Welcome to St Margaret's Church, Ifield
Sunday 8th November 2026
Remembrance Sunday



INTRODUCTION

The service is introduced

Hymn

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.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away,
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts 1674-1748, Music: William Croft 1678-1727

ACT OF PENITENCE

The minister introduces the Confession

Most merciful God, 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest offers absolution – please respond at the end **Amen**

We sit

THE READINGS

Wisdom 6:12-16 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Hymn

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.

Words: Cecil Spring-Rice 1859-1918 Music: Gustav Holst 1874-1934

We sit

THE GOSPEL READING
Matthew 25:1-13

Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep,
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm didst sleep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them where'er they go,
But evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Words: William Whiting 1825-1878, Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876

SERMON

Hymn

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, O 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 power?
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,
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847, Music: William Henry Monk 1823-1889

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict and ask that God may give us peace.

The response to the bidding

'May God give peace' is
'God give peace'



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever Amen.

We stand

ACT OF COMMITMENT

The priest introduces the act of commitment and invites us to say together

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of wanting and suffering, and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Hymn

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here

among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757–1827)
Tune JERUSALEM CHARLES HUBERT HASTINGS PARRY (1848-1918)
arranged by Compilers of New English Hymnal 1986

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!

Words: Anon Music: 'Thesaurus Musicus' c1743

THE BLESSING

The priest offers the blessing and at the end we respond
Amen.

Recessional

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The Poppy



I am not a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement,
To be worn but once a year,
I am not glorification
Of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament
A token,
I am more.

I am a loving memory,
Of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder
Of each and every one.

I'm paper or enamel
I'm old or shining new,
I'm a way of saying thank you,
To every one of you.

I am a simple poppy
A Reminder to you all,
That courage faith and honour,
Will stand where heroes fall.