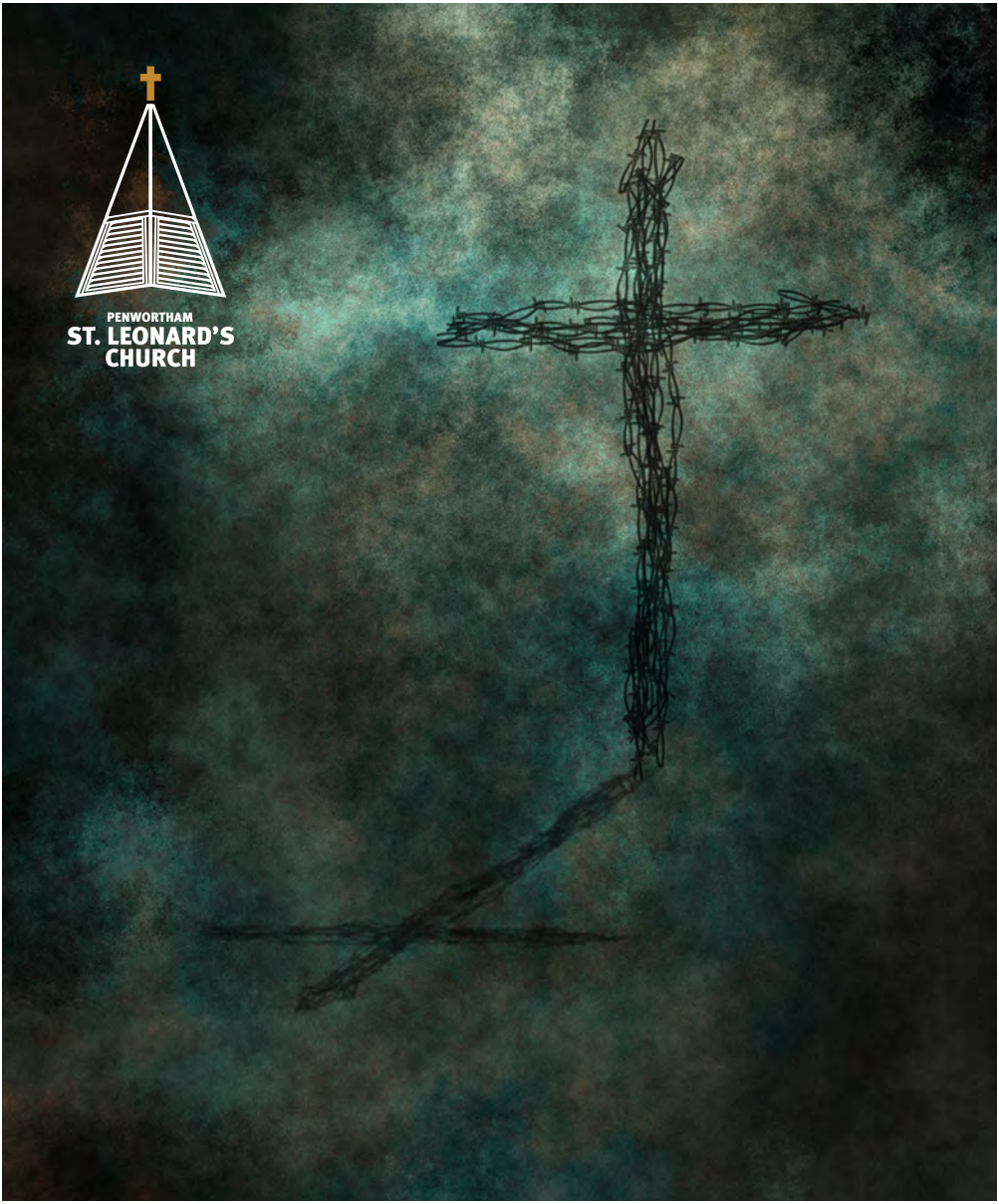


PENWORTHAM
ST. LEONARD'S
CHURCH

CIVIC SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE26

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
8th November 2026 at 9:15am

in association with
Churches Together in Penwortham

PENWORTHAM
TOWN COUNCIL



Belgian children being evacuated to Switzerland in 1945 to escape hunger, poor health and difficult living conditions in the aftermath of the war. ©IWM

the Opening Hymn

As the hymn is sung, the choir, clergy, local dignitaries and uniformed organisations process and the Standards are carried to the communion rail and received by the Vicar and Associate Priest, after which the wreaths are placed on the dais.

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father,
There is no shadow of
turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou has been
Thou for ever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness,
great is thy faithfulness;
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided -
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter,
and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars
in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness,
mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness...

Pardon for sin,
and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness...

