

The Royal Air Forces' Association



Order of Service Battle of Britain Sunday Civic Service of Commemoration

**The Parish Church of
St John the Baptist, Windsor**

*Officiant: Revd Canon Sally Lodge,
Rector of Windsor*

**Sunday 20 September 2026
11am**

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FALLEN

- 1 The Parade is brought to attention by the Parade Commander.
- 2 The Parade Commander will invite the Deputy Lieutenant to lay the first wreath. The laying of other wreaths will follow including by the Mayor, High Sheriff, RBWM Chief Executive on behalf of the High Steward and the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.
- 3 Parade stands at ease.
- 4 At the command 'Parade Attention – General Salute' (hats off) the bugler plays the Last Post at which standards are dipped. After the silence, the bugler plays the Reveille and standards are raised (hats on).
- 5 The words of remembrance are spoken by the minister:

Let us remember before God those who made the great sacrifice. In friendship and service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all nations who died whilst serving in the Royal Air Force, and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause.

Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.

All present respond: We will remember them.
- 6 The Parade Commander will request permission to dismiss the Parade.
- 7 Standards will 'fall out' and the Parade will dismiss.
- 8 The Service of Commemoration continues inside Windsor Parish Church. Everyone is welcome.

Organ music before the service
Chorale from Boellmann Suite in F for organ
Intrada from John Ireland's Miniature Suite for Organ

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Joining in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting, sustaineth
Hast thou not seen; how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee;
Ponder anew; what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him.
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him;
Let the Amen, sound from his people again,
gladly for aye we adore him!

Joachim Neander (1650-1680), Tune: Lobe den Herren

Please sit

WELCOME AND NOTICES BIDDING AND CONFESSION

Priest

On this Sunday we have come together in the presence of God to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, and to remember with thanksgiving those who took part in the Battle of Britain, many of whom gave their lives that we might live.

But first, let us confess our failure to use to the full the freedom won for us at such cost, saying together:

Please sit or kneel

All

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and
against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Priest

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
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.

Please stand

HYMN

Lord of the Universe and Space
Creator of the human race,
Whose stars took place within Your plan
Before our time on earth began.
Be with us, Father, as we rise
To brave the challenge of the skies

Lord of the Heavens, by Whose might
Mankind has learned the skill of flight,
To span the world from land to land
Released from earth's restraining hand,
Be with us, Father, as we rise
To brave the challenge of the skies

Through sunlit days and darkest night,
We dare to face the risks of flight.
In speeding craft we soar to fly
On hidden highways in the sky.
Be with us, Father, as we rise
To brave the challenge of the skies

We thank You, Father, for the days
Of golden dawns and sunsets' rays
Accept our praise, O Lord we pray
And guide us on Your chosen way.
Be with us, Father, as we rise
To brave the challenge of the skies.

Edith M Clarkson Tune: Melita

Please sit

The First Lesson - Isaiah 55.6-11

Read by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Councillor Sian Martin

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55.6-11

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Congregation to remain seated

PSALM -145:1-8

to be sung by the choir

I will magnify thee, O God, my King : and I will
praise thy Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I give thanks unto thee : and
praise thy Name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and marvellous worthy to be
praised : there is no end of his greatness.

One generation shall praise thy works unto another : and declare thy power.

As for me, I will be talking of thy worship : thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works;

So that men shall speak of the might of thy marvellous acts : and I will also tell of thy greatness.

The memorial of thine abundant kindness shall be shewed : and men shall sing of thy righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful : long-suffering and of great goodness.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen

Second Lesson – Matthew 5.1-12

read by Sgt S Dos Santos, 459 (Windsor) Squadron,
Royal Air Force Air Cadets

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5.1-12

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand

HYMN

Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shewn in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thyself to know.

Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.

Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.

C A Alington Tune: Regent's Square

Please sit

ADDRESS

Revd Richard Terrado-Reardon

Please stand

HYMN

(sung to the Dambusters' March)

A collection will be taken during the singing of this hymn

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.

Text: Richard Bewes. Music: Eric Coates

Please sit or kneel

THE PRAYERS

(including this Thanksgiving)

Living God, Father of light,
Hope of nations, Friend of sinners,
Builder of the city that is to come,
your love is made visible in Jesus Christ,
you bring home the lost, restore the sinner
and give dignity to the despised.
In the face of Jesus Christ your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one a divided and broken humanity.
With people from every race and nation,
with the Church of all the ages,
with apostles, evangelists and martyrs
we join the angels of heaven
in their unending song:

Choir

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus (Richard Shephard, Addington Service)

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.**

Standards will be collected during the hymn
'Thy hand, O God, has guided'.

Standard Bearers will then remain in the Sanctuary with their
Standards until after the National Anthem has been sung.

HYMN

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one Faith, one Lord

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Text: EH Plumptre

Music: B Harwood, Thornbury

DEDICATION OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES' ASSOCIATION

Priest In friendship and service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all nations who died while serving in the Royal Air Force, and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause.

All Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.

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; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you, remain with you now and always.

Amen

Please remain standing

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.

Members of the congregation are asked to remain in their places until the Civic Party and official representatives have left the church.

Organ Voluntary
Pièce d'orgue, J.S.Bach BWV572

Organist
Nathanial Keiller

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in
supporting the organisation of the service including:-

The Royal Air Force Air Cadets, Revd Canon Sally Lodge, Rector of the Parish of Central Windsor, Revd Richard Terrado-Reardon, churchwardens, organist, choir and congregation of Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Marlborough Highways, Royal Borough Ambassadors, Ceremonial Wardens and the Civic Team.

Please feel free to take this Order of Service away with you.
Produced by Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead