



Order of Service
St George's Day 2024



Sunday 21st April @ 3.00pm

*Conducted by Revd Dr Adam Scott OBE TD, Honorary
Chaplain, 100 (Yeomanry) Regiment, RA*





Presentation of Banners



Welcome: Revd Dr Adam Scott OBE TD

You are all very welcome to our annual St George's Day Service here at The Garrison Church. This church is dedicated to St George and for the last 8 years a Service has been planned here to commemorate his life and witness on the Sunday closest to St Georges Day (April 23rd). The Service is particularly directed at youth groups which operate within our community, the cadet branches for the three Armed Forces, the St John's Ambulance, the Boys Brigade and the Scouts.

This Church, which was built in 1863 to serve the members of the Royal Artillery based in Woolwich, was damaged in the First World War when a Zeppelin bomb fell at the west entrance to the Church and destroyed the great rose window above the main door. Then, in 1944, a V1 flying bomb fell just to the south of the Church and generated a firestorm which destroyed the roof and badly damaged much of the interior. However, the east end, with the VC Memorial to members of the Royal Artillery and some beautiful Salviati mosaics has survived as has part of the west end with the fine new gates commissioned by the Woolwich Garrison Church Trust incorporating flowers of remembrance: cornflower for the French, forget me not for the Germans and the poppy not only for the UK forces but also those from Commonwealth nations and from Nepal.

Those gates commemorate the hundreds of thousands of young people who died for their countries in the 2 Great Wars of the 20th Century. We are delighted to have with its military representatives from France and Germany as well as local dignitaries and other Service personnel from this country and abroad.

St George is also closely associated with the people of Ukraine; being celebrated as the beginning of Spring. We remember the people of Ukraine at this time of crisis and danger for them , just as we remember all facing warfare, famine, cruelty and injustice.



Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love*

*To all life thou givest - to both great and small
In all life thou livest, the true life of all
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish - but nought changeth thee*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee*





Reading: read by Trustee of the Woolwich Garrison Church Trust

I will not fail you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.



Prayers

The Collect for Grace

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; though Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

A Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Heavenly Father, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel. We remember all who have died and pray for those who are grieving, for the injured and for those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. Sustain, strengthen and support the work of all relief organisations. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness. Lord hear us as we pray in the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that, in this moment of crisis, we may reach out to our brothers and sisters in need in solidarity. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen

A Prayer for Courage

Lord Jesus, may we have not only courage to act quickly when we need to, but also have the humility, wisdom and discernment to ensure that our actions are pleasing in Your eyes. When we can avert disaster, whether at home or across the world,, show us how to act wisely. When we can dissuade others doing the wrong thing, whether in our family, church, workplace, or community, give us the courage to step up and speak. When we need to do the right thing that goes against the norms of today, give us common sense and integrity. So, Lord Jesus, by Your grace, may we grow in humility, in wisdom and in courage, to be a blessing to others and to bring glory to Your name in which we pray.

Amen



A Prayer for Good Government

O God, give Your love of justice to those who rule our land. Help them to rule with wisdom and compassion, so that the poor and powerless may be treated fairly and with justice. Open their ears to the cries for help from those caught in cycles of poverty, abuse or violence. Give them wisdom to know how best to respond, and courage to do the right thing, even when it may not be popular. Under their rule, may the people flourish; and may there be lasting peace and plenty for all.

Amen

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



Hymn: Oft in danger, Oft in Woe

Oft in danger, oft in woe
Onward, Christians, onward go
Bear the toil, maintain the strife
Strengthened with the bread of life

Let your drooping hearts be glad
March in heavenly armour clad
Fight, nor think the battle long
soon shall victory wake your song

Onward, Christians, onward go
Join the war, and face the foe
Will ye flee in danger's hour
Know ye not your Captain's power

Onward then in battle move
More than conquerors ye shall prove:
Though opposed by many a foe
Christian soldiers, onward go

Let not sorrow dim your eye
Soon shall every tear be dry
Let not fears your course impede
Great your strength, if great your need



Reading: The Story of Rosa Parks - read by a Sea Cadet

On 1st December 1955, Rosa Parks was riding a crowded Montgomery city bus in the State of Alabama when the driver, upon noticing that there were white passengers standing in the aisle, asked Parks and other Black passengers to surrender their seats and stand. Three of the passengers left their seats, but Parks refused. She was subsequently arrested and fined \$10 for her offence and \$4 for court costs, neither of which she paid. Instead, she accepted help from Montgomery National Association for the Advancement of Coloured for an appeal against the conviction and thus challenge legal segregation in Alabama. Rosa Parks knew that she was opening herself to harassment and death threats, but also knew that the case had the potential to spark national outrage. A young pastor at the local Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Martin Luther King Jr, instigated a boycott of the municipal bus company which lasted 385 days. People outside Montgomery embraced the cause with protests against segregated restaurants, pools, and other public facilities all over the United States. On 13th November 1956, the US Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision declaring Montgomery's segregated bus seating unconstitutional, and a court order to integrate the buses was served. The boycott ended the following day. For her role in igniting the successful campaign, Rosa Parks became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement".





Tribute: by President Obama when unveiling the statue to Rosa Parks in the US Capitol - read by a Scout

This morning, we celebrate a seamstress, slight in stature but mighty in courage. She defied the odds, and she defied injustice. She lived a life of activism, but also a life of dignity and grace. And in a single moment, with the simplest of gestures, she helped change America - and change the world. Rosa Parks held no elected office. She possessed no fortune; lived her life far from the formal seats of power. And yet today, she takes her rightful place among those who have shaped this nation's course.

