

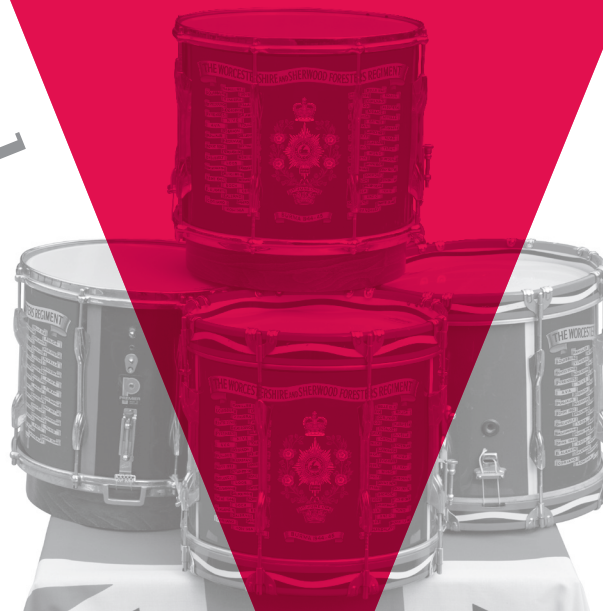
Worcestershire Festival of Remembrance



At the invitation of
the Lord Lieutenant
of Worcestershire

Worcestershire Festival
of Remembrance including
a Drumhead Service and
Act of Remembrance in
Gheluvelt Park, Worcester,
Saturday 15th September 2018

Souvenir programme





Welcome from Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to what will be a poignant act of remembrance to mark the final year of the World War One Centenary.

Today's event takes its lead from the annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance that takes place every year in the Albert Hall and we have invited civic leaders, military organisation, the emergency services, interfaith groups and youth organisations from across the county. Today we will remember those who fell fighting for their country and their county (which at the time included Stourbridge and Dudley). The presence of the Bishop of Dudley draws our attention to that wider community.

A Drumhead Service is a church service conducted "in the field" during armed conflict, often near the battlefield. During World War One Drumhead services were held in the trenches and in public parks in Britain. The altar of a traditional service is replaced by a stack of drums covered by the

Colours of the Regiment. On this occasion, the Colours of the 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment will be crossed on the drumstack together with the Union Flag and the County Standard of the Royal British Legion.

Holding this service in this memorial park which honours those who bravely fought and lost their lives, is a fitting way for the county to meet together in a joint commemoration service without impinging on services held on Remembrance Sunday itself.

I am particularly pleased to welcome the band of the Grenadier Guards to accompany our service. The Grenadier Guards was formed in 1656 and its band in 1685.

It has provided musical support to many state occasions, national and international events and the Regiment in peace and war. The Colours of the Regiment's 2nd Battalion are laid up in Worcester Cathedral and The Regiment enjoys the Freedom of the City of Worcester.

The Armed Forces Covenant

The Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.



The aims of the Worcestershire Covenant Partnership are to:

1. Encourage local communities to support the Armed Forces communities in their areas
2. Nurture public understanding and public awareness of the issues affecting the Armed Forces community
3. Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community
4. Encourage activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life
5. Encourage the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community



Order of service

Entry of the Band of the Grenadier Guards leading Standards followed by entrance of Civic guests from across Worcestershire and the stacking of the drums of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.

Processional Hymn: For all the Saints

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Laying the Colours

Colours of 4 Mercian Regiment and the Worcestershire Royal British Legion Union Standard during which the band will play The Mercian Eagle



Welcome and the Bidding Prayer: Led by The Right Reverend Graham Usher, Bishop of Dudley

We are here in the presence of God to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, that have been given and taken away in the cause of justice and freedom; to pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain, continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror, and for the British Legion in its ministry of care and support for them; and to commit ourselves, young and old, to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations of our troubled world – that, under God, people of every race and creed may be at peace.

These thoughts and prayers we offer in the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, which 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.

The Lesson will be read by: Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire (St John: Chapter 15, vv 12–17)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.

A Reading: from an Islamic Perspective read by Malik Fayaz, Independent Islamic Faith and Cultural Consultant.

Indeed, consciously willing to sacrifice life on duty is the climax and personal honour for a soldier. Indian Muslim soldiers of the British Empire fought alongside their commanders for restoring peace and upholding justice. Like their friends and comrades; those forgotten heroes knew the greater reward in heaven for their intentions on duty and cause for fighting to save others. Each soldier knew that under God's unchangeable plan; there is a time and reason to be born; there's a time for duty and a time to die; there's a time for sadness and a time for laughter; there's a time to reflect and a time to rejoice.



Indian troops replacing 10,000 British troops captured by the Turks in Iraq. 1916.

A Reading: read by Dr Umesh Udeshi DL from Jaya, a retelling of the Mahabharata, by Devdutt Pattanaik.

Lord Krishna says to the warrior Arjuna in the Gita: The fight is not out there Arjuna, it is inside you. Do not surrender to a situation that nurtures the ego. The war is not for you, but for civilized human conduct. Remember, the point is not to win or lose the war, the point is not to kill enemies and acquire their lands; it is to establish dharma and on doing so discover the soul.

Anthem: Holy is the true light by William Harris. Performed by the Choir.



A Poem: Hopefully written and read by Kate Emsley.

(The winning entry in a competition held around schools in Worcestershire as part of the Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme in 2016)

Hopefully, I tell them,
hopefully, it will be over soon.
One big push and we'll get there.
I'll be home soon.

There were six of us to begin with,
six from my small town,
friends since we were children.
I'm the only one alive.