William Williams (1717-91)



Youths of 14 years, from Volksturm, among the captured at Zeven in 1945. ©IWM

Welcome and Introduction

Led by Reverend Simon King

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.
Grace, mercy and peace
be with you all.

All: **and also with you.**



The First Reading

FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON 6.12-16

Read by Reverend Janet Taylor

DESCRIPTION OF WISDOM

12 Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those
who love her, and is found by those
who seek her.
13 She hastens to make herself known
to those who desire her.
14 One who rises early to seek her will
have no difficulty, for she will be
found sitting at the gate.
15 To fix one's thought on her is perfect
understanding, and one who is
vigilant on her account will soon be
free from care,
16 because she goes about seeking
those worthy of her, and she
graciously appears to them in their
paths, and meets them in every
thought.

This is the word of the LORD.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Confession

ALMIGHTY GOD, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Left: As is only to be expected after the advantured and privations they have been through, most of the children are in a verminous condition. Many of them had been in No Man's Land, unable to without being fired on by the Germans, or living in ditches, barns or wherever they could find shelter. On arrival at the transit camp nurses thoroughly wash and cleanse their hair. ©IWM

All: **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 are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

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.**

THE SECOND HYMN

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 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.

I. Watts (1674 - 1748)

At the end of the hymn all kneel or sit.

THE 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: **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

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**

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.**

Right: Aleksy Waszczuk and his family arriving at the the displaced persons camp within the grounds of Hamburg Zoo. His little son Leon in on the right. The camp was built by the Blohm & Voss company during WWII to house forced labourers. ©IWM

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.**

The Remembrance

Rev. Simon says:

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.**





A British soldier carries a little girl through the devastation of Caen, 10 July 1944. ©IWM

All stand for

The Exhortation to the Fallen

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.**

The Kohima Epitaph

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

All sit for the

The Second Reading

Matthew 25.1-13
Read by Chloe McDermott of Middleforth Primary School

Jesus said: 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

the Sermon

Rev. Simon King



the Hymn

Be still, my soul:
the Lord is at your side;
Bear patiently the cross
of grief and pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul:
your best, your heavenly friend,
Through thorny ways
leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul:
your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence
let nothing shake,
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul:
the waves and winds still know
His voice, who ruled them while he
dwelt below.

Be still my soul;
when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love,
his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow,
calm your fears.
Be still my soul: for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Left: Liberation of Bergen Belsen. A young boy suffering from typhus recovers in his new cot in No 3 Camp. He has been bathed, reclothed and put into a clean bed. ©IWM

Top Right: Children in the crowd of Berliners watching the entry of the British 7th Armoured Division. ©IWM

Be still, my soul:
the hour is hastening on,
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment,
grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgotten,
love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed shall meet at last.

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow people, that we may be peacemakers in our homes, in our community, in our country and in our world
Lord God, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all mankind in the cause of peace and for the relief of want and suffering. Give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us always faithful.

All: **Amen.**

The Hymn

During the singing of this hymn the standards are returned to their bearers, who remain at the front for the singing of the National Anthem. The wreaths are also collected.

O God of earth and altar,
Bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,
Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
The swords of scorn divide,
Take not thy thunder from us,
But take away our pride.



From all that terror teaches,
From lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches
That comfort cruel men,
From sale and profanation
Of honour and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation,
Deliver us, good Lord.

Tie in a living tether
The prince and priest and thrall,
Bind all our lives together,
Smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation
Aflame with faith, and free,
Lift up a living nation,
A single sword to thee.

The National Anthem

During which the Standards are lowered.

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.

All remain standing for

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage,
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no man evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honour everyone; love and serve the Lord; rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with your always.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

At the end of the hymn, the choir, clergy, local dignitaries and uniformed organisations process out of church.

Thank you for coming to our service this morning. Remembrance continues as we parade to the war memorial on Liverpool Road.



Above: Caen Cathedral shelters the homeless as their parents go to collect food. French children amuse themselves while they await the return of their mothers. ©IWM

Bottom right: The Cure of Blainville (Calvados), Abbe Saint Jean baptising a newly born baby in the thirteenth century chapel of Benouville Maternity Home. The baby is held by a nurse because its mother was still unable to leave her bed. At the time of the ceremony the Home was in the front line and the chapel windows were rattling as a result of the nearby artillery duel between German and Allied forces. ©IWM



Above: Children wearing orange ribbons and waving Dutch flags during celebrations in Eindhoven, the first major town in Holland to be liberated. Eindhoven was later bombed by the German Air Force. ©IWM





A small boy helps a motorcycle despatch rider negotiate a muddy road in Holland, 11 December 1944. ©IWM

PENWORTHAM
ST. LEONARD'S
CHURCH