

Civic Service *for* Remembrance Sunday

The Collegiate Church
of Saint Peter
Wolverhampton

Sunday 8th
November 2026

WELCOME TO THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST PETER WOLVERHAMPTON

We welcome you to this beautiful historic church in the heart of the city; this is the oldest building in Wolverhampton and has been at the core of a Christian community that has worshipped and worked here for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

During the service the congregation are invited to pray the words in **Bold Type**; indications of where the congregation should stand, sit or kneel will be given in and for guidance only. An induction loop system is in operation: hearing aids should be switched to the 'T' position. Please ensure that all mobile telephones and devices are silenced.

Photography and filming are not permitted during the service.

This year marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of St Peter's with the arrival of Revd Canon Jeremy Dussek as Rector of Wolverhampton; Jeremy comes here having served for nearly 30 years including 8 years as Canon Precentor at Chester Cathedral and 7 years as Vicar of Moseley in Birmingham. He is passionate about building teams and bringing people together as the city prides itself on its diversity and the call to be one.

MAYOR OF WOLVERHAMPTON

There will be a collection during today's service to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the Mayor of Wolverhampton's Charities.

This year, the Mayor, Councillor Paul Singh, is raising money for:

Wolverhampton Judo Club

WOLVERHAMPTON BOXING CLUB

FRIENDS OF Di's Kitchen

inspire you

Please give what you can to support these local good causes.

OPENING HYMN

during which the choir and clergy, and the standards are brought in

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-91) tr Peter Williams (1727-96)
CWM RHONDDA John Hughes (1873-1932)

WELCOME

given by ***Canon Jeremy Dussek,***
Rector of Wolverhampton for
Collegiate Church of St Peter and St John in the Square

We gather today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts since. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded and injured, those who hold in silence, unspeakable memories of warfare.

We continue to remember the courage and fortitude of those who give their lives for the freedom of this country as well as those who serve and fight in conflicts across the world today. As we long for the time when war will be no more, let us pray for Christ's example of sacrificial love and mercy to be upheld and given as an example to our broken and vulnerable world where we are called to unite as a community in faith to be one.

OPENING PRAYER

read by ***Deacon Linda Gilson,***
Wolverhampton Methodist Church

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.

All sit

READING

Read by ***Councillor Paul Singh,***
Mayor of Wolverhampton

Remembered still those souls who tried
to save the world, but many died.
A moment stolen for a tear,
as we recall those unlived years.
The camaraderie that flew
those souls back home to those they knew,
and love them dear and held them close
but for our sakes released to foes
the silence that they leave behind
is space to calm the troubled minds
of those they love – and can't rewind.
Again this day we give our thanks
for those returned from serving ranks
and them a gave it all away
forever in our minds will stay.

Ernie Rowe
Head of British Forces Broadcasting Services Radio UK,
written for Remembrance Day 2019

All stand

HYMN

Gathered here Lord, we remember
the great pain and cost of war;
to remember for so many
touches tender nerves still raw;
yet the symbol of the poppy
points to hope most never saw.
Help us, Lord, as we remember,
may we strive to end all war?

Gathered here, Lord, we remember
in thanksgiving what they gave;
men and women, and the children,
victims, soldiers, weak and brave;
yet the symbol of the poppy
points to hope beyond the grave.
Help us, Lord, as we remember,
may we value all they gave?

Gathered here, Lord, we remember
war and suffering's increase.
On the cross, Christ fought the battle
that we all might live in peace.
So the symbol of the poppy
points to hope that war will cease.
Help us, Lord, as we remember,
let us live in Christ's true peace.

John Forster (born 1944)
BLAENWERN, William Rowlands (1860-1937)

All sit

READING

Read by **Stephen Simkins,**
Leader of Wolverhampton Council

The reading is taken from the Gospel according to St John. Chapter 15, beginning to read at the nineth verse.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Here ends the reading.