A childhood friend once said about Mrs Parks, "Nobody ever bossed Rosa around and got away with it." That's what an Alabama driver learned on December 1st, 1955, 12 years earlier, he had kicked Mrs Parks off his bus simply because she entered through the front door when the back door was too crowded. He grabbed her sleeve and he pushed her off the bus. It made her mad enough, she would recall, that she avoided riding his bus for a while. And when they met again that winter evening in 1955, Rosa Parks would not be pushed. When the driver got up from his seat to insist that she give up hers, she would not be pushed. When he threatened to have her arrested, she simply replied, "You may do that." And he did.

It was 385 days after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, the boycott ended. Black men and women and children reboarded the buses of Montgomery, newly desegregated, and sat in whatever seat happened to be open. And with that victory, the entire edifice of segregation, like the ancient walls of Jericho, began to slowly come tumbling down. It's been often remarked that Rosa Parks's activism didn't begin on that bus; and yet our minds fasten on that single moment on the bus - Mrs Parks alone in that seat, clutching her purse, staring out a window, waiting to be arrested. That moment tells us something about how change happens, or doesn't happen; the choices we make, or don't make. "For now we see through a glass, darkly," Scripture says, and it's true. Whether out of inertia or selfishness, whether out of fear or a simple lack of moral imagination, we so often spend our lives as if in a fog, accepting injustice, rationalizing inequity, tolerating the intolerable.

Like the bus driver, but also like the passengers on the bus, we see the way things are - children hungry in a land of plenty, entire neighbourhoods ravaged by violence, families hobbled by job loss or illness - and we make excuses for inaction, and, that's not my responsibility, there's nothing I can do.

Rosa Parks tell us there's always something we can do. She tells us that we all have responsibilities, to ourselves and to one another. She reminds us that this is how change happens - not mainly through the exploits of the famous and the powerful, but through the countless acts of often anonymous courage and kindness and fellow feeling and responsibility that continually, stubbornly, expand our conception of justice - our conception of what is possible.



Reading: Rosa Parks in her own words - read by an Army Cadet

- At the time I was arrested, I had no idea it would turn into this. It was just a day like any other day. The only thing that made it significant was that the masses of the people joined in.

- I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.

- People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.

- I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free, so other people would be also free.

- The time had just come when I had been pushed as far as I could stand to be pushed.

- I had decided that I would have to know once and for all what rights I had as a human being and a citizen, even in Montgomery, Alabama.

- My desires were to be free as soon as I learned that there had been slavery of human beings.

- As I look back on those days, it's just like a dream, and the only thing that bothered me was that we waited so long to make this protest and to let it be known, wherever we go, that all of us should be free and equal and have all opportunities that others should have.

- God has always given me the strength to say what is right.





Performance: RAF Cadets Band



Address: Revd Dr Adam Scott OBE TD



Tribute: St John's Ambulance Young Supporters - read by young SJA volunteers

Twins and St John Badgers, Ayden and Brayden More, aged 7, of Manchester, were both recognised for their bravery and support to their parents who during the summer of 2022 overcame serious surgery. Their father, Norman, had a heart attack in July and his rehab and recovery was put on hold as, just weeks later the boys' mum, Shakira, was diagnosed with a tumour in her leg and she had major surgery to rebuild her leg. The brothers stepped up to help their mum and dad, Ayden, who wants to be a 'children's doctor' said, "We have been helping with cooking and helping mummy with her crutches and getting ice water to help with her leg and keep it cool."

Brother Brayden said, "We like helping. When I'm not in the living room, I'm in the kitchen helping."

St John Ambulance Youth Leader Heather Patten, who nominated the brothers, said, "They are wonderful boys who have really stepped up to help out without ever complaining. They have coped amazingly well, during a very difficult few months. We are all so proud of them as are mum and dad."

We also remember Emily Smith, 16, of Leicester, who in July saved her mum's life when she collapsed and fell unconscious from a brain bleed.

Emily said, "I was alone at home when I heard a huge crash upstairs. My dad had gone out to drop my brother off at martial arts. I ran upstairs and mum was unconscious but had been sick, and was still being sick, even though she was unconscious. Her breathing was strange, because her airways were not clear. I dragged her to lay her on her side in the recovery position and dialled 999 on speaker.

Thanks to Emily's quick response and actions, Emily's mum is now making a full recovery, following emergency surgery.

Emily said "If I hadn't done my first aid with St John's, I would have no idea what to do, to get mum on her side and get her breathing. I do think my skills helped to save her life."



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*

*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*

*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*

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

Abide with me, abide with me





Prayers

A prayer for peace

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, Guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth.

And establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

A prayer for family

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of family. We are grateful for the love and support we find in one another. May we never take our family for granted and always cherish the moments we have together. Help us to love and support one another, and may our family be a source of unity and strength. We ask for your blessings and grace to be upon us always.

Amen

A prayer from the *Book of Hours* (1514)

God be in my head

And in my understandin

God be in mine eyes

And in my seeing

God be in my mouth

And in my speaking

God be in my heart

And in my thinking

God be at my end

And at my departing



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



Collection of Banners

Please stay behind after the service to enjoy refreshments



