Service of Remembrance

Sunday 11 November 2018

The Rochdale Cenotaph at 10.50am
Honouring those who have made sacrifices in defence of their country
The Centenary of the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars draws ever closer. Unfortunately this war did not end all wars. Sacrifices made 100 years ago at Gallipoli, Passchendaele and the Somme did not end. The blood soaked fields of Northern France would not be the last place to soak up British blood.

War has evolved, and with it our Armed Forces evolve to overcome our nation’s enemies. Today our Armed Forces make sacrifices, just as they did 100 years ago.

In the North West we recruit 20% of our Armed Forces and 25% of the Infantry - this is something we can be proud of. On the flip side, it means that returning to the North West we have 25% of injuries.

At national level we collect for the Poppy Appeal and at a local level we can be very proud of what we achieve. Our Rochdale branch works closely with other Armed Forces Associations and Rochdale Borough Council to ensure no members of the Armed Forces or their families are disadvantaged as a result of service.

Let us remember that our Armed Forces make sacrifices every day.

Lest We Forget

David Forbes
President
The Royal British Legion (Rochdale)
Remembrance Sunday coincides with Armistice Day this year, marking one hundred years since the end of the First World War, also known as the Great War. Centennial events have been taking place across the country for the past four years to commemorate all those who served and sacrificed for Britain.

We pay homage to those fallen in all wars and thank them for the peace we have today. We also remember those who served in the British Empire and fought alongside Britain, giving their lives in the hope for a better future for us.

We take this time to remember all those affected by wars, the millions who have lost their lives and war veterans and their families. They will not be forgotten.

We remind ourselves that these sacrifices continue to take place today by our British Armed Forces and remember those who have fallen and continue to fall in other conflicts.

Today I will lay a wreath on behalf of all the people in our borough, with feelings of pride and sorrow, bearing the words ‘Not Forgotten.’

Councillor Mohammed Zaman
Mayor of Rochdale
The clock will strike 11am

Wing Commander David Forbes DL, President of the Rochdale Branch of the Royal British Legion

The Exultation
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 shall say:
We will remember them.

The Last Post shall be sounded
Two minute silence shall be observed
Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph
When you go home, Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow We gave our today.

Wing Commander David Forbes, DL, MBE
Rev’d Margaret Smith, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Fusiliers and Parachute Regiment Associations.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear; The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:1-2a,7

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber. He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

Psalm 121:1 – 3

Almighty Father, Whose will is to restore all things in Your beloved Son, the King of all: Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, And bring the families of the nations, Divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, To be subject to His just and gentle rule; Who is alive and reigns with You, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.

Amen
Order of the Laying of Wreaths

- Mayor
- President of the Legion
- Saluting Officer
- Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester
- Members of Parliament
- Party leaders
- Representatives of the three Armed Forces
- Senior Police Officer, Senior Fire Officer and Senior Ambulance Officer
- Royal British Legion and other Ex-Service Organisations
- Magistrates
  - Faith leaders
  - Uniformed groups
- Community organisations and groups
  - Families and friends
First verse sang solo by Reverend Margaret Smith, Town Centre Chaplain

By a monument of marble
Or a simple wooden cross
Here we gather to remember
Sacrifice and tragic loss
Blood-red poppy petals flutter
Each a symbol for a life
Drifting in a crimson curtain
Shadow of our constant strife

Solemn silence now surrounds us
As we stand in memory
Why must factions stir up conflict?
This eternal mystery
Troubles hearts and stirs the conscience
Urges us to think again
Face the curse of confrontation
Yet reduce this searing pain

For the sound of war still thunders
Through our planet on this day
Every hour new victims suffer
Even as we meet to pray
God we need your help and guidance
In our constant search for peace
Move us on to new solutions
As we pray that wars may cease
Father Paul Brindle, St Vincent’s RC Church, Rochdale:

Let us pray

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.

Amen

A reading from the Gospel according to St John:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.’

John 14:27 and 16:33

Rev’d Ruth Jackson:
Superintendent of the Methodist Rochdale & Littleborough Circuit

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.

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.

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.

For civilian men, women and children Whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, Calling to mind in penitence
The anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace.
For peace-makers and peace-keepers, Who seek to keep this world secure and free;

**May God give peace.**

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.**

O God of truth and justice,

We hold before you those whose memory we cherish, And those whose names we shall 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.

Amen

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The Mayor’s Chaplain, Imam Hassanat says a prayer in Arabic (translation below)

Oh god you are peace
From you comes peace
To your returns peace
Raise us our lord with peace and enter us in to the abode of peace.

You are the blessed our lord and you are the most high
O possessor of majesty and nobility.
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;

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.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons 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.

Reverend Mark Coleman
- Vicar of St Chad’s,
St Mary’s and Borough Dean

Let us All say 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

God grant to the living grace,
To the departed rest,
To the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth
And to all people
Unity, peace and concord,
And to us and all God’s servants,
Life everlasting.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Be with you
And remain with you always.

Amen

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen.
Long live our noble Queen.
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour:
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws.
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

March past