

An Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12th November 2023



Royal British Legion



Macclesfield Town Council

**THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
AT THE CENOTAPH, PARK GREEN, MACCLESFIELD**

Will be conducted by

Revd Martin Stephens (Presiding Minister)
St Michael & All Angels' Parish Church

Territorial Envoy Alice Swain
Representative of Macclesfield Salvation Army

Steve Williams
Representative of St Alban's Roman Catholic Church

Revd Chris Whiteley
Chair of Hope in North East Cheshire

Choir

Choir of St Michael & All Angels' Parish Church

Brass Band

Silk Brass

Soloist

Sacha Sloan

Piper

Gary Crosby
Waterloo Pipes and Drums

Parade Marshal

Peter Lake
Royal British Legion

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

1. GATHERING

All gather in silence

The Presiding Minister reads the following:

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

Those who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary
they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

We meet in the presence of God.

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.

2. REMEMBERING

Chimes of Big Ben for 11:00am

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

THE LAST POST

EXHORTATION

Mr Neil Whitaker MBE of the Macclesfield Branch of the Royal British Legion reads the following:

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.

ALL We will remember them.

REVEILLE

LONE PIPER FROM WATERLOO PIPES & DRUMS

3. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY (RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT)

Announced by Mr Neil Whitaker MBE:

Eleanor Underhill DL, representing His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Redmond MBE, will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of The King

The Mayor of Macclesfield, Councillor Christopher Wilcock, will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph

Councillor Ashley Farrall, representing the Mayor of Cheshire East, Councillor Rod Fletcher, will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph

The Member of Parliament for Macclesfield, Mr David Rutley, will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph

Chair Mr Allan Williams will lay a wreath on behalf of the Macclesfield Branch of The Royal British Legion

A wreath and flowers will be laid in memory of the Burma Star Veteran, Jack Houlihan

Mrs Pat Powell will lay a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of the Salvation Army

Additional wreaths will then be laid by the Civic party and representatives of local organisations.

Mr Neil Whitaker MBE of the Macclesfield Branch of the Royal British Legion says the Kohima Epitaph:

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

The Presiding Minister says the following:

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.

4. HYMN

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

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

Beneath 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.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

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

5. LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD

Read by Steve Williams. Representative of St. Albans Roman Catholic Church

Hear these words from the New Testament: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he 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, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

6. PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayers are led by Territorial Envoy Alice Swain, Representative of Macclesfield Salvation Army

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

for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

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;

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

continued -

for all who bear the burden and privilege
of leadership, political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace.

ALL God give peace.

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before You those whose memory
we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment
of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those
who wish us harm.
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.**

7. HYMN

I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY **Led by Sacha Sloan**

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.

8. ACT OF COMMITMENT

Led by Revd Chris Whiteley, Chair of Hope in North East Cheshire

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.

Merciful God, we offer to You the fears in
us that have not yet been cast out by love:

May we accept the hope You have placed
in the hearts of all people,

and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

ALL Amen.

9. 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.

10. BLESSING

The Presiding Minister says the following:

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,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all
and remain with you always.
ALL Amen.

**The procession will reform and march back past the front of the
Town Hall where The Mayor of Macclesfield will take the salute.**

