



**A Service of  
Commemoration to  
mark the Outbreak of  
the Great War**

**St. Nicolas Church, Witham**

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014  
At 4.00 pm**



## A Message from Priti Patel, MP

### *Witham Will Remember...*

Today marks the first of many remembrance events that will take place in Witham and across Britain to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the men and women who served our country during the First World War.

100 years ago, millions of British people played significant roles to help bring peace to the world, and it is because of their courage and fortitude that Britain stands so strong today.

Over the next four years, Witham will remember Britain's men and women that fought for the ideals that underpin the way of life that we hold so dearly: freedom, tolerance, and governance for the people by the people.

Witham will remember all those who contributed to Britain's war effort. From the families and communities that supported our soldiers to the British people who helped rebuild Europe once the war ended.

Witham will remember the importance of friendship and all the sacrifices made by our international partners that came to Europe's aid at our greatest time of need. We will remember all those whose lives were lost, particularly our friends from the Commonwealth, notably from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

Witham will remember the British lives lost in modern conflicts – all our troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan – whose efforts and sacrifices help to defend our country from today's hostile foreign threats.

Witham will remember the lessons learned from the Great War and all other conflicts to which Britain has valiantly served to help prevent future violence, suffering and dismay.

And by remembering, the hearts and minds of Witham and all of Britain will come together over the next four years to commemorate the centenary of the First World War and remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

**Immediately before the start of this service, the bells of St. Nicolas Church will be tolled 100 times as a sombre marking of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of war**

*Please stand as the choir and clergy enter, and the British Legion Standard is brought to the High Altar*

*A minister says:*

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope;  
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning.

*Lamentations 3: 21-23*

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6.8*

We have gathered here today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare.

We begin our service with a hymn.

**HYMN**

**For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.**

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*Please sit or kneel*

*As we remember those who fought and those who remained anxiously at home in this community, let us pray that God will heal all memories, speak a word of peace, and bring us his healing.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

All Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy.*

All Christ, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.*

All Lord, have mercy.

*May almighty God, forgive us our sins, deliver us from all pain, assure us of his love and bring us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**FIRST READING: MIKE SHARPE, VICE CHAIRMAN, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**  
*Micah 4:1-5* *Please sit*

In days to come  
mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised up above the hills.  
Peoples shall stream to it,  
and many nations shall come and say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;  
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,  
and no one shall make them afraid;  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.  
For all the peoples walk,  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
for ever and ever.

*At the end the reader says:*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,*  
All for they shall be called children of God.

HYMN

*Please stand*

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, let me bring your light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

*Refrain*

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and dying that we're born to eternal life.**

SECOND READING: COUNCILLOR MRS JANET MONEY, WITHAM TOWN MAYOR,  
*James 3: 13-end*

*Please sit*

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*

*At the end the reader says:*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
All for they shall be called children of God.*

**HYMN**

*Please stand*

Earth's fragile beauties we possess  
as pilgrim gifts from God,  
and walk the slow and dangerous way  
his wounded feet have trod.  
Though faith by tragedy is rocked,  
and love with pain is scored,  
we sing the pilgrims' song of hope:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'

Earth's human longings we possess  
by love or grief compelled  
to take and bear the heavy cross  
Christ's wounded hands have held.  
By cloud and fire he leads us on  
through famine, plague or sword,  
singing with faith the pilgrims' song:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'

God's own true image we possess  
in innocence first known,  
now tainted by the hate and spite  
to Christ's own body shown.  
By that same wounded heart of love  
God's image is restored,  
to sing again the pilgrims' song:  
'Your kingdom come, O Lord!'

**SERMON**

*Please sit*

**ANTHEM BY THE CHOIR OF ST NICOLAS CHURCH**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*Please stand*

*Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for their country in the First World War, those whom we knew and whose memories we treasure and those who are unknown. Amongst them we remember....*

Ron Sanders, President of the Royal British Legion shall say:  
*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn*

Jeska Bayford, St John Ambulance cadet shall reply:  
*At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*All affirm*                      **We will remember them**

*The Last Post and Reveille are played. A two minute silence is kept.*

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.**

HYMN

*Please remain standing*

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

Under 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please sit or kneel*

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 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 Lord, our maker and our strength,  
from whose love in Christ we can never be parted  
either by death or life:  
Look in mercy on those for whom we pray this day,  
and grant us your protection and peace,  
that we may be saved in body and soul,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*All*      **Amen.**

**OFFERTORY HYMN DURING WHICH A COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE POPPY APPEAL**

*Please stand*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

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

Lord for 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.

*Please stand. The organ plays as the British Legion Standard is collected from the High Altar.*

#### THE COMMITMENT TO PEACE

Let us pledge ourselves today to live as good neighbours, to honour the past, to care for all who are in need, and to live at peace among ourselves and with all people.

*All* Lord God, Father of all,  
we pledge ourselves  
to serve you and this neighbourhood,  
to bring relief to all who are in need,  
and comfort to the sad, lonely, and distressed;  
Keep us ever mindful of the struggles  
and achievements of former generations,  
and of this place where we make our home,  
now, and in the days to come. Amen.

Strengthen our hearts, and hands, and minds, O Lord,  
to work together for peace;  
to see you in one another;  
and to seek your kingdom above all things;  
that your will may be seen to be done  
and your kingdom come,  
through Jesus Christ,  
the Lord of lords and King of kings.

*All* Amen.

As we ask that God's will may be done in this and every place, so we pray together as Jesus Christ has taught us:

*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

## National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save The Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save The Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign:  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice  
God save The Queen!

## Blessing

*The minister says*

God grant to the living, grace;  
to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the Queen,  
the Commonwealth and all people,  
unity, peace and concord;  
and to us and all God's servants,  
life everlasting.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you  
and remain with you always.

*All*      **Amen**

*The Standard and flags are carried to the door of the church followed by choir, clergy, mayor, civic dignitaries and British Legion members.*

**You are invited to take this Order of Service away with you as a reminder or to give to a friend. Light refreshments will be served after the service in the churchyard by members of St John Ambulance**