Service of Remembrance

Sunday 10 November 2019

Middleton 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 of 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
All people that on Earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, this praise forth
tell, Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all time firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Amen.
Lesson

St John: Chapter 15, Verses 9-14

9 As the father hath loved me, so I have loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

The Exhortation

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 shall say:
We will remember them.

The Last Post shall be sounded
Two minute silence shall be observed

Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow
We gave our today

Prayers
Hymn - Oh Valiant Hearts

O valiant hearts, who to your glory came Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame, Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved, Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war, As who had heard God's message from afar; All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave To save mankind - yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made, Into the light that nevermore shall fade; Deep your contentment in that blest abode, Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

These were his servants, in his steps they trod, Following through death the martyred Son of God; Victor he rose; victorious too shall rise They who have drunk his cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead, Whose Cross has bought them and whose staff has led, In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land Commits her children to thy gracious hand.
Hymn - O, God Our Help in Ages Past

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

Beneath 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 everlasting 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.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while trouble last,
And our eternal home.

Amen

The Blessing

National Anthem