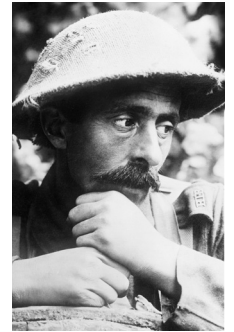
They promised us it'd be short –
a few days, weeks at most –
but the days are all stretched out
and the weeks became months.

I'll be home soon, I tell them.
In every letter, again and again:
Remember me to others
and I'll see you soon.

I can't tell them the horror,
the number of bodies on the ground,
the mud, the wounds, the injuries,
people from my town.

I try to sound jolly
with my pen in my hand:
How are you? What's life like?
Don't worry, I'm fine.

Hopefully, I tell them,
hopefully, it will be over soon.
One big push and we'll get there.
I'll be home soon.



Address: Reverend Canon Dr Georgina Byrne, Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral and Queen's Chaplain.

Band: Nimrod from The Enigma Variations by Sir Edward Elgar.

(During Nimrod the civic dignitaries led by the Lord Lieutenant will plant crosses of remembrance and ceramic poppies in the Field of Remembrance in the arena area, followed by the public)

Prayers:

Rev Helen Caine, Superintendent Methodist Minister, SW Worcestershire

Rev Canon Dr Michael Brierley, Worcester Cathedral

Father Brian McGinley, St George's Roman Catholic Church Worcester

The Right Reverend Graham Usher, The Bishop of Dudley

Hymn: Jerusalem

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.



Exhortation: David Waldron, Chairman of Royal British Legion, Worcestershire

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

Response: We will remember them.



Last Post

2 Minutes'
Silence

Reveille

Pledge for Peace: The Right Reverend Graham Usher

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Hymn: I Vow to thee my Country

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 questions, 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.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them 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.

The Blessing: The Right Reverend Graham Usher

Anthem: The 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!

Exit of Standards, Choir and Clergy, Civic dignitaries

during which the Band will play
The Royal British Legion March,
and Crown of State





Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, Tower of London, 2014.

The Ceramic Poppies

Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper at the Tower of London in 2014 marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The installation contained 888,246 poppies, one for every British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the war. The work was one of the most powerful memorials of the centenary and was visited by over 5 million people. The original poppies were sold raising millions of pounds, shared equally amongst six service charities.

We know that over 500 were bought by the people of Worcestershire and today is an opportunity to join together and make your poppy part of a temporary installation in a small Garden of Remembrance here at Gheluvelt Park.

Make sure you have a label to put on your poppy so that you can easily retrieve it, and if you agree, hand in the label to the Worcestershire World War 100 staff so that we can publicise your memory as part of this Festival of Remembrance for Worcestershire.



Gheluvelt Park

Gheluvelt Park, previously called Barbourne Park, Worcester commemorates the pivotal role of the 2nd Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment in the Battle of Gheluvelt 31 October 1914, when they were led by Major Hankey. One third of the men were lost in the counter-attack to close a gap that the enemy had forced in the British Line. It is a Centenary Field under the Fields in Trust programme which aims to protect parks, playing fields and other recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions who lost their lives in World War I.

The foundation stone was laid on 16 January 1919, by Field Marshal Sir William Robertson and the Park was opened on 17 June 1922 by Field Marshal John French, 1st Earl of Ypres.

The almshouses – Homes for Heroes – were built from 1919 as part of the county's war memorials, intended for ex-servicemen and their families. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Arthur Carlton, a mayor of the city who lost his son Laurence during the war. One of the bungalows has its own plaque which commemorates Captain Gerald Ernest Lea, who died of his wounds on 15 September 1914 while commanding D Company of the 2nd Battalion.



The World War 1 Interpretative Sculpture, Gheluvelt Park, 2010

The World War 1 Interpretative Sculpture, which was unveiled in 2010, is made from steel and concrete, materials similar to those which would have been seen at the 'Front' and represents the moment a shell explodes. Each panel represents a period of the war with the different heights of the steel columns reflecting the number of casualties. The memorial includes a Roll of Honour to the men of the Worcestershire Regiment.

Near the main gate there is a separate Memorial Stone made of Malvern granite, unveiled on the 100th anniversary of the Battle, by Major Hankey's granddaughter, Mrs Julia Brotherton.



Gheluvelt 31st October 1914 by J. P. Beadle.

About Worcestershire World War One Hundred

Cultural and heritage organisations from across Worcestershire have come together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War One with an outstanding four year programme of events and activities under the banner Worcestershire World War One Hundred. The programme, which received the largest Heritage Lottery Fund Grant outside of London, commemorates the role Worcestershire played in World War One and tells the stories of Worcestershire people.

Exhibitions, parades, concerts, church services, remembrance events and much more is taking place across the county as we tell the story of Worcestershire people; their involvement with, and personal legacy from, the Great War. Explore our events calendar to find out what's happening near you and how you can get involved:

For the full Worcestershire World War One Hundred programme visit:
ww1worcestershire.co.uk/
or follow @WW1Worcs

Acknowledgements

Band of the Grenadier Guards

Bishop of Dudley

Clergy and Choir of Worcester Cathedral

Muslim Welfare Association

Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant

Worcester City Council

Worcestershire County Council

West Mercia Police

The Duckworth Trust

The Marquee Company

Prestige Toilets

Friends of Gheluvelt Park

WaveForm Productions

St John's Ambulance

Cadets and young people of Worcestershire

Tenbury Town Band

Mercian Regiment

WORCESTERSHIRE WORLD WAR ONE HUNDRED

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