



**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE  
AND THANKSGIVING**

**AT  
THE WAR MEMORIAL  
VICTORIA EMBANKMENT**

**SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025**

***LEST WE FORGET***

***To the men and women,  
especially of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire,  
and animals who laid down their lives  
in the service of their country,  
in the cause of freedom, justice and peace.***



## **VE Day and VJ Day**

Commemorating the End of the Second World War in Europe and the Pacific

The conclusion of the Second World War is marked by two pivotal dates: VE Day and VJ Day. These days commemorate the formal end of fighting in Europe and the Pacific, respectively, and remain significant for their historical, cultural, and emotional impact.

VE Day stands for "Victory in Europe Day". It is celebrated on 8 May each year and marks the official surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces in 1945, effectively ending the war in Europe. On this day, the Allies accepted Germany's unconditional surrender, which was signed in Reims, France, on 7 May and ratified in Berlin on 8 May. Across Europe and the Commonwealth, VE Day was greeted with spontaneous celebrations, street parties, and gatherings. For many, it was a moment of relief and joy after six years of conflict, though tempered by the memory of those who had been lost or wounded.

VJ Day stands for "Victory over Japan Day". It marks the day when Japan surrendered to the Allies, bringing an end to the war in the Pacific and thus to the Second World War as a whole. The surrender was announced on 15 August 1945, although the formal signing occurred on 2 September 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. VJ Day was celebrated worldwide, with similar scenes of jubilation and relief. In the United Kingdom, 15 August is commemorated as VJ Day. The end of fighting in the Pacific was particularly significant because it followed two atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, events that remain controversial and impactful in world history.

Both VE Day and VJ Day are observed in the United Kingdom and other countries with ceremonies, memorials, and moments of reflection. These days offer opportunities to honour those who served, remember the sacrifices made, and reflect on the impact of war.

In recent years, commemorations have included efforts to educate younger generations about the history and consequences of war, ensuring that the lessons and memories endure.

VE Day and VJ Day represent moments of immense historical importance, symbolising the triumph of unity and resilience in the face of adversity. They continue to be observed as reminders of the price of peace and the enduring value of remembrance.

As we gather today for this Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, we remember the service and sacrifice of those who fought, and continue to fight, to defend our democratic freedoms. We also give thanks for peacekeepers helping countries to navigate the challenging path from conflict to peace. And we are mindful of the ongoing conflict and violence in many places where we hope and pray for a more peaceful future.

**As a sign of respect would members of the Congregation, please ensure that mobile telephones are switched off or on silent during the Service. Thank you.**

**Music played throughout the Service by The Nottinghamshire Band of The Royal Engineers who will be accompanied by the Nottingham Hospitals Choir**

## **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

### ***Parade to attention***

The Civic Party will arrive at the War Memorial and take their places for the Service

### ***Parade at ease***

### **Introduction**

#### ***The Bishop of Southwell, The Rt Revd Paul Williams***

Jesus said 'My command is this: love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends'

**John**

#### **15: 12-13**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God **Matthew 5: 9**

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good and whose power sustains the world he has made. As we remember those who have lived and died in the service of others, especially from the City and County of Nottingham and who are commemorated in this place. At this time of heightened tension and conflict in our world today, we pray for all who continue to suffer through war. We confess the shortcomings of the world, its pride, its selfishness, its greed, and its failure to seek lasting peace.

God of light and love,  
You desire that all your people should live in your peace.  
Grant us the humility to ask your forgiveness,  
And the will to practise it.  
Help us to work for the good of the world,  
To seek for peace and justice,  
And make the world better for our children's children,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

1. 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 questions  
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.

