

# St Denys' Church, North Killingholme



**Saturday 8th July 2023**

*On the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of 550 Squadron (November 1943)*

An Act of Remembrance for  
550 Squadron, Royal Air Force,  
at the Squadron Memorial Stone

*followed by*

A Service of Thanksgiving for the operations of  
550 Squadron, Royal Air Force from  
North Killingholme Airfield  
January 1944 - October 1945

# AT THE MEMORIAL STONE

## 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!

## Bidding

We are gathered here today to remember, in the presence of God, those gallant Comrades, serving in 550 Squadron, who flew from this airfield during World War Two on Operational Missions against the enemy and did not return.

## Bible Reading *Micah, chapter 4, verses 1-3*

But in those days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the House of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow into it.

And many nations shall come, and say "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the House of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nations shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

## **Prayers**

Almighty God, Who makes the clouds your chariot and walks on the wings of the storm, look in mercy we pray on those who are called to serve their fellows in the air. Even there let your hand lead them, and your right hand hold them. Help them to do their duty with prudence and fearlessness, confident that in life or death the eternal God is their refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Remember, O Lord, for good all those who laid down their lives for their friends, especially your servants whom we commemorate before you today. Regard their loyalty and devotion. Give them rest and peace. Grant that, by the sacrifice of their earthly lives, they may be brought near to the sacrifice of your blessed Son. Grant that, mindful of their sacrifice, all people across the world may turn from violence and injustice, and seek the true righteousness and peaceable freedom for which they died; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Act of Remembrance**

We give thanks to God for the memory of all who have given their lives in the cause of justice, peace and freedom, and we remember especially today all those from the 550 Squadron who gave their lives for King and Country in the last days of the Second World War.

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.

**We will remember them.**

## **The Sounding of the Last Post**

## **Two Minutes' Silence**

## **Reveille**

*Wreaths will now be laid in memory of departed Comrades.*

## **The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, ever more.

**Amen.**

*At the conclusion of the Act of Remembrance everyone is invited to follow 866 (Immingham) Squadron Air Training Corps band to St Denys' Church.*



# AT ST DENYS' CHURCH

**Welcome** *Peter Coulter*

## **Introduction**

"If I climb up into heaven, Thou art there:  
If I go down to hell, Thou art there also  
If I take the wings of the morning:  
And remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;  
Even there also shall Thy hand lead me:  
And Thy right hand shall hold me."

*Psalm 139 vv 7-9*

## **Bidding**

We meet together today, firstly to acknowledge the eightieth anniversary of the Squadron's formation; secondly, to give thanks before God for the part that the brave men of this Squadron were able to play in bringing to an end the evil designs of Nazi Germany in the dark days of the Second World War; and thirdly, to remember before God those who flew from North Killingholme airfield on operational missions over enemy occupied territory and did not return.

## **Hymn**

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for His grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same as ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him;  
dwellers all in time and space,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## **Act of Penitence**

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its  
pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds.

**Lord, have mercy**

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,  
and our failure to seek and establish that peace  
which God wills for His children.

**Lord, have mercy**

Let us confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed:  
that we have not loved God with all our being:  
and that we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy**

Father, 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 Thee; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Bible Reading** *Matthew Chapter 5, verses 3-10.*  
*Read by Honor Redshaw*

## **Act of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Let us thank God for drawing mankind through many centuries, by many means, away from darkness towards the light of his truth.

**We thank Thee, O Lord**

Let us thank God for moving countless men and women in times past and in times still recent, to spend or lay down their lives for the sake of their fellows; for calling us now, in our day, to serve him here on earth.

**We thank Thee, O Lord**

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellows: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support all who work for the relief of the needy and the peace and welfare of the nations of the world.

**We thank Thee, O Lord**

**Lord God our Father  
we pledge ourselves  
to serve you and all humankind,  
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**

## Hymn

Thy Kingdom come, O God,  
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
Break with Thine iron rod  
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is Thy reign of peace,  
And purity, and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time  
That war shall be no more –  
Oppression, lust, and crime,  
Shall flee Thy face before?

We pray Thee, Lord, arise,  
And come in Thy great might;  
Revive our longing eyes,  
Which languish for Thy sight.

Men scorn Thy sacred Name,  
And wolves devour Thy fold;  
By many deeds of shame  
We learn that love grows cold.

O'er heathen lands afar  
Thick darkness broodeth yet:  
Arise, O Morning Star,  
Arise, and never set!

**Sermon** *The Revd. Trevor Riess*



## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the peace of the world: for statesmen and rulers that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do right.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who work to improve international relationships that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for men and women the world over that they may have justice and freedom and live in security and peace.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war: for the injured and the disabled, for the mentally distressed, and for those whose faith in God and in man has been weakened or destroyed.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry, and for all who have lost their livelihood and security.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents, and especially for those who have lost hope.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**hear our prayers,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers.....ending with**

O God, who inspires your servants with an unforgettable spirit of friendship and brotherhood, keep the flame of that spirit alive in our hearts this day, that we may leave this place with one will only, to serve our fellows and through serving them serve you and your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**

## **Hymn**

*(A collection will be taken during this hymn for St Denys' Church funds)*

### **The Airman's Hymn**

Tune: Melita, the tune of "Eternal Father Strong to Save"

O Ruler of the earth and sky  
Be with our airmen when they fly;  
And keep them in Thy loving care  
Amid the perils of the air.  
O let our cry come unto Thee  
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

Strong son of man, save those who fly  
Swift-winged across the unchartered sky;  
Each anxious hour and lonely flight  
Serenely challenged, day and night.  
O'er land and ocean safely bear  
All those in peril in the air.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power,  
Give peace in sudden danger's hour  
Bring calm of heart and be Thou near  
To those who watch and those who fear.  
To Thee will rise the grateful prayer  
Of those who serve Thee in the air.

O Trinity of love and grace,  
True guide of all who fly through space;  
In peace or war, mid friend or foe,  
Be with them whereso'er they go.  
So shall our praise with heaven blend  
And joyful hearts to Thee ascend.

## **Blessing**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
Hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted;  
Honour all; love and serve the Lord,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Everyone is invited to the Village Hall for free light refreshments.*



Please be aware that the order shown below might change as the flypast is part of the afternoon programme of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and this can lead to last-minute alterations beyond our control.



1.00 p.m. – Lancaster flypast over St Denys' Church.

1.20 p.m. – Form up outside the Village Hall behind the 866 (Immingham) Sqn Air Training Corps Band. Walk to 550 Squadron Memorial Stone.

1.35 p.m. – Act of Remembrance begins, followed by (approx.) the laying of wreaths.

1.50 p.m. – Service ends. Photo opportunity. (approx.)

2.00 p.m. – Walk back to village behind 866 Sqn ATC (approx.) Band.

Comfort break

2.30 p.m. – Service in St. Denys' Church begins.

3.45 p.m. – Tea in Village Hall.