John 15. 9-17

Homily
Fr Jeremy

ANTHEM
The Choir of the Collegiate Church of St Peter sings

My soul, there is a country far beyond the stars,
where stands a wingèd sentry all skilful in the wars:
there above noise, and danger, sweet Peace sits
crowned with smiles, and One born in a manger
commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious friend, and (O my soul, awake!)
did in pure love descend, to die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither, there grows the flower of
Peace, the Rose that cannot wither, thy fortress, and
thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges, for none can thee
secure, but One who never changes, thy God, thy
Life, thy Cure.

Henry Vaughan (1622–95)
C Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS
Mtr Alison Bruton, Assistant Priest of Collegiate Church of St Peter and Members of the Jewish, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist Faiths here in the City

Recalling the service and sacrifice of those who go to War and those they left behind, let us pray for our own generation: for all involved in warfare and all who seek peace.

Martin Gomberg says

We remember nations still torn by war or civil discord especially those in Ukraine and across the Middle East; for all places where humanity is shattered and for their people and their leaders; that the causes of our human hatreds be made known, and that the desire for peace may overcome them.

Harjinder Kaur says

We remember those who suffer from the effects of war, for veterans, for families grieving the loss of loved ones, and for all whom war has left vulnerable, displaced, or without hope.

For those who serve the cause of peace and liberty among the troubled nations of the world, for the armed forces of the Crown and of our allied nations, and for all who continue to fight against injustice and oppression.

Fateh Patel says

We offer the young people of our present generation, and for all who will influence the future of this country, that they may gain wisdom from all the memories and stories of all conflicts, for generations now passing, the children bereaved of their parents today; for those who endured privation and hardship, those who fought for freedom in Europe, those who for our tomorrow gave their today.

Ven. Bhante Tejwant says

We hold 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 hope for the future.

LORD'S PRAYER

Mtr Alison leads the congregation to pray
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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

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)
THAXTED, Gustov Holst (1874-1934)

Remain standing

ACT OF CONFESSION

Led by ***Deacon Mick McKearney,***
S Peter and Paul RC Church, Wolverhampton

Let us confess our sins and the shortcomings of the world; our pride, our selfishness, our greed, our 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, all respond

God of peace,
forgive us when we have participated
in that which turns people against each other;
for fueling anger and harbouring vengeance;
for not heeding your call to love one another.
Inspire us never to give up on the hope
that your life offers us,
and the courage to see past war and desolation
and live for the day when there will be peace.

Fr Jeremy says

God who loved the world
so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ACT OF COMMITMENT FOR PEACE

Led by ***Devinder Kalhan MBE,***
Chair of Interfaith Wolverhampton

Let us commit ourselves to the service of our creator
and our fellow men and women:
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.

We pledge ourselves
to serve all humanity, 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.

Let us work to securing a safer world through faithful service for all.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?
We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?
We will.

Will you search for a just future for humanity?
We will.

In this act of commitment
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;

Amen.

HYMN

during which a Collection is taken and the Standards then returned

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!

Richard Bewes (1934-2019), Based on Psalm 46,
© Richard Bewes/Jubilate Hymns

DAMBUSTERS' MARCH, Eric Coates (1886-1958),
arranged by John Barnard (born 1948)

BLESSING

Fr Jeremy says

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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!

Anonymous
NATIONAL ANTHEM

After the choir then clergy have processed to the West End, the Mayor and other dignitaries, servicemen and others are escorted to join them at the rear of the Church. Please remain in your places until guided by a steward.

SERVICES AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST PETER

Sunday 29 November 6.30pm
Lessons and Carols for Advent
Advent procession & preparation for Christmas

Our normal pattern of services are

Sunday 11.15am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 6.30pm - Choral Evensong

Wednesday 5.15pm - Choral Evensong

Thursday 12.30pm - Holy Communion

Revd Canon Jeremy Dussek,
Rector of Wolverhampton
(for Collegiate Church of S Peter and S John in the Square)

office@wvcityparish.org
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4649/
01902 422642

Please recycle this order of service if you do not wish to keep it.

MAYOR OF WOLVERHAMPTON

The Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Wolverhampton

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

WCC 884 11/2026