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Remembrance Sunday.

When the virus first struck this Country huge numbers of people were put into Lockdown, there grew out of it that sense of us all really being in it together. The hope was, perhaps for a while, even the belief, we would come out of it a different Nation. More caring and considerate, thoughtful, even, towards one-another. There is no denying many, many people have responded, and continue to respond magnificently in so many different ways, stepping up to the plate thinking of others before themselves. In times of National Emergency when a Nations freedom, it's very life, comes under threat, the only sure way of survival is for the population to pull together each one depending on the other putting aside all thought of their position in society selflessness in place of selfishness to defeat the common enemy.

In years to come, when historians look back at this troubled time how will they judge it and the people who lived through it? How will the story of these times be recorded? What things will be thought important enough to be passed down to future generations? The way people helped each other? The sacrifices made often at cost to the individuals concerned? Or the empty Supermarket shelves as those who could, hoarded up more than enough for their needs without a thought for the needs of others?

Two World Wars saw our then enemy, Germany, attempt to starve this Country into submission sinking the Merchant ships carrying vital supplies to our island home. Many Merchant sailors and those serving in the Royal Navy, lost their lives at sea as they fought to safely deliver their precious cargoes. As always in such situations, Black Marketeers charged exorbitant prices for goods obtained illegally. (Private Frazer in Dad's Army, for example.) The civilian population suffered greatly from the bombing raids. Thousands of homes destroyed and the infrastructures badly damaged. The Nation was called upon for a second time to take up arms against the common foe.

On the 3rd of September 1939 following the refusal of Adolf Hitler to withdraw his forces from Poland Great Britain declared War on Nazi Germany. For almost six long hard years of suffering rationing of the everyday necessities of life the fear of Invasion in 1940, the Blitz, and bombing raids throughout the United Kingdom, and finally Hitlers last throw of the dice when V1 and then V2 rockets rained down the War in Europe finally came to an end in May 1945. The War with Japan continued until August 1945 when Japan finally surrendered. Civilian casualties were very high. The civilian services, Firemen, Ambulance crews, organisations like the Salvation Army, W.V.S., Doctor's, Nurses, St John's and the Red Cross Ambulance crews, A.R.P. Wardens. (Hodges in Dad's Army?) those working on our

farms and in horticulture, not forgetting the factory workers, ship-wrights producing the armaments necessary to fight a War. Countless individuals who gave of themselves and their time in the service of others. Almost everyone joining in the common cause of defeating the enemy and restoring freedom not just to this Country also to peace loving people's around the globe.

That was on the Home Front. In Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East, battles were fought on land, sea, and in the air. Enormous areas laid waste as the Military forces of all combatant Nations fought one-another. Casualties both civilian and Military were high. Millions suffered years of captivity numbers beyond belief suffered and died by the hands of their captors.

Who were all these people? We know, of course, they were people like us. From all walks of life whose lives were cut short whose gifts and talents became lost to their native Country, whose families would mourn their loss to their life's end. The people to whom memorials of stone stand proudly in every City, Town, Village, and Hamlet, from which they came leaving behind families and friends whom they would never meet again. Such is the cost of War such is the price of freedom!

Remembrance will take on a different form this year. Many church congregations our own included, will be denied the opportunity to gather and pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday as they would have done by joining with the service from the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

That being said however we choose to Remember, we will be giving thanks for our freedom from terror, for the countless lives sacrificed in gaining that freedom, and calling to mind the many, many, service personnel who, as a result of war and conflict, continue to suffer in body and mind as a result of their injuries. In the Apocrypha the Book of Ecclesiasticus chapter 44 v.v. 1—16, begins, "Let us now praise famous men," it goes on to speak of the people who, with many differing abilities, made their Country what it was. Wise Rulers, composers of music, able people living at peace in their homes. Merciful ones. Some have left a name behind them they will be remembered. Many have perished as though they had never been. Their bodies are buried in peace but their name lives on for ever-more. Every Act of Commemoration ensures the names of the fallen live on for evermore. Amen.

Len.

There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

O God. our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast
and our eternal home.

A thousand ages in Your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends
the night before the rising sun.

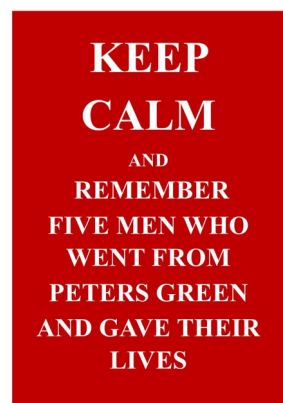
Under the shadow of Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all its sons away,
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies with the dawning day.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting You are God,
to endless years the same

O God our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be our defence while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

Mission Praise. 498.





Roll of Honour

*The Memorial Plaque on the chapel wall reminds
us of the sacrifice five men made
Lest We forget*



Cyril Almond

6th Bn., Leicestershire Regiment. Killed in action on 03 May 1917 Age 21
Son of Henry and Annie Almond, of Chiltern Green.
*Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial*

Hubert William Field

4th Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action on 30 October 1917
Born and lived at Wandon Green
*Remembered with Honour
Poelcapelle British Cemetery*

Richard John Hatton

8th Bn., Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action on 11 August 1917 Age 22
Son of David and Adelina Hatton, of Lawrence End Lodge
*Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial*

James Mumford

"B" Coy. 1st Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action on 22 October 1914
Son of William and Mahala Mumford; husband of Emily Helen Mumford, of Peter's Green
*Remembered with Honour
Le Touret Memorial*

Frank Smith

Remembered with Honour

