65th Anniversary of the formation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire)



Commemoration Service Sunday 9th June 2024

The Service is conducted by The Venerable Alan Jeans MBE
Archdeacon of Sarum

Honorary Chaplain to the Rifles and RGBW Association

Bidding Prayer

We meet in the presence of God. We are here to commemorate the formation, sixty five years ago, of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; to mark your contribution to the achievements over time, and to remember those who served, and who are no longer with us. We commit ourselves to work together in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations that all people may live in freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all suffering bereavement, disability and pain, and those who continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives in World Wars and conflicts, past and present have been given and taken away. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

Hymn – Onward Christian Soldiers (Standards are laid up)

Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle see His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

At the sign of triumph, Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Chorus repeat

Like a mighty army moves the church of God; Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod. We are not divided, all one body we, One in hope and doctrine, one in charity. Chorus repeat

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. Chorus repeat

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honour unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing. Chorus repeat

The Regimental Collect of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment

O eternal Father, in whom we put our trust, bless we beseech thee thy servants of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. May the common ties of loyalty and devotion strengthen our comradeship together so that with faith and courage, we may uphold the high tradition entrusted to us; may we continue to serve thee faithfully, on sea, land or in the air, taking up our cross daily, and being found worthy to receive the crown of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lesson – Deuteronomy 20 – verses 1-9

Hymn – O God Our Help in Ages Past

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient in thine arm alone and our defences sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, From everlasting though art God, to endless years the same. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising son.

Time like and 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.

Sermon – The Venerable Alan Jeans MBE

The Lord's Prayer

ALL - 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, forever and ever. **Amen**.

Prayer for His Majesty the King

Almighty God, the foundation of all goodness, bless our sovereign King Charles, and all who are in authority under him that they may order things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name and the good of your Church and people, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer for the World

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hymn – I Vow to Thee my Country. (Standards returned)

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.

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.

Act of Remembrance – Capt. (Retd.) WH Sherman

With proud thanksgiving let us remember our former brethren. (Roll of Honour)

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**.

LAST POST followed by REVEILLE

While remembering our Fallen Comrades, we think also of the living, and will endeavour to serve their best interests helping the distressed to the utmost of our ability. **All – This we promise.**

The Blessing

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

The 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.



To be a Farmer's Boy

The sun had set beyond yon hill across the dreary moor
When weary and lame a boy there came up to a farmer's door
Can you tell me where're I be and one that will me employ
To plow and sow to reap and mow
An be a farmer's boy, and be a farmer's boy

The farmer's wife cried try the lad, let him no longer seek
Yes father do the daughter cried as tears rolled down her cheek
For those who would work 'tis hard to want and to wander for employ
Don't let him go, but let him stay
And be a farmer's boy, and be a farmer's boy.

The farmer's boy grew up a man and the good old couple died
They left the lad the farm they had and the daughter for his bride
Now the lad that was the farm now has often thinks and smiles with joy
To bless the day he came that way
To be a farmer's boy, to be a farmer's boy.