2. 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 by Cecil Spring Rice 1859-1918, music by Gustav Holst 1874-1934)*

### **Prayers**

#### ***The Bishop of Nottingham, Monsignor Patrick McKinney***

Let us offer to Almighty God our prayers for the peace of the world and for the relief of suffering

For the King and his family, and all those under him who bear the responsibility of government:

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

For the sacrifices made, especially in two world wars, whereby our peace has been preserved:

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

For those who serve in the Armed Forces of the Crown on sea and land and in the air:

**ALL: Let us pray to the Lord.**

For doctors, nurses, chaplains, and all who minister to those in need or distress:

**ALL: Let us pray to the Lord.**

For all who continue to suffer as a result of war:

**ALL: Let us pray to the Lord.**

For the unity and peace of the peoples of the world:

**ALL: Let us pray to the Lord.**

For the Royal British Legion:

**ALL: Let us pray to the Lord.**

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. **Amen**  
***The World Prayer for Peace. Satish Kumar.***

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**ALL**

**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.**

### **Hymn**

1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

4. A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

2. Beneath the shadow of thy throne,  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream  
bears all its sons away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

3. Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

6. 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 by Isaac Watts 1674-1748, music by William Croft 1678-1727)*

### **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE    *The Lord Mayor's Chaplain, Pastor Idy Samuel***

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping those who have died for their country in war; especially those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure.

Let us also remember before God his world today, a world still blighted by violence, war and conflict.

Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgivings  
for the men and women of this city whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Parade to attention***

**ACT OF HOMAGE** Alex Peace-Gadsby OBE DL, County President RBL  
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: We will remember them.**

***The Last Post.      The Silence.      Reveille.***

*During the silence heads remain bowed as all remember the sacrifice made by the fallen for our  
freedom and safety.*

**Alex Peace-Gadsby OBE DL, County President Nottinghamshire RBL**

When you go home, tell them of us and say

For your tomorrow, we gave our today

*(from the Kohima Epitaph)*

***Parade at ease.***

**'THE FALLING LEAVES' BY MARGARET POSTGATE-COLE (1893-1980)**

***Leader of Nottingham City Council, Councillor Neghat Khan***

Today, as I rode by,  
I saw the brown leaves dropping from their tree  
In a still afternoon,  
When no wind whirled them whistling to the sky,

But thickly, silently,  
They fell, like snowflakes wiping out the noon;  
And wandered slowly thence  
For thinking of a gallant multitude

Which now all withering lay,  
Slain by no wind of age or pestilence,  
But in their beauty strewed  
Like snowflakes falling on the Flemish clay.

## **WREATHS ARE LAID AT THE MEMORIAL**

### **Civic Party:**

*Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Professor Veronica Pickering MBS HAC*

*Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Patience Ifediora*

*Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Councillor Jan Goold*

*High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, Ed Attenborough*

*A representative from HMS Sherwood's Ships Company*

*Mercian Regiment, Major Sean Leach*

*RAF Syerston, Group Captain Barry E Dale LLM MA LLB CMgr FRAeS RAF*

*County President Nottinghamshire RBL, Alex Peace-Gadsby OBE DL*

*Nadia Whittome MP*

*Chief Fire Officer, Craig Parkin*

*Police and Crime Commissioner, Gary Godden*

*Assistant Chief Constable, Leona Scurr*

*Followed by*

*Representatives from Faith Communities, veterans and other organisations under the instruction of the RSM*

### **Nottingham Hospitals Choir sings the following anthems:**

**For the Fallen** (Words by Lawrence Binyon 1869-1943, music by Paul Hayward b 1984)

**Thou Knowest, Lord** (Words from The Book of Common Prayer (1549), music by Henry Purcell 1659-1695)

**Crossing the Bar** (Words by Alfred Tennyson 1809-92, music by Charles H.H.Parry 1848-1918)

### **ACT OF COMMITMENT Revd Ruth Turner, Open Christian Fellowship**

As the years pass, may we never forget the sacrifices made by so many. As we look to the future, let us now pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and neighbour: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**Lord God our Father,** **ALL**  
**we pledge ourselves to serve you and all people,**  
**in the cause of peace, for the relief of want 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.**

**BLESSING *The Bishop of Southwell, The Rt Revd Paul Williams***

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

***Parade to attention***

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

1 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!

***Parade at ease***

**ALL**

2 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!

**MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE  
WHO HAS TAKEN PART IN TODAY'S  
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE**

**MAY WE ALWAYS TAKE TIME TO  
REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN**

**AND TO ALSO  
REMEMBER  
THOSE SERVING  
IN OUR ARMED FORCES TODAY,  
AND THOSE WHO WILL SERVE IN THE FUTURE**

**LEST WE FORGET**



**Produced by the Civic Office, Nottingham City Council**



***The information in this Order of Service was correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to change***