Service of Remembrance

Sunday 10 November 2019

Heywood Memorial Gardens at 10.45am

Honouring those who have made sacrifices in defence of their country
Today the borough comes together to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the fallen and the service and sacrifices of our Armed Forces community. Our borough will always have a proud and lasting association with the Armed Forces. Thousands of men and women across local communities have, over the last 100 years, made the ultimate sacrifices, fighting to protect values and liberty.

Today’s Armed Forces are doing an equally brave job, to protect our values, freedoms and liberty to keep our people safe.

War has evolved, and with it our Armed Forces evolve to overcome our nation’s enemies. Today our Armed Forces make sacrifices, just as they did 100 years ago.

In the North West we recruit 20% of our Armed Forces and 25% of the Infantry - this is something we can be proud of. On the flip side, it means that returning to the North West we have 25% of injuries. At national level we collect for the Poppy Appeal and at a local level we can be very proud of what we achieve. The Royal British Legion works closely with other Armed Forces Associations and Rochdale Borough Council to ensure no members of the Armed Forces or their families are disadvantaged as a result of service.

Let us remember that our Armed Forces make sacrifices every day

**Lest We Forget**

**The Royal British Legion**
Today is a poignant and reflective day, as we pay tribute to our Armed Forces and honour the service of thousands of men and women from across the borough. Without the selfless dedication and sacrifices of our Armed Forces, the freedoms, liberty and values we cherish so much, would have been lost to the scourge of evil. Countless generations owe them a great debt. We never forget.

Today is about paying homage to those fallen in all wars and thank them for the peace we have today. We also remember those who served in the British Empire and fought alongside Britain, giving their lives in the hope for a better future for us.

We take this time to remember all those affected by wars, the millions who have lost their lives and war veterans and their families. We remind ourselves that these sacrifices continue to take place today by our British Armed Forces and remember those who have fallen and continue to fall in other conflicts.

As Mayor, I am proud to be laying wreaths across the borough on behalf of all our communities. It’s a poignant and emotional day as we pause and remember, but let’s also look to a brighter future, free from war and conflict. We will always be reliant on the brave men and women who serve in the Armed Forces; it is thanks to their bravery that we enjoy the freedoms and liberty we all too often take for granted. That’s why today means so much, to so many. We will always remember them.

Councillor Billy Sheerin
Mayor of Rochdale
Minister:
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 those who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

Veteran:
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.

All repeat:
We will remember them.

The Last Post
Two Minute Silence
Reveille
Veteran
When you go home, Tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow We gave our today.

Minister:
Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of thy love; and bring us all, with them, to Thine eternal joy; through Christ our Lord

Amen
Hymn: O God, our help in ages past

All:
1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope of things to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
Thy saints have dwelt secure,
Sufficient in 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 life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Amen

Minister:
Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men: 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 nations.

All together say:
Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve thee and all mankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of thy name. Guide us by thy Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and forever.

Amen
The Lord’s Prayer
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

The Laying of Wreaths
During the next hymn, the laying of the wreaths will take place.

Hymn: Jerusalem
All:
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.

National Anthem All:
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.
Who are these men with sorrowful look, Who can still remember the lives that were took, These are the men who saw young men die, The price of peace is always high.

Who are these men who in the midst of pain, Whispered comfort to those they would not see again, These are the men whose hands held our tomorrow, Who brought back our future with blood, tears and sorrow.

Who are the men who promise to keep Alive in their hearts the ones God helps to sleep, These are the men to whom I promise again Veterans, my friends, I will remember them.

Anonymous: 12 year old girl, 1966

The Blessing
Minister:
Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord; Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

Amen

The parade will now re-form and the March Past and Salute will be taken on L/Cpl Stephen Shaw M.C. Way.

Who Are These Men?
Who are these men who march so proud? Who quietly weep, eyes closed, head bowed, These are the men who once were boys, Who missed out on youth and all its joys.

Who are these men with aged faces? Who silently count the empty spaces, These are the men who gave their all, Who fought for their country, for freedom, for all.
rochdale.gov.uk/events