



**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
11.15am Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020**

At 11am on Sunday we encourage you to go to your gate, front door or window and mark the two minutes of silence. On Wednesday 11 November at 11am wherever you are, please stop and be still for two minutes.

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Lord, open our lips
and we shall praise your name.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

O praise the name of the Lord.

Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, O God.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
Forgive us and free us from our sins,
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen

Response

**We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.**

**We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.**

**We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,
in world war and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.**

The Word of God

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word. Amen.

Reflection from Richard

I think I've always been aware of Remembrance Day, but it never really meant anything to me when I was younger. I laid a wreath a couple of times when I was a child and I knew it was important, but it had no particular significance to me. As I was growing up it felt like the marking of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month would fade in its significance for our country, and I must

confess that, at that time, it was not something I would have especially missed.

But then I was required to go and work for the Missions to Seafarers as part of my preparation for ministerial training. The place where I ended up serving was in Dunkirk on the north coast of France.

It is not a particularly beautiful town, but of course it is filled with our remembrance history. The Missions to Seafarers Centre is the living memorial to all those who died on the Dunkirk beaches in the evacuations that I learned so much more about when I was there.

It was very moving to walk along the beaches, filled now with sunbathing holidaymakers, seeing the markers of the ships still sunk off the shoreline. I worked on the moles, the quays, which also played such a big part in the events of those days. Something which had been ancient and insignificant history, became much more real.

I took the opportunity while there too, to visit Ypres, Popperinge, the battlefields of the Somme and the massive war cemeteries. The end of one day brought us to Vimy Ridge, a place that stuns you into silence within the Canadian War Grave memorial.

I am so pleased now that the significance of this day has not been lost, but rather it seems to have become more significant again. While there are even fewer now who can look back to remember comrades in arms whose names are on our memorials, and many who stop to remember have no actual recollection or war to recall, recent wars and global news make the reality of violence something that we understand all too well.

So my reflection each year is to wonder what you will be thinking during the two minutes of silence.

Will you be remembering people you have known who lived through those times of the two world wars: Family members, grandparents, great grandparents?

Will you be thinking of people you know who have been or still are in the armed forces today?

Will you be thinking about places that you have been or seen on the television or in films where battles have been fought and lives lost in war?

Will you be thinking of today's servicemen and women who have returned from war with wounds to mind or body?

I wonder where you will be?

I will be thinking of those beaches, those thousands of graves in northern France, the people I have known in my ministry who have served, or who are still serving today and those whose funerals I have taken, whose stories have amazed me with courage and comradeship. And I will be praying that we can make a better world, where our news contains much less injustice, war and violence.

HYMN: ABIDE WITH ME

Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give them peace.

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

Let us pray to our God who loves us.

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

Let us pray to our God who loves us.

for civilian men and women, children and all whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

Let us pray to our God who loves us.

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

Let us pray to our God who loves us.

Let us pray for the needs of our world and those nations where there are particular struggles and difficulties at this time. 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.

Let us pray to our God who loves us.

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you the names of 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 forever.

Amen

Call to mind anyone you know who is ill or struggling

We pray for comfort and strength for the sick and those who care for them.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Give hope and faith to the bereaved, gentleness to those who minister to them, and courage to those who need it. Bring your presence into situations of loss, loneliness and despair and heal the wounds that feel as though they will never heal.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Act of Commitment

God is our refuge and strength
A very present help in trouble.

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

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**

Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen, and all people, unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting,
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
strengthen and sustain us, and all those whom
we love, now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN: Go forth and tell

