

Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2025



St Michael's Church, Cumnor
&
Cumnor United Reformed Church



Remembrance in Cumnor 2025

Cumnor's Act of Remembrance today begins at the village War Memorial.

The Memorial bears the names of 37 members of the community who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Their names will be read out during this part of the morning's event. Others we know who lost their lives in those and in later conflicts will also be on our hearts at this time.

Meanwhile, children from the village will stand behind and beside the Memorial, with simple crosses bearing the names of the fallen from this community. They will place their crosses into the ground as the main wreaths are laid by representatives of the Royal British Legion, Churches, Cumnor CofE Primary School, young people's Uniformed Organisations, Cumnor Minors Football Club, Cumnor Cricket Club, the Vine Inn, and Cumnor Parish Council.

This Act of Remembrance will be led by Canon Dr John Rees, the Revd Nigel Appleton and the Revd Jean Pryce-Williams. Jean will be leading a brief service in St Michael's church while the wreaths are being laid at the War Memorial, and after the Last Post, Two Minutes Silence and Reveille there, those who wish to attend the Remembrance Day Service are warmly invited to join the procession as it makes its way into the church.

All children who wish to do so are invited to form a Guard of Honour as the Legion's flag, and other flags and pennants are presented.

The collection from today's service will go, as always, to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and in the course of the service, the Legion's colour-bearer will explain something of the work the Legion does today.

Please join in with the text printed in bold type.



At the Memorial

The minister welcomes everyone, introduces the Act of Remembrance and invites all to come to St Michael's for the Remembrance Day service.

The Minister says: Let the wreaths be laid.

Wreaths are laid by representatives of the Royal British Legion, Churches, Cumnor CofE Primary School, young people's Uniformed Organisations, Cumnor Minors Football Club, Cumnor Cricket Club, The Vine Inn, and Cumnor Parish Council.

During the laying of the wreaths the names of those who fell in the two World Wars will be read out.

Suitable words from Scripture and elsewhere will be read, ending with:

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 wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

'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' (*Lawrence Binyon, 1914*)

We will remember them.



The Last Post is sounded.

The Two Minutes' Silence follows.

The Reveille is sounded.

'When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today'. (*Kohima
Epitaph*)

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Ministers and Choir lead the congregation to St Michael's Church.

Please remain standing on entering the Church as the colours and standards are brought in.



In the Church

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.



During the next hymn the standards and colours are received.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! praise him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.



Readings

Ecclesiastes 3.1–8

In Flanders Fields (Lt.Col. John MacRae, 1915)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Address



During the next hymn a collection will be taken. To give electronically, please scan the QR code on the back of the order of service.

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 those who heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save mankind – yourselves you scorned to save.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

Still stands his Cross from that dread hour to this,
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

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.



Interview

'The British Legion, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'

Confession

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; the pride, the selfishness, the greed; the evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for all his children.

A short pause for silent confession, then together:.

**Most merciful God,
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, our God;
through Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Intercessions

Let us pray for peace and justice in the world, and for all who suffer as a result of war.

This response will be used:

Lord, in your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

The prayers will end with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers, for

the sake of you Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please stand to sing the following hymn during which the standards and colours are returned.

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 question, 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 that 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,
her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Please remain standing at the end of the hymn..



Act of Commitment

When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.

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.

We say together:

Lord God, our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all people, 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.



As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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
for ever.
Amen.**

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King, God save the King.
Send him victorious, Happy and
glorious,
Long to reign over us, God save the
King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour, Long may he
reign.
May he defend our laws, And ever give
us cause
To sing with heart and voice God save the
King.



The Blessing

May God the Creator bring peace to the earth.

May Jesus, who blessed the peacemakers, bless us with his grace.

May the Holy Spirit comfort our sorrows and strengthen us with joy.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and all those you love, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Please remain standing until the processions have left; all are welcome to join for refreshments in the Old School.



The Soldier

By [Rupert Brooke](#)

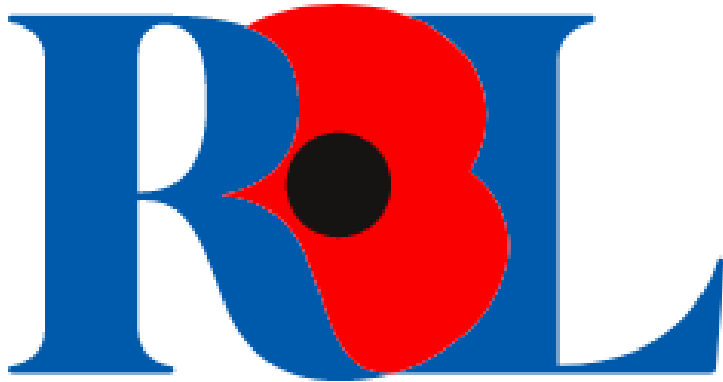
If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



Lest we forget...





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