Liverpool Street Station



Armistice Day
Wednesday 11 November 2026
at 10.50 am

An Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial site

Welcome and Introduction

Michele Ashton,
Chaplain to the Railway Industry for Anglia,
and British Transport Police Chaplain

Opening prayer

Fr David Armstrong,
Rector of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate, says

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.

All: Amen.

Please stand

Hymn: The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's 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 in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
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 ever more
My dwelling-place shall be.

Please be seated

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Read by Martin Moran,
Commercial Director, GBR Anglia

There is an appointed time for everything.
And there is a time for every event under heaven—

A time to give birth and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.
A time to search and a time to give up as lost;
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;
A time to be silent and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.

Anthem: The souls of the righteous

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die,
and their departure is taken for misery,
but they are in peace.

Wisdom 3: 1-2, 3b

Sir Stanley Marchant CVO 1883-1949
(Organist, St Paul's Cathedral)

Reading: In Flanders fields



This poem by the Canadian soldier, surgeon and poet John McCrae (1872-1918) was written on 2 May 1915 in the second week of the Second Battle of Ypres, and published in *Punch* on 8 December 1915. The poem eventually led to the adoption of the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance for the British and Commonwealth war dead.

Read by Dominic Rosso,
Head of Executive Affairs (External), GBR Anglia

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.



Reading: We shall keep the faith



In New York in November 1918 the American teacher Moina Belle Michael came across John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' and was so moved that she made a personal pledge to 'keep the faith' and hastily wrote her response 'We shall keep the faith' on the back of a used envelope. From that day she vowed to wear a red poppy as a sign of remembrance.

As a result of her tireless campaigning, veterans' organisations began to adopt the red poppy as a symbol of Remembrance for those who had lost their lives, and for fund raising for the welfare and care of those who had served and survived the Great War of 1914-1918; in the UK the British Legion took it up in late 1921.

Read by Deputy Benjamin Murphy,
City of London Councillor for Bishopsgate

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Please stand

Act of Remembrance

Colonel Simon Duckworth CBE OBE DL,
His Majesty's Lieutenant for the City of London,
and City of London Councillor for Bishopsgate, says

We remember in an act of silence
all those who gave their lives so that we have freedom.

The Exhortation

Colonel Simon Duckworth continues

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 repeat together: We will remember them.

THE LAST POST

TWO MINUTES' SILENCE

REVEILLE

Wing Commander Stephen Borthwick,
Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Coopers, says

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the guns fell silent on the Western Front, to bring an end to the First World War.

We remember those who gave their lives, and those whose lives were cruelly and harshly taken from them; the bereaved, who still treasure loving memories and mourn the loss of loved ones; those who carry the physical, emotional, and psychological scars of war; and many for whom life will never be the same again.

Please remain standing

Hymn – Amazing grace

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Please be seated

The Laying of Wreaths

Anthems during the laying of wreaths:

For the Fallen

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.

Laurence Binyon 1869–1943 *Douglas Guest 1916–96*

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict:
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluya.

Sarum Diurnal, trans. G H Palmer *Sir William Harris 1883-1973*

Please stand

The National Anthem

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!

Please remain standing

Prayers

Fr Andrew Mussell,
Driver Manager, Bishops Stortford, GBR Anglia, says

Let us pray.

We hold before you, O God,
all those who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that you may give us peace;
for the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to you;
and for those who love them in death as in life,
asking for your healing for the distress of grief
and the sadness of loss.

We pray for all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day, remembering family,
friends and all who pray for their safe return.
For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror.
We give thanks for peacemakers and peacekeepers
who seek to keep this world secure and free.
And we ask for the gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace.

We make our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Fr Andrew Mussell continues

Let us now join together in saying The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father,

(all): who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.

The Kohima Epitaph

Lt Col Alex Hamilton RE MBE VR,
Asset & Works Delivery Director, GBR Anglia, says

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

The Blessing

Fr David Armstrong says

God grant to the living grace; to the departed rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth,
and all people unity, peace and concord;
and to us and all God's servants life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

All depart in silence

Thanks to all who have contributed to today's Act of Remembrance.

Railway Mission

Parish & Ward Church of
ST. BOTOLPH
WITHOUT BISHOPSGATE

a place of sanctuary

Musicians:

The Choir of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate
Keyboard and choir director: Iestyn Evans

Bugler: Steve Clarkson