

A Service of Thanksgiving
and
Commemoration
to mark the
50th Anniversary
of the
End of the Second World War



SUNDAY, 7th MAY, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

LUTON PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. MARY



The congregation is asked to stand at the arrival of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Samuel C. Whitbread, Esq., the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Mr Brian G. Woodrow, and the Mayor of Luton.

During the hymn the Choir lead the Pipes and Standards up the centre aisle and proceed to their Stalls, the Pipes to the Crossing, the Standard Bearers to the Chancel Steps

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

To God be the glory! great things he hath done;
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son;
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the earth hear His voice;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord!
let the people rejoice:
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory;
great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord . . .

Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord . . .

WELCOME AND BIDDING

By the Revd. David Hague

We gather here this day to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for the peace which was so dearly won fifty years ago.

In particular we remember the gift of peace in Europe, for the sacrifice of countless lives, and for the selflessness of so many who suffered injury or forgave their health and strength so that we have peace and stability. Our thoughts and

prayers go to all who, as a result of conflict were left bereaved - both in foreign lands and here at home.

We also keep in mind the many who continued in the conflict outside Europe and whose suffering will also be remembered when we celebrate the ending of war in the Far East later this year.

So as we give thanks to Almighty God for selfless service and the sacrifice of lives of so many of our friends and allies we pray for God's guidance for all who lead the nations of the world so that in the years to come, our work and all our skills may be dedicated to the good and service of all peoples.

The Reception of the Standards at the conclusion of the Bidding, The Royal British Legion will play while the Standards are received.

Anazing Grace *Traditional*

CONFESSION ACT OF PENITENCE

Minister: St Paul wrote: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God
The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class.

All: Father, forgive.

Minister: The covetous desires of men and nations to possess what is not their own,

All: Father, forgive.

Minister: The greed which demeans the labours of men, and lays waste the earth,

All: Father, forgive.

Minister: Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others.

All: Father, forgive.

Leader: Our indifference to the plight of the homeless and the refugee.

All: Father, forgive.

Minister: The lust which uses for ignoble ends the bodies of men and women.

All: Father, forgive.

Minister: The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, and not in God.

All: Father, forgive.

Bishop: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon you.
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

1st READING Ephesians 2: 13-19

Read by The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Samuel C. Whitbread, Esq.

PSALM

(Please stand)

Minister: God is our strength and refuge:

All: An ever-present help in trouble.

Minister: Therefore we will not fear:

*All: though the earth should shake,
though the mountains fall into the sea,
though the waters surge and foam,
though the mountains shake and roar.*

Minister: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

*All: God is within her, she shall not fall:
God will help her at the break of day.*

Minister: Nations are in uproar, and kingdoms fall: God lifts his voice - the earth melts away.

*All: The Lord almighty is with us:
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Minister: Come and see what God has done:

All: His wonders wrought upon the earth.

Minister: He stops the war throughout the earth:

*All: He breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he sets the shield on fire.*

Minister: Be still and know that I am God:

*All: I will be exalted over the nations,
I will be exalted over the earth.*

Minister: The Lord almighty is with us:

All: the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

SONG

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am God

I am the Lord who gives you strength
I am the Lord who gives you strength
I am the Lord who gives you strength

In Thee O Lord I put my trust
In Thee O Lord I put my trust
In Thee O Lord I put my trust

2nd READING 2 Corinthians 5: 17-20

Read by John Robinson, President of the Luton & Dunstable Royal Naval Association

HYMN

The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou has furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

PRAYERS

Led by the Revd. Sue Hudspith ending with the Lord's Prayer said together

**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.**

HYMN

Guide me O Thou great Redeemer
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer,
be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee.

SERMON

By the Rt. Revd. John Richardson, the Bishop of Bedford

HYMN

(the Offertory for S.S.A.F.A. will be taken during the singing of this hymn)

For all the Saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, for ever blest.
Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light.
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!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, or all are Thine,
Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare song,
steals on the ear the distant trumpet song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the Saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on His way.
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!

(After the Offertory has been received the bearers will receive back the Standards and take up their position)

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

All remain standing while the Minister says:

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 who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

Then shall be sounded

"THE LAST POST"

Here follows one minute's SILENCE after which the Exhortation shall be recited by Major Charles Simeons, J.P., D.L.

Then shall be sounded

"THE REVEILLE"

CHOIR

And I saw a New Heaven Edgar Bainton

ACT OF PERSONAL DEDICATION

Minister: O send out your light and your truth:

All: **That all may lead me.**

Minister: Bring me to your holy hill:

All: **And to your dwelling.**

Minister: That I may go unto the altar of God:

All: **Even unto the God of my joy and gladness.**

Minister: Why are you so heavy, O my soul?

All: **And why are you so disquieted within me?**

Minister: O put your trust in god:

All: **For I will always give him thanks.**

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.

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.

THE BLESSING

By the Rt. Revd. John Richardson, the Bishop of Bedford

(During the hymn the Standards will retire)

HYMN

The hand, O God had guided
The flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear on every page;
our fathers owned Thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness;
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest as to least;
they bade men rise and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching
in every deed and word;
to all alike proclaiming:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave Thy work undone;
with Thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
Thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

(The Congregation is asked to remain standing to allow the Civic Procession to depart)



*After the service the W.R.V.S. will be serving
refreshments in the Church Halls*



*For those participating in the parade there will be a reception at
the Town Hall Assembly Room*