word, and where all people can flourish
with dignity and hope?

With the help of God, we will.

We struggled so that the whole human family
might know good will, security, and freedom.

Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts
which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms
and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

With the help of God, we will.

May almighty God,
who has given us the will to undertake these things,
bless us with the strength to perform them.

Amen.

Act of Remembrance

Fred Davies

Chairman of the 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.

Last Post

A Minutes Silence follows

Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

Fred Davies

Chairman of the 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 will move forward to lay their wreaths
Personal Crosses and tributes are laid after the end of service

A Tribute

Revd Penny Brinkley

Chaplin to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe

Let us remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad, whose
sacrifice enables us to enjoy peace and freedom today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded,
and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands and sons,
mothers and daughters.

Let us remember those who served from Commonwealth and Allied
countries who fought, suffered and died during many years of war.

Let us remember those who serve today as war threatens Europe once
more. Asking that justice and courage, duty and righteousness would be
the cardinal points of the compass of their lives

National Anthem

The version that follows is the arrangement by Suffolk composer Benjamin Britten.

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
God save the King
God save the King

The Blessing

*Revd Penny Brinkley
Chaplin to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe*

May God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth,
and all people that do dwell on this earth, 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.
Amen