St Mary’s Church

Melton Mowbray Team Parish

**Morning Worship**



*& Battle of Britain*

*Thanksgiving*

10.30 a.m.

Sunday 18th September 2022



**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *and Presentation of Standards and Wreaths.*

1. **Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.**
2. **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.**
3. **Father-like, He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely as His mercy flows.**
4. **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.**

*Please sit*

**WELCOME, NOTICES AND INTRODUCTON**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of love, we thank You for the life of The Queen,

for her service to our nation, and for her faith in You.

Be close to all of us who mourn,

that we may we find comfort and hope in Your love,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**BIDDING PRAYER**

**Minister**: We are gathered here today to worship Almighty God; to remember, in His presence, the victory given to us in the Battle of Britain, and to give thanks for the freedom which was then preserved for us.

With the passing of the years, we pray that the heroism of those who fought may not have been in vain, that our freedom may be maintained and more widely shared, and that we may never lose the vision of God’s Kingdom and His peace.

Now, let us pause to acknowledge those times when we have fallen short of the values of God’s Kingdom. We express our sorrow and seek forgiveness of our sins, confident in the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Silence is kept*

**CONFESSION**

**ALL:** **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**

 **we have sinned against You and against our neighbour,**

 **in what we have thought,**

 **in what we have said and done,**

 **through ignorance, through weakness,**

 **through our own deliberate fault.**

 **We have wounded Your love,**

 **and marred Your image in us.**

 **We are sorry and ashamed,**

 **and repent of all our sins.**

 **For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,**

 **forgive us all that is past;**

 **and lead us out from darkness**

 **to walk as children of light.**

**Amen.**

**ABSOLUTION**

**Bishop Martyn:** May the Father of all mercies

 cleanse You from your sins,

 and restore You in His image

 to the praise and glory of His name,

 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

**ALL**: **We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith**

**for reconciliation between nations, that all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace. Amen.**

**Minister:** All these thoughts, prayers and hopes let us offer to God in the words our Saviour Jesus Christ taught us:

**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,**

 **for ever and ever. Amen.**

**1st READING – Ephesians 6: 10 - 20**

Read by Cllr Alan Hewson

Mayor of the Borough of Melton

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

1. **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.**

**2. Strong Son of Man, save those who fly
Swift-winged across the uncharted 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.**

**3. O Holy Spirit, God's own power,
Give peace in sudden danger's hour
Being 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.**

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

*The Airman’s Hymn*

*Words: William Whiting (1825-1878)*

*Tune: Melita, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)*

**2nd READING – John 16: 31 - 33**

Read by Mr Mike Kapur OBE

 Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire

Jesus said, ‘Do you now believe? A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.’

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**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 question;**

**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.**

1. **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.**

**ADDRESS**

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow

 Bishop of Leicester

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** Fight the Good Fight – John Gardner

**HYMN**

**God is our strength and refuge,**

**Our present help in trouble;**

**And we therefore will not fear,**

**Though the earth should change!**

**Though mountains shake and tremble,**

**Though swirling floods are raging,**

**God the Lord of hosts**

**Is with us evermore.**

 **There is a flowing river,**

**Within God’s holy city;**

**God is in the midst of her**

**She shall not be moved!**

**God’s help is swiftly given,**

**Thrones vanish at his presence-**

**God the Lord of hosts**

**Is with us evermore!**

**Come, see the works of our maker,**

**Learn of His deeds all-powerful;**

**Wars will cease across the world**

**When He shatters the spear!**

**Be still and know your creator,**

**Uplift Him in the nations-**

**God the Lord of hosts**

**Is with us evermore!**

*Please sit* **THE PRAYERS**

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise You that we are made in

Your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank You for the life of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, for the love she received

