CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong

with dedication of the Ramsgate AFVBC Standard



Saturday 7th November 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

Canterbury Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the cathedral church of the Diocese of Canterbury, the mother church of the Anglican Communion, and a place of pilgrimage welcoming visitors from across the world.

For over fourteen hundred years God has been worshipped here. With its roots in the Benedictine tradition, the ongoing daily pattern of Morning and Evening Prayer and Eucharist (or Holy Communion) continues the prayers and praises of countless generations in this Cathedral.

The Ramsgate Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club are here this evening to have their Standard dedicated in the memory of Royal Navy Leading Stoker Dick Sharpe providing a visible symbol of the Clubs ethos and belonging to be used on Parades with all the other Standards
The Ramsgate Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club is an Armed Forces Veterans Peer Support Group run by Veterans, for those serving in the Armed Forces and Veterans in the Thanet area, whose aims are to combat isolation, create inclusion for all those that have served and prevent downward spirals. It is just one of over 500 officially recognised breakfast clubs in the AFVBC Organisation in the UK and abroad. The Ramsgate Club has a membership of over 250 personnel from all different backgrounds who meet face to face and online through their Private Facebook page and their secure Internet Portal.



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

CITATION

Leading Stoker Edward Dick Sharpe - Royal Navy

Leading Stoker Edward Dick Sharpe served with the Royal Navy throughout World War Two travelling from home shores on Worldwide Service.

In May 1940 he was involved in the Operation Dynamo to rescue the remainder of the British Expeditionary Force from the beaches of Dunkirk serving as Crew on the little ships. In late 1940 he was assigned to HMS Vindictive (a fleet repair ship) where he was part of the South Atlantic Fleet and was involved with the repair of HMS Hermes and it is believed also RMS Corfu in Sierra Leone at Freetown and the repair of HMS Resolution after she had been torpedoed during the Battle of Dakar.

In late 1942 he was then assigned to HMS Anson, which was an escort ship for the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk and Archangel. This resulted in Edward becoming a member of the North Russia Club and receiving the Russian commemorative Victory Medals on his visits to the Memorials in Russia and eligibility for the Arctic Star.

HMS Anson was decommissioned for 10 months for a refit from June 1944 to March 1945 after which Edward sailed on her this time, to the Far East .
HMS Anson and other ships sailed from Sydney to Hong Kong to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces there, before sailing to Tokyo Bay where they were present for the signing of the official Japanese surrender.

After the War Edward continued to be an active member of the North Russia Club until its winding up.

Edward continued his involvement locally at Operation Dynamo celebrations in Ramsgate and met Dame Vera Lynn on several occasions.

All stand as the choir and clergy enter the Quire

Remain standing as a welcome is offered

The Cantor and choir sing the **Preces**

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 37.1-11

Fret not thyself because of the ungodly :
neither be thou envious against the evil-doers.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass :
and be withered even as the green herb.

Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good :
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thou in the Lord :
and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.

Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him :
and he shall bring it to pass.

He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light :
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.

Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him :
but grieve not thyself at him whose way doth prosper,
against the man that doeth after evil counsels.

Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure :
fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.

Wicked doers shall be rooted out :
and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone :
thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.

But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth :
and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 4.2-5.7*

The branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgement and by a spirit of burning. Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed, over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), in G

Sit

New Testament Reading *Matthew 4.12-22*

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.'
From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'
As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Stand as the choir sings

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995), in G

Turn East and say together the

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholick Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Cantor and choir sing the Versicles and Responses

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Music: Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

The Collects

O God, our refuge and strength, who art the author of all godliness: Be ready, we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda: quando caeli movendi sunt et terra; dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem. Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo, dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira.	*Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death,* *on that terrible day:* *when the heavens and earth will be shaken;* *when you will come to judge the age with fire.* *I am made to tremble, and I am afraid,* *since trial and anger are coming.*
Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, Dies illa, dies magna et amara valde.	*That day, a day of anger, disaster and sorrow,* *That day, a mighty day, and one exceedingly bitter.*
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.	*Give them eternal rest, Lord,* *and may light perpetual shine upon them*

Words: Requiem Mass *Music:* Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Sit or kneel

Prayers *led by the Minor Canon, concluding with*

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

Stand to sing

Hymn *during which a collection is received.*

If you would prefer, please use the QR code



All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

[2]Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

[3]God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

[4]Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

[5]Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930) *Tune:* MICHAEL AM 584

After the collection has been presented, the Standard of the Ramsgate Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club is brought to the bottom of the High Altar steps.

After the hymn, the congregation sits, and the veterans remain standing as the Canon in Residence says

Veterans, we have come together in the presence of God to bless and dedicate your new standard to represent your duty to God, King and Country, and to witness to the purposes and ideals of the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club, and to ask for God's blessing on this standard, to dedicate it to his glory and to pray that he will grant you grace to carry out the high aims which you share.

The Standard is brought to the top of the High Altar steps and presented to the Canon in Residence, who hands it to the Virger as the Presenter says

Reverend Canon, we have brought this new symbol of our comradeship to this House of God that it may be hallowed and made worthy. We ask you to bless it.

The Canon in Residence says

Members of the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club you have come to make your pledge of service and to ask God's blessing upon your standard. Are you ready to make your pledge?

We are ready

Will you honour the standard now committed to you?

We will honour the standard.

Will you pledge yourselves to your association, and keep yourselves steadfast in your obedience to God's will and service, and to support your fellows?

We pledge ourselves.

Will you pledge yourselves to the love of King and Country, and to the welfare of all humankind?

We pledge ourselves.

Will you pledge yourselves to the maintenance of honour and truth?

We pledge ourselves.

The Canon in Residence takes the Standard and unfurls it, saying

In the faith of Jesus Christ, we dedicate and set apart this Standard to be a sign of our duty towards King and Country, in the sight of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The congregation stands as the Standard is returned, and the Standard Bearer moves to the bottom of the High Altar steps and turns to face the Altar

The Canon in Residence says

The Blessing

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

The Standard is lowered as all sing

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!

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!

All remain standing as the Standard is carried to the West end of the Quire and the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary

As part of our commitment to the care of the environment in our world, this Order of Service is printed on unbleached 100% recycled paper.

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