

PER MARE PER ECCLESIAM

HMS Leigh (Southend Pier 1939-45)

Victory in Europe “75”

A Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration.

1500 10th May 2020

Collage of images (international and local) and music showing the home front and frontline in WW2

*Ralph Vaughan Williams “Old Hundreth”
is played by Mr David Stowe Organist and Director of Music at St.Margarets Leigh-on-Sea*

***A wreath is laid by the Commanding Officer of Training Ship Implacable before the altar
a bell is tolled 33 times for all those who died in order to win freedom and peace
and images of our standard bearers honouring the fallen are shown.***

Introduction gathering and welcome.

The Revd Fr.David Wylie Royal Navy
Vicar of St.Margaret of Antioch Leigh-on-Sea
County Chaplain of the Royal British Legion
National Chaplain Royal Marines Association

Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. (Psalm 133)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This service of thanksgiving and commemoration of course should have been held on the pier and perhaps we will gather there this time next year. One of the crucial aspects of the 2nd World War was not knowing when or how it would end but the growing confidence that it would end and with a victory for freedom and the best of human values. One of my early funerals was of a sailor who left in 1938 – he did not return home until 1947. We meet at a time of not knowing, of uncertainty and a different type of battle and challenge – let us commemorate and take comfort from our forebears who with hope grit and resilience have laid the foundations for what is best in our society and our collective and personal challenges 75 years on. In particular in this service let us remember and give thanks for those who defended and used our great river for that victory.

Let Justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream. Amos 5.24

A reading from the Southend Standard 1945

Sgt Geoff Ashton RM rtd.

Secretary of The Royal Marines Association

They Sailed the Ships – Thames Naval Control 1939-45

By Lt.Cdr L.Baird

With the paying off of HMS Leigh on October 15th 1945 over 6 years of wartime association of the Navy with Southend, apart from the closing chapter of HMS Westcliff, now taking place, came to its official end, and there remains but the task of restoring to their rightful owners the premises for so long occupied by the Thames Naval Control in Royal Terrace, Cliff Town Parade and other places in the vicinity. For six long years the good people of Southend and Westcliff, to say nothing of the many visitors to the town, have become accustomed to the comings and goings of the Navy and the W.R.N.S., who have worked among them and have kept anxious vigil over the gateway of the busiest estuary in the world in the dark and hazardous days, as well as in the hour of triumph. Today, "like snow upon the desert dusty face" they have lighted their little hour and are gone. How long we wonder, will they and their works be remembered?

A prayer for reflection and our shortcomings

Fr.David

Let us call before God and in our hearts:

- The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class.
- The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,
- The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,
- Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
- Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,
- The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive all these things spoken and unspoken. Let us be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave had forgiven us.

Father let it be so. AMEN

A reading of psalm 100

Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman

Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation

A Psalm for the thank offering.

1. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!
2. Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
3. Know that the LORD is God!

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4. Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

5. For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

A Reading from the Gospel of St. John chapter 19.25-27

The Youth Mayors

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Address - Fr. David

With images from the HMS Leigh project.

The Prayers

Let us pray:

Representatives in order of petition

1. **Our Military - Col. Stuart Rowson with family.**
2. **Belfairs School – Jack (great grandson of V-Day veteran Charles Benford)**
 3. **Sea Cadets – Able Cadet Alex**
 4. **Sea Scouts – Courtney Bulmore-Davey**
 5. **Air Training Corps – Jack Burden**
6. **St. Christopher's School – The Layokun family**
7. **Our health and care workers – Kara Gerrie Neonatal Senior Sister**
 8. **Sea Scouts – Lt Cdr Chris Daly RN**

1. For all those who gave their lives for victory over the evils of the Nazi ideology in Europe and the wider world let us remember and give thanks. For members of our armed forces who are in danger this day and for all who keep us healthy and safe on the home front of our own day. May God give peace.

2. For civilian women, children, and men who suffer under totalitarian regimes of our own day because of their race, creed and beliefs. May their plight be our plight and may they be set free. May God give peace.

3. For Elizabeth our Queen and all in authority in this land and throughout the commonwealth and world. May they have the humility, courage and serving heart of Christ and truly seek the common good. May God give peace.

4. For better care of this beautiful world and all its creatures. For peacemakers who seek to bring justice and resolution to human failings. May God give peace.

5. For our town and community that remembering the sacrifices of past generations we may work together to enhance the beauty of our environment and common life that your values may flow through our lives as our river flows into the sea. For our Council and all people and institutions involved in this project. May God give peace.

6. For our local schools and charities that attend to the particular needs of our town especially the RNLI and our homeless charities. May God give peace.

7. For all those affected by the pandemic of this time. God of love and mercy, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to health care workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to us all to reach out to all in need, so that in loving you and loving neighbour as self we may give glory to your holy name. May God give peace.

8. For ourselves that we may lift our eyes above the torment and hardships of this broken world to pray for those who wish us harm, to build the kingdom of justice and honour the lives of the fallen and preserve our freedoms and values. May God give peace.

We express all our prayers and thoughts spoken and unspoken in the family prayer that Jesus has given us.

The Lord's Prayer

Led Mr John Bridge, a Former Leigh fisherman, his wife Angela Son Michael and Grandson Thom.

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 Naval Hymn and Sunset

Played by HM Royal Marine Band Service

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, 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 walked on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!
Our family shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect us wheresoever we go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

A prayer of rededication

Cllr Keith Evans

Former Warrant Officer Class 1 Welsh Guards. Senior Band Sergeant Major Queen's Household Division

Lord God of our fathers we commit and pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity in the cause of justice and peace and for the relief of want and suffering. Guide us by your spirit; give us wisdom; give us the same courage as our forebears we this day remember that we too may have hope and keep us faithful in all that is good and true now and always. Amen.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honour everyone, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of God the father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love for evermore.

The National Anthem

**God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.**

Together we stand

PER MARE PER ECCLESIAM

By the Sea and by the Church.

"somewhere over the rainbow"

Sung by Scarlett Taylor

A special thankyou to the Blade education trust and all those who have participated including many behind the scenes that have made this service possible.