

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Remembrance Sunday

A Service of Remembrance
with laying of wreaths



9th November 2025
10.30am

*Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*
John 15: 13

We come together today to remember those who have lost their lives during times of conflict and in acts of terror, to pray for peace and to dedicate ourselves to the creation of a more humane and just society.

On the 4th of August 1914 Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the First World War – with fighting continuing until the 11th of November 1918, Armistice Day.

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the two Minute Silence is observed on Armistice Day. Today, on Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who died fighting for freedom during two world wars, as well as those who have died in subsequent conflicts and those who are on the battlefield today. We also remember civilians who suffer the consequences of war and terror.

We come here to honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, but not to glorify their loss. We come also to reflect on the true horror of war, so that we might not forget. We come in the name of God, who might seem absent during times of despair, but who is always there in the midst of the carnage and chaos. In the words of Wilfred Owen- First world war Soldier and Poet - "Christ is literally in no-man's-land, there men often hear his voice..."



WELCOME

Hymn - O God, our help in ages past

*1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:*

*2. Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.*

*3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.*

*4. A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.*

*5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.*

*6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.*

OPENING REFLECTION

Remember Ypres, Gallipoli, the Somme, Mons and Verdun.
Remember the Western Desert, El Alamein, the Normandy beaches.
Remember Coventry, Dresden, Hiroshima and the Burma Road.
Remember Korea, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans,
East Timor, Afghanistan and the Gulf.

Remember the courage, the comradeship,
the ingenuity, the spirit of working together for a common cause,
the planning together for a better world that would come with peace.
Remember the call to arms, the patriotic songs, the partings which were
such sweet sorrow. The sound of the drum, the skirl of the pipe, the
prayer that God would be on our side.

Remember the carnage; the colossal horror of war.
Remember the widows of sixty years and more,
the old men and women who never knew their fathers.
Remember the love that was lost, the wisdom wasted,
the minds that are still pained by memories.
Remember the families bereft by recent wars and conflict.

Remember this day the children who will die while nation fights nation.
Remember the One who asked us to remember them.
Father, remember us; and forgive us our sins against you and our
fellow man.

AN ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God seeks for his children.

For the times we have hurt others with our words or deeds,
Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the times we have been disrespectful of others,
Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For the times when we have not shown friendship, tolerance
and understanding
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen

Hymn – Forth in the peace of Christ

***1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.***

***2. King of our hearts, Christ reigns in us;
kingship with him his servants gain;
with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.***

***3. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
this world of time to consecrate,
our world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ's world in Christ to re-create.***

***4. Prophets of Christ, we hear his word;
he claims our minds, to search his ways
He claims our lips, to speak his truth
He claims our hearts, to sing his praise.***

***5. We are his Church; he makes us one
here is one hearth for all to find;
here is one flock, one Shepherd-King;
here is one faith, one heart, one mind.***

James Quinn, SJ (1919-2010)

Reading – Micah 4: 1-5

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He 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 nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

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

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn – Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

*1. Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*2. Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.*

*3. Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.*

*4. Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.*

*5. Lord, of ourselves, in living power remake us
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us;
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Reading – John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

ADDRESS

Hymn – Beauty for Brokenness

*1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair
Lord in your suffering world this is our prayer
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!*

*2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.*

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

*3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.*

*4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned: our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.*

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

*5. Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.*

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

All stand

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

***We also remember those who died
in battle at Kohima in the Burma Campaign
and all who have died during times of conflict and acts of terror.***

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.

We will remember them.

THE LAST POST

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

REVEILLE

When you go home, tell them of us and say, “for your tomorrow we gave our today.”

THE LAYING OF THE WREATHS

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.

Anthem – Loving Shepherd of thy Sheep - P. Ledger

Hymn – Peace, perfect peace

***1. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.***

***2. Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.***

***3. Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.***

***4. Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.***

***5. It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease,
and Jesus call to heaven's perfect peace.***

Edward Henry Bickersteth (1825-1906)

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may grant us peace:

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

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

God in your mercy

Grant us 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;

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who
seek to keep this world secure and free;

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership:
political, military and religious; grant them wisdom
as they work for reconciliation and peace

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

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.

Amen

As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

**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.

Hymn – I vow to thee, my country

*1 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.*

*2 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 Arthur Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

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.*

*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.*

Author Unknown (c. 1745)



CLOSING PRAYERS

From the rising of the sun until its setting

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy

Remember your people

From the bleakness of war to the lavish warmth of peace

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy

Remember your people

We turn to you God,
asking that you enfold our planet,
in your justice, peace and truth.
Enlighten the minds of those making decisions -
melt the hearts of those inflicting
cruelty upon your children
and strengthen the resolve of all
who pray for peace.

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

Amen

Let us go in peace to love and serve God and each other.

Amen



Church Services

Sunday Sung Eucharist Service at 10am

Evening Services at 4pm (Wintertime) & 6pm (Summertime)

(Please note there is no Evening Service on the first or fifth Sunday of the month)

Midday Prayer – Mondays at 11.30am (Church Centre)

Midday Prayer – Wednesday at 12 noon (Church Centre)

Friday - Holy Communion Service at 12 noon.

St. Margaret's Church is also open every Friday

Come and look around, soak up its history or sit quietly & pray:

12.30pm – 2.30pm (end October – end March)

12.30pm – 4pm (April – October)

For further details on events, services & activities

please visit our website or Facebook

www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

For more information, please contact

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