

Remembrance Sunday Service

In the Garden of Memory



Service will commence at approx. 10:50am

In Flanders Fields

One fresh Sunday morning in early May 1915, 22-year-old Alexis Helmer, a Lieutenant in the 1st Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, stepped out of his dugout just north of Ypres and was killed instantly



by an incoming German shell. He was buried that evening in a small graveyard where scarlet poppies had self-seeded among the wooden crosses. Alexis' friend Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a military doctor and second in command of the

brigade, conducted a simple service at the graveside. It is thought that, later that night, John wrote the first draft of his poem 'In Flanders Fields' and he was seen the next day, gazing out across the burial ground from his seat on the rear step of an ambulance, working on his text that urges readers not to break faith with the battle dead.

Poppies thrived in the churned-up earth of battlefields and soldiers sometimes picked and pressed them between the leaves of a notebook, posting them home to loved ones as a keepsake from the front line. McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields' made them an even more potent symbol of the conflict. When the newly formed British Legion adopted the poppy as its emblem of Remembrance and held the first British fundraising Poppy Day on 11th November 1921, it was tapping into a strong emotional connection between the poppy and Remembrance.

Welcome from the Chair of the Parish Council

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to welcome everyone to this service of Remembrance. Today's service will be conducted by Ministers from St Leonard's Church and the Baptist Free Church.

First Hymn

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

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, bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer;
Be thou still my strength and shield;
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, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.



Minister to say

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in war.

Those who we knew and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

From this Community we remember.

First World War

Robert Gilson
Leonard Wilson
Percy Broomfield
Horace Timmins
Thomas Holmes
Joseph Austin
Hubert Simpson
Fred Mellish
Herbert Farrow
James Smith
George Smith
Albert Newell
Harold Mitchell

Second World War

William Ashmore
Norman Bowker
John Gallahar
Lesley Gregory
George Hill
David Huddleston
Norris Lewis
Stanley Moore
Donald Onions
Leonard Smith
Ralph Stevens
Elijah Williamson
Ron Waters

All to say

**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.**

The Last Post

Two Minutes Silence to be observed

Reveille



Children from Marston Green Junior School will read the following poem

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae, May 1915

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.

Minister to say

Ever living God, we remember those who 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 people and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL - Amen



Laying of Poppy Wreaths

Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council

Scouting Association

Guiding Association

West Midlands Combined Authority

The NEC

Birmingham Airport

Marston Green & District Lions

Marston Green Residents Association

Little Scallywags Nursery

Marston Green Infants Academy

Marston Green Junior School

Marston Green Village Charity Trust

Marston Green Social Club

Marston Evergreens

Marston Green Fifty-plus

Marston Green Gardening Club

Marston Green-agers

Marston Green Bowling Club

Marston Green Cricket Club

Marston Green Football Club

Marston Green Netball Club

Marston Green Tennis Club

Animal Aid



Minister to say

The Prayers and the Blessing

God our creator,
we gather today to remember all those
who have given their lives in the service of their country
and for their sisters' and brothers' freedom.

May there be healing and peace.

We pray for all who have lost their lives in conflict
not only in the two world wars
but in operations up to this present day.

May there be healing and peace.

We thank you for their example of selflessness
in laying down their lives for our freedom.
Bless them and grant them eternal peace in you.

May there be healing and peace.

We pray, too, for those who mourn the loss of their loved ones:
for those who have been widowed and orphaned;
for those who are heartbroken at the death of their daughter or son
Or of a grandchild.

May there be healing and peace.

May the generosity of all who have laid down their lives
inspire us to work tirelessly
for harmony and goodwill amongst all peoples
and may we never forget the sacrifice they have offered for our
peace.

May there be healing and peace.



All to sing

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.

End of Service

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone for attending today's service.

The Uniformed Organisations and Church members will now leave the Garden of Memory and parade back along Elmdon Road to St Leonard's Church.

