



# **A Memorial Service for the Airmen who died in Humbleton on 24 May 1943**

**Pilot Officer Geoffrey Nigel James Bryde RAAF**

**Flight Engineer – Sergeant Colin Alexander Nelson RAAF**

**Bomb Aimer – Sergeant James Henry Roy Harper RAFVR**

**Air Gunner – Sergeant Donald Fred Smith RAFVR**

**Navigator – Pilot Officer John Albert Walker DFM RAFVR**

**Wireless Operator / Air Gunner – Sergeant William Neill  
McMullan RAFVR**

**Navigator – Flying Officer Fulliott Victor Polehill Turner RAFVR**

**Air Gunner – Flying Officer Lancelot Herbert Parker RAFVR**

## **29 May 2016**



**Hymn God is our strength and Refuge**

God is our strength and refuge,  
Our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling waters are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river,  
Within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her -  
she shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at his presence -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of His deeds all-powerful;  
wars will cease across the world  
when He shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift Him in the nations –  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

*From Psalm 46, Richard Bewes Copyright, Jubilate Songs Tune Dambusters*

**Welcome and Bidding Prayer**

We meet in the presence of God and 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.

Today we particularly remember the lives of those airmen who died  
here in an incident in Humbleton in 1943

### **An Act of Penitence**

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;  
its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its 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 his children.

**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, our God.**

### **Absolution**

Grant we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and  
peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a  
quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Collect**

**First Reading** Isaiah 2: 1-5

Digby Harris



**Hymn Abide with me**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see –  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**Second Reading** Revelations 21: 1-4      Reverend Jon Wright

**Poem** Last Words of an Airman by Claire Bernhardt  
read by Peter Ainscough

**Address** Reverend Susan Walker



**Hymn: Airman's hymn**

O Ruler of the earth and sky  
be with our airmen when they fly;  
and keep them in thy loving care  
amid the perils of the air.  
O let our cry come unto thee  
for those who fly o'er land and sea.

Strong Son of Man, save those who fly  
swift-winged across th'uncharted sky;  
each anxious hour and lonely flight,  
serene, unchallenged, day and night.  
O'er land and ocean safely bear  
all those in peril in the air.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power  
give peace in sudden danger's hour:  
bring calm of heart, and be thou near  
to those who watch and those who fear.  
To thee will rise the grateful prayer  
of those who serve thee in the air.

O Trinity of love and grace,  
true guide of all who fly through space,  
in peace or war, mid friend or foe,  
be with them whereso'er they go.  
So shall our praise with heaven's blend  
and joyful hearts to thee ascend.

*Roger Harris 2010*

**Poem** High Flight by RCAF Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee  
read by Air Commodore CEJ Brazier CBE RAF (Retd)

## Candle Lighting

*Lighting of three large candles for healing, forgiveness and peacemaking followed by lighting of small candles for each of the eight airmen who died.*

We light this candle for forgiveness

**May God forgive our violence and hatred and help us to forgive our enemies**

We light this candle for healing

**May God mend angry hearts and broken lives that the world may be healed**

We light this candle for peacemaking

**May God make us instruments of his peace and help us live in friendship with those who are different from us.**

We light these small candles to remember the following airmen who died on exercise here in this village - Pilot Officer Geoffrey Bryde, Sergeant Colin Nelson, Sergeant James Harper, Sergeant Donald Smith, Pilot Officer John Walker, Sergeant William McMullan, Flying Officer Fulliott Turner and Flying Officer Lancelot Parker.

**And give thanks for their lives. Amen**

**Intercessions ending with Lord's Prayer**  
**Response            God give peace**

Father William Ryan

## Hymn    **I vow to thee my country**

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,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.



### **Act of Remembrance at Memorial**

- congregation turn to face back of church

### **Unveiling of Memorial – Harry Buck**

Let us remember before God,  
and commend to his safe 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 the peoples of the world.

### **The Ode**

*An older person says – Jane Hart*

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.

*A younger person replies – Helena Stannard*

At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them.

All affirm

**We will remember them.**

*The beginning of the two-minute silence.*

*The Kohima Epitaph is said*

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

### **National Anthem of Britain**

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!

### **Blessing**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the nations of the world and all people,  
unity, peace and concord,  
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing.....

### **Dismissal**

Send us out to be beacons of peace in a dark world of conflict.  
Make us instruments of peace for whoever we meet and wherever we go,  
In the name of the Prince of Peace, Our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ **Amen**



***We Will Remember Them***

*With thanks to our Organist - Mr Robert Denton*