Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Abingdon-on-Thames Act of Remembrance

Sunday 8th November 2026



Officiant, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown

Music: Abingdon Town Band
Drummer: Jon Shaw


32yrs
SGT
MARK
OP
TELIC
10
IN
REMEMBRANCE
26yrs
LCPL
SARAH
HOLMES
OP
TELIC
IN
REMEMBRANCE
IN
REMEMBRANCE



St Helen's Church
Abingdon-on-Thames

A SERVICE
of
REMEMBRANCE
and
RECONCILIATION

10.00 am
Sunday 8th November 2026

Officiating and Preaching:
The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown,
Team Rector

Wardens

Miss Margaret Horton and Mr David Pope

Director of Music	Assistant Organist
Dr Peter Foster	Mr Peter Shouler

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. During the hymn the Ecclesiastical Procession enters, followed by the Civic Procession and Standards. The Standards are set in their places, and the Standard Bearers return to the west end of the church.

Hymn 605 - Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

Through the night of doubt and sorrow
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.

Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim,
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence
o'er his ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
brightening all the path we tread:

One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires:

One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun:

One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love for evermore.

Onward, therefore, pilgrim brothers,
onward with the cross our aid;
bear its shame, and fight its battle,
till we rest beneath its shade.

Soon shall come the great awaking,
soon the rending of the tomb;
then the scattering of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

Bernhardt Ingemann (1789-1862), tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Tune: Rustington

THE INTRODUCTION

We meet in the presence of God, to 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.

ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

After a short silence, remain standing and say:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have
sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you our God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest pronounces this absolution:

Almighty God, 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**.

The Collect of Remembrance is said:

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. **Amen**.

The congregation sits.

THE READING **John 15.9-14 read by The Mayor, Cllr Andrew Skinner**

THE ADDRESS **The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, Team Rector**

INTERCESSIONS

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying after each petition: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

An anthem is sung by the choir. During the anthem a collection for the Poppy Appeal will be taken.

All stand to sing hymn: 355. During this hymn the Standard Bearers return to the altar rail to receive their Standards and remain through the singing of the National Anthem.

Hymn 355 – I Vow to Thee, My Country

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.

Cecil Spring-Rice 1859 - 1918

The congregation remains standing.

THE ACT OF RE-DEDICATION AND BLESSING

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and our brothers and sisters; that we may help, encourage,
and comfort others, and support those working for the relief
of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All **Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves**
to serve you and all mankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage;
give us hope; and keep us faithful
now and always. Amen.

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 humankind, peace and concord;
and to us, 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.

All **Amen.**

The Standard Bearers return to the west end of the church. Uniformed organisations leave the church with their Standards to form the procession on West St Helen Street. The Mayor and Councillors depart.
At the conclusion of the service, all are invited to walk to the War Memorial at the junction of Ock Street & Bath Street for the observance of the Two-Minute Silence from 11.00 am.

REMEMBRANCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

MINISTER

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

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

INTERCESSIONS

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 respond: **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 respond: **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 respond: **God give peace.**

For civilian women, children and men, whose lives are disfigured by war and terror, calling to mind, in penitence, the anger and hatreds of humanity.
May God give peace.
All respond: **God give peace.**

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free.
May God give peace.
All respond: **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.
All respond: **God give peace.**

Prayers Concluding the Intercessions

Almighty God,
stretch forth your mighty arm
to strengthen and protect the armed forces:
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

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 member of the Armed Forces will say the

EXHORTATION

'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 respond: We will remember them.

ABINGDON TOWN BAND WILL SOUND THE LAST POST

Two-Minute Silence
to remember the fallen

ABINGDON TOWN BAND SOUNDS REVEILLE

LAYING OF THE WREATHS
Wreaths will then be laid by a selection of community groups.

Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
The Deputy Lieutenant for Oxfordshire
Royal British Legion
SSAFA
RBL Branch Chair
RBL Club Chair
Royal Logistics Corps Dalton Barracks Reserves (7 Rifles)
Representative of MP for Oxford West and Abingdon
Representative of Oxfordshire County Council
Police Cadets
Thames Ridge Scouts
Representative of Vale of White Horse DC
Christ's Hospital
War Widows and Oxfordshire Veterans Group
Thames Valley Police
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Rotary Club
Freemasons
Sea Cadets
Army Cadet Force
2121 Air Cadets
Girlguiding Abingdon
Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society

The Chair of Abingdon Royal British Legion will say the

KOHIMA EPITAPH

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

THE LORDS 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.

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.

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

MINISTER

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service:
Will you strive for all that makes for peace? All respond: **We will.**
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war? All respond: **We will.**
Will you work for a just future for all humanity? All respond: **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
Amen.

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, 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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen

The parade will march past the County Hall, with the salute taken by the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames.



For more information and updates visit our website and social media channels.

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