

Service for Remembrance Sunday 2025

St. Mary's Church, West Rainton

This year is the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It was the most devastating and lethal war in history and, in Europe, ended in May 1945. Later, in August, the world finally saw peace with the surrender of Japan. It is therefore also the 85th anniversary of Dunkirk which saw thousands of troops and military personnel evacuated from France. Millions of troops died, millions of Jews and ethnic minorities were murdered, millions of families were torn apart. Today, we remember them.

The service starts at the War Memorial at 10.55 where we wait for the 11am chimes.

The Act of Remembrance at 11.00 led by Julian Ward, Reader

Last Post & reveille at sound of cannons

Reader: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn them"

All: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Reader: Let us remember before God the men and women of all nations who have died as a result of war - those who we have known and whose memory we treasure; those we never knew, and those who died unknown. We will remember all who have lived in hope, but died in vain - the tortured, the innocent, the starving and the exiled, the imprisoned, the oppressed and the disappeared....

All: 'We will remember them'

The wreaths are laid on the War Memorial, one at a time in response to the invite from the celebrant.

Reader: 'Living God, by whose love we are united with one another across the boundaries of time and space, bring us to a new remembrance of your love and life, reflected in earth and sky, and every person who ever lived. Teach us to be reconciled to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. '

All: Amen.

We solemnly proceed into Church following the Reader.

Service continues in Church

This part led by Mike Whitehouse, Lay Minister

Sit or kneel for prayer:

“Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned;

those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.

Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.

And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord;

grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ’s kingdom.

This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”



**Please stand if you can for hymn 456 (Mission Praise)
‘Make Me A Channel of Your Peace’**



Followed by:

Solemn Reading of Names of Local Soldiers from WWI & WW2 by church members.

Annabel Burns, Secretary, Susan Baker, Maureen Boettcher and Susan Vanden Bon



Sit or kneel for prayer:

Julian Ward: Prayer of Confession

Lord, the nations are in uproar, and the kingdoms are shaken.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, bring comfort to those who mourn and have suffered loss.

Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord, speak your word of peace and calm our fears.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer: The Collect for today

All: The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Commemoration

All: Amen.



**Please stand if you can for hymn I I I (Mission Praise)
'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'**



Mike Whitehouse: FINAL BLESSING

May God the Holy Trinity guard and defend us on every side,
sustain us in times of difficulty, and strengthen us in faith and hope;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with us and all whom we love, now and always.

All: Amen.



A Reading from the Royal British Legion. Read by Vanessa Ward

Please Stand

The Organ plays the National Anthem, all sing:

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!

Mike Whitehouse recites the Kohima Epitaph:

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

The Service Ends



In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.