from You and showed among us. We pray for all who mourn this day including praying for all the Royal Family. Above all, we rejoice at Your gracious promise to all Your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with Your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we remember before You with thanksgiving all those who have given their lives so that others might live, and especially those who served during the Battle of Britain. Grant that their devotion to duty and their great sacrifice may inspire in us a sincere gratitude and a new dedication, that Your Kingdom of peace may come upon us. Let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations, that You will guide them in ways of justice, mercy and truth, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:**  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peacemakers, that You may protect them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our loved ones, wherever they may be and for those who wear the King’s uniform on our behalf, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, that You may turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:**  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the wounded, for all prisoners, captives, refugees and asylum seekers that they may know Your power to heal and save, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this community: we pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women, that we may help, encourage and comfort others, that we may support those who are working for the relief of those in need, and for the peace and welfare of nations, let us pray to the Lord:

**ALL:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we remember the sacrifice of the few for the many in times of war and strife. Grant that, being inspired by their example, we may follow them in their endeavours to work for a world in which peace and justice reign supreme, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

Almighty God, You have promised that they who wait on You shall renew their strength, they shall rise up on wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

We commend to Your Fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Encourage and inspire them in all their efforts, so that they may be a safeguard to our Sovereign King Charles and a sure defence to our nation.

Help us to fulfil our duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that we may prove worthy successors to those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation in the Battle of Britain and other conflicts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*During this hymn the Standards are returned.*

1. **Now thank we all our God,**

**With hearts and hands and voices;**

**Who wondrous things hath done,**

**In whom His world rejoices;**

**Who from our mother’s arms**

**Hath blessed us on our way**

**With countless gifts of love,**

**And still is ours today.**

1. **O may this bounteous God**

**Through all our life be near us,**

**With ever joyful hearts**

**And blessèd peace to cheer us;**

**And keep us in His grace,**

**And guide us when perplexed,**

**And free us from all ills**

**In this world and the next.**

**3 All praise and thanks to God**

**The Father now be given,**

**The Son, and Him who reigns**

**With them in highest heaven,**

**The one eternal God,**

**Whom earth and heaven adore;**

**For thus it was, is now,**

**And shall be ever more.**

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

**THE RAFA DEDICATION**

**read by Squadron Leader Gav Brockie**

In friendship and in service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all nations who died in the Royal Air Force and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause. Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.

**ALL: We will remember them.**

**THE LAST POST**

**THE SILENCE**

**THE REVEILLE**

**Minister:** Think of them. You did not die as these

Caged in an aircraft that did not return.

Whenever hearts have song and minds have peace

Or in your eyes the prides of banner burn,

Think of those who dreamed and loved as you

And gave their laughter, gave their sun and snow,

Their grave blessed by their native dew

That you would live. To them this debt you owe.

Their glory shines above the sky forever,

Though in these things they left to you, the ghost

Should haunt your field of ease and resting river.

Their lives are ended, but dreams are not yet lost

If you remember in your laugh and song

These boys who do not sing and laughed not long.

**PRAYER FOR OUR NEW KING**

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.

Bless his reign and the life of our nation.

Help us to work together

so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness

flourish among us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

**Bishop Martyn:** Go forth into the world in peace;

Be of good courage;

Hold fast that which is good;

Render 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 almighty,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Be with you and all whom you love

In this world and eternity.

**ALL: Amen**

**RECESSIONAL 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.**

1. **Under the shadow of Thy throne**

**Thy saints have dwelt secure;**

**Sufficient is Thine arm alone,**

**And our defence is sure.**

1. **Before the hills in order stood,**

**Or earth received her frame,**

**From everlasting Thou art God,**

**To endless years the same.**

1. **A thousand ages in Thy sight**

**Are like an evening gone,**

**Short as the watch that ends the night**

**Before the rising sun.**

1. **Time, like an ever-rolling stream,**

**Bears all its sons away;**

**They fly forgotten, as a dream**

**Dies at the opening day.**

1. **O God, our help in ages past,**

**Our hope for years to come,**

**Be Thou our guard while troubles last,**

**And our eternal home.**

Do stay and join us for refreshments

if you are able…