



# **A Service of Remembrance**

**Sunday, 10th November 2024**

**11.00am**

**Bedford War Memorial, The Embankment**

**Led by the Bishop of Bedford  
Rt Rev Richard Atkinson OBE**

Organised by Bedford & District Branch, The Royal British Legion on behalf of Bedford Borough Council



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Bedford  
and District  
Branch**

**Before the Service Bedford Town Band will play:**

Rinaldo

*Georg Friederich Händel*

“The Supreme Sacrifice”  
 (“O Valiant Hearts”)

*Charles Harris*

Band of Brothers

*Michael Kamen*

“Nimrod” from the Enigma Variations

*Sir Edward Elgar*

Abide with Me

*Henry Francis Lyte/William Henry Monk*

**Members of the Public are kindly requested to keep the entrance to the War Memorial clear to enable easy access and egress by the Dignitaries, Clergy, Standards and Veterans, and to enable the younger participants in the Parade to move to the front and have an uninterrupted view of the Service.**

**Please follow the directions of the Stewards.**

The organisers wish to express their grateful thanks to the Swan Hotel, Bedford, for their kind support over many years, and for providing hospitality for the Civic Dignitaries.

The Parade and the Dignitaries assemble.

**Brief words of introduction and welcome** are given

**The Branch Chairman of Bedford & District Branch, Royal British Legion** will give **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 respond:** We will remember them.

**At 11.00am**, marked by three blasts of the Whistle,  
**Silence** will be kept for two minutes.

**For all present**, *suggested subjects for thought and prayer during the Silence are:*

*We remember those who made the great sacrifice during the two World Wars;*

*We remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country in other conflicts;*

*We pray for those who suffer at this time;*

*We pray for those who have been bereaved; We pray for peace;*

*We pray that we may be worthy of the sacrifice made on our behalf.*

**The end of the Silence** will be marked one long blast of the Whistle.

**The Last Post** is sounded.

**Wreaths** will then be laid at the War Memorial during which music is played: Beethoven's Funeral March No 1—*Johann Heinrich Walch*

***Wreaths will be laid by or on behalf of:***

***HM Vice Lord-Lieutenant***, representing The Crown

***The Mayor of Bedford***, Tom Wootton, representing the People of Bedford and the Borough Council

***The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire***

***Mohammad Yasin MP***

***The Speaker of Bedford Borough Council***, Cllr John Wheeler

***The Police and Crime Commissioner***

***The Chief Constable***, Bedfordshire Police

***The Chief Fire Officer***, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

***The Chief Ambulance Officer***, East of England Ambulance Service

***The Regular Armed Forces***

***The Reserve Armed Forces***

***The Royal British Legion local and national Branches***

***The Ex-Services Associations and Overseas Veterans Associations***

***SSAFA, Combat Stress***

***The Uniformed Public Services, other Civic Bodies and Uniformed Voluntary Services***

***The Cadet Forces***

***The Uniformed Youth Organisations***

***The Community Organisations and Faith Groups***

*Members of the public wishing to place Wreaths or other tributes at the War Memorial are invited to do so after the Service has concluded.*

**The Bishop of Bedford** will offer the following prayer:

O Almighty God, grant, we beseech thee, that we who here do honour to the memory of those who have died in the service of their country and of the Crown, may be so inspired by the spirit of their love and fortitude that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives, we may live only to thy glory and to the service of mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**The following hymn** will be sung:

**All present** *are invited to join in the singing:*

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 endless 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 troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

**The Bishop of Bedford** will offer the following prayer:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give  
and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any  
reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen

**All present** are invited to say **The Lord's Prayer**:

Our Father, Which art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
In earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive them that 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

**A Veteran** will give **The Korean Epitaph**:

We remember our Comrades who gave their lives in defence of  
freedom,  
Under the Charter of the United Nations,  
During and since the Korean War, 1950-1953.  
  
Not one of them will be forgotten before God.

**The Branch Chairman of Bedford & District Branch, Royal  
British Legion** will give **The Kohima Epitaph**:

When you go home, Tell them of us and say:  
"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

**A Representative of the Bedford Council of Faiths** will offer the  
**Peace Prayer**

Lead us from Death to Life  
from Falsehood to Truth  
Lead us from Despair to Hope  
from Fear to Trust  
Lead us from Hate to Love  
from War to Peace

Let Peace fill our Hearts  
our World, our Universe

Peace. Peace. Peace.

**The Bishop of Bedford** will then give **The Blessing:**

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit you:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you his peace, this day and always. Amen

**The Rouse (Reveille)**

*All present are invited to join in singing:*

**God Save The King**

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.

**The Dignitaries** process from the War Memorial to the Saluting Base.

As the **Standards and Veterans** March Off, there is played The March of the Royal British Legion—*Thomas Bidgood*.

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*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.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;*

*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.*

***“For the Fallen”: Laurence Binyon, 1914.***