

Royal British Legion Combined Service for the Laying-up of Old Standard and Dedication of New Standard

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN 6 Abide with me

During the singing of the Hymn, the Standard Bearer with the Old Standard at the "Carry", accompanied by two escorts, will move forward to within six paces of the Chancel Steps.

He will be followed by the Branch Chairman carrying the New Standard, as yet unfurled, at the Slope, accompanied by escorts.

At the conclusion of the Hymn the Standard Bearer with the Old Standard will move forward alone to the Chancel Steps, the New Standard remaining in position.

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!**

The Branch President will step forward, take the Standard and hand it to the officiating Minister saying:

I commit this sacred Standard of the , Branch of The Royal British Legion to you as Vicar of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, West Derby, for safe keeping in this Holy Church for evermore.

The vicar will say: **I accept the charge.**

The vicar will then take the Standard and lay it upon the Altar to the left.

When the Standard has been placed upon the Altar the Standard Bearer will about turn and march forward six paces. His escorts will turn inwards and the Bearer of the New Standard will hand the New Standard to the Standard Bearer who will about turn. The Branch Chairman and his two escorts will withdraw to their seats.

HYMN 114 Eternal Father, strong to save

At the conclusion of this Hymn, the officiating Minister, having proceeded to the Chancel Steps, shall say:

BRETHREN, we are met together in the presence (and House) of God to take part in the hallowing and dedication of the Standard of the Branch of The Royal British Legion established in this place; and to witness thereby to the noble ideals and great purposes, inspired by Almighty God, which animate the members of the Legion - such purposes being the succour of those our brethren who fought in War and who have fallen out by the way of life, the care of the widows, orphans and other dependants of those who served, the fostering of brotherly love and comradeship amongst all its members, the remembrance of the ideals for which we served, and of our fellow citizens who have laid down their lives for us: and also the preservation of true loyalty and devotion to our Queen and Country at all times, and in all places.

To this end I call upon the members of the Legion and the whole congregation here present, to offer humble prayer to Almighty God, that He will bless this Standard now to be dedicated to His Glory, and that He will inspire the members of the Legion to carry out with a single heart and devoted purpose the high aims for which they are joined in fellowship.

Minister Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

ALL **Who hath made heaven and earth.**

Minister The Lord be with you.

ALL **And with thy spirit.**

The Standard Bearer, with the Standard at the "Slope" will come forward alone and the Standard being brought to the "Order" kneel on the right knee: The Escorts will remain at the Chancel Steps.

PRAYERS

ALL **OUR Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth. as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.**

Minister LORD God of our fathers, Who didst lead this people through countless sufferings, keep us, we beseech Thee, ever mindful of Thy

mercy; pour Thy blessing upon the peoples over whom Thy servant ELIZABETH, our Sovereign Lady the Queen, is ruler; unite us in the bond of brotherhood and in the service of our country; that the offering of our life's work may be acceptable to Thee: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister GRANT, we pray Thee, O Almighty God, that all we who here do honour to the memory of our brethren's loyal sacrifice. may be filled with the spirit of their love and courage, and. forgetting all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the glory of Thy Name, and in the service of our fellow-men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dedication of the Standard

Then shall the officiating Minister unfurl the Standard, lay his hands upon it and say:

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart this Standard. that it may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen and Country in the sight of God and a symbol of the service The Royal British Legion is called upon to render.

The Standard Bearer will then stand and the unfurled Standard will be taken by the officiating Minister and placed on the Altar to the right.

Minister WE yield Thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that Thou has put it into the heart, of these Thy servants to join together in the fellowship of The Royal British Legion in this place and to desire to carry out its aims and purposes; let Thy Fatherly hand ever be over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so guide their meetings that they may set forth Thy Glory, and help forward all the great works to which they have given themselves so that by their witness and their labours the spirit of love and comradeship among those who have served may be advanced in this place, and loyalty and devotion to Queen and Country may be established here on a sure foundation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 31 And did those feet in ancient time

During The singing of this Hymn a collection will be taken. The Standard Bearer and escorts will return to their seats.

THE ADDRESS

HYMN 328 Make me a channel of your peace

During the singing of this Hymn the Standard Bearer will return to the Chancel Steps. The officiating Minister will take the New Standard and return it to the Bearer who will remain with his escorts at the Chancel Steps.

At the conclusion of the Hymn the following ritual shall be observed.

The "Last Post" will be sounded (Standards dip)

Then shall the officiating Minister recite:

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 Legion members will respond:

We will remember them

There shall then follow one minute's silence followed by

"Reveille" (Standards raise).

Then shall the officiating Minister say:

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

To which all will respond:

And rise in Glory.

HYMN 366 O God, our help in ages past

THE BLESSING

Minister MAY the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

After the Blessing the Standard will precede the members of the Legion in procession following the Clergy from the place of the Service. The congregation will remain in position till the Clergy and Legion members have passed.