

An Act of Remembrance

We are here today to remember with thanks and sorrow the people from Bentley and other places, whose lives were taken in two world wars and in other conflicts past and present.

Remembrance transcends all boundaries. It is an opportunity to stand together and reflect on the price of freedom. That price is still being paid today. Considerably more than 12,000 British servicemen and women have been killed on active service since 1945.

**Tell them, O guns that we have heard their call,
That we have sworn and will not turn aside,
That we will onward till we win or fall,
That we will keep the faith for which they died.**

From 'The Anxious Dead' by John MacCrae

Let us pray

Lord, with thankfulness we show our respect for the past, and stand in hope for the future.

We give thanks for those who made sacrifices, and the freedom for which they fought.

We give thanks for those who faithfully recall the horror of war, and remind us of its great price.

Amen.

We give thanks for pride and discipline, but remember times of horror and panic.

We give thanks for heroism, but remember times when orders were blindly obeyed.

We give thanks for purpose, meaning and identity, but remember the devastating losses.

We give thanks for the making of life-long friendships, while remembering the loss of a generation.

We give thanks for service offered and a sense of duty, but remember those who had no choice in the matter.

We give thanks for lives given to save others, but remember lives wasted for a few yards of no-man's land.

We remember the courage of those who faced bullet and shell.

Lord, we give you thanks for your gift of life, that gives hope even in times of death, and renews us to face the coming days. Amen.

Especially today we remember victims of the two world wars from Bentley but also remember those close to us or to our parents and grandparents.

We remember all the damage done by people to people in times of conflict and ask for strength for all those who strive to bring peace to our world.

Amen.

From the Book of the Prophet Micah (Micah 4:3-5)

3 God will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nations,
nor will they train for war anymore.

4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree
and no-one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has
spoken.

5 All nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in
the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

*Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping;
those who have died for their country in war;
those we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all have lived and died and continue to die in the service of
mankind.*

*Let us remember together those who gave their lives in the service
of their country from this Parish*

Those who died in the 1914-1918 War

George Bilner
Percy Braybrook
Herbert Bullard
William Clark
William Coleman
Cyril Keeble
George Lloyd
Albert Morton Monks
Frederick Peacock
Frederick Pickess
Arthur Richardson
Charles Rush
Frederick Rush
Herbert Scott
John Southgate
Samuel Southgate
Robert Thirkettle

Those who died in the 1939-1945 War

Frederick Coppen
William Fraser
Raymond Fraser
Arthur King
John Peacock
Dennis Underwood
William Willis

**They shall not grow 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.**

We will remember them.

Last Post and Two Minutes Silence

Reveille

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.**

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

(Kohima Epitaph)

Let us pray

We pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give peace.

We pray for service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God.

We pray for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

We pray for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day.

We remember their families and friends and all who pray for their safe return.

We pray for civilians; children, women and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terrorism, calling to mind in penitence, the anger and hatreds of humanity.

We pray for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free.

We pray for all who bear the burdens and privileges of leadership, political, military and religious.

We ask for the gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

Amen.

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 peace and courage to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future.

Amen

Let us join in saying the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father, who 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.

*God grant to the living peace, to the departed rest, to the church,
the Queen, the Commonwealth and to all people unity, peace and
concord..*

*And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us
always*

Amen.