

Commemoration Service

in memory of

Fusilier Lee Rigby



Friday 22nd May at 11am

ST GEORGE'S
GARRISON CHURCH

GRAND DEPOT ROAD
WOOLWICH, LONDON SE18 6BW
woolwichcommunityproject@gmail.com

Introduction to be read by a member of the Military

We are here today to commemorate the death of Lee Rigby who died on 22nd May 2013, 13 years ago just a short distance from this Garrison Church. He was on his way back to Woolwich Barracks where he was stationed with the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers when he was killed in the street by 2 Jihadi terrorists, for no other reason than that he was a serving soldier wearing a Help For Heroes hoodie.

Lee was 25 years old at the time of his death but had already crammed a lot of living into those years. He had trained as a drummer and machine gunner with the Fusiliers and seen service in Afghanistan, Cyprus and Germany. Because of his enthusiasm for soldiering and his passion for life he was a natural choice to become an Army Recruiter.

He was married and had a 2 year old son. A lifetime Manchester United fan, his army service had also included guarding The Royal Palaces as part of the Battalion's public duties.

But a few days go we had the Ride for Respect pass outside the Church with literally hundreds of bikers who form the largest Chapter in the country being made up of ex Servicemen.

While the names of his murderers have long been forgotten as they serve out their sentences of life imprisonment the name of Lee Rigby lives on and we honour his life as well as commemorating his death.

Revd Dr Adam Scott

Prayers for those who died on military service

Eternal rest grant unto your servant Lee Rigby, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

God our Father, Your power brings us to birth, Your providence guides our lives, and by Your command, we return to dust. Lord, those who die still live in Your presence, their lives change but do not end. I pray in hope for the family, relatives and friends, of Fusilier Lee Rigby and for all the dead known to You alone. In company with Christ, who died and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family, to sing Your praise forever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Fusiliers

Eternal God, whose strength raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, uphold, we pray thee, the ancient valour of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, that we may ever endure hardship after his example, and may rise with him to shine as the sun in thy Kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Tribute to Lee Rigby, to be read by Cllr John Fahy

His Commanding Officer Lt Col John Taylor, said of Lee Rigby -

“Lee was a natural choice to be an Army recruiter and had inspired many young people to join the Army. He was a dedicated and professional soldier, proud to wear the hackle and cap badge of the Regiment. He was a real character within the 2nd Battalion and at the heart of our Corps of Drums, taking part in many ceremonial events. But he was also an accomplished machine gunner who had served with distinction in Afghanistan, Cyprus and Germany.’ At his funeral the CO expanded on that eulogy, “Lee was larger than life always at the centre of fun, a true regimental character with real charisma. Everyone fell under his spell. Whether it was at work or off duty, at a ceremonial engagement or on operations, Lee knew just how to lighten the mood. He could brighten a room within moments and by all accounts clear a dance floor in seconds if a Whitney Houston track was playing. He was always happy. His smile was infectious as was his enthusiasm for soldiering and his passion for Life.”

Second tribute to be read by a Trustee of the Garrison Church

Col. Mike Glover, Area Secretary Bury, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers said of Lee Rigby, “The day of Lee Rigby’s death was when the horrors of the battlefield were brought to the streets of Woolwich. That day will forever be embedded in our nation’s history. His death sent shock waves around the world especially in Middleton where Lee grew up. As a nation, as a member of Lee’s family, as a friend or a fellow Fusilier it is important that we do not forget the sacrifice of Lee and those who served the Crown and died in that Service.’



Final prayers led by Revd Adam Scott

O God we remember with gratitude the life of Lee Rigby who died 13 years ago on the streets of Woolwich. We remember his smile, his enthusiasm, his pride in his Regiment and his family, and commend him to your everlasting care. **Amen**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of all comfort; Deal graciously, we pray thee, with all those who mourn, that, casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us join together in saying the Lords Prayer

OUR Father, 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 blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Nation, peace and concord; to us all Your servants the promise of everlasting life, light to guide us on our way, courage to support us, and Your blessing to unite us in service to You our God and this our Country. **Amen.**

Presentation of the Standards and wreath laying

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.

Last Post

Two minute silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

When you go home Tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow – We gave our today.

Lament

(All are invited to stay behind after the Service for tea, coffee and refreshments)