



## **Dorchester Town Council Service of Commemoration**

**At The Memorial to German Prisoners of War, Fordington Cemetery**

Sunday 11 November 2018

at

12.30pm for 12.45pm

### **Why we are here ...**

The holding of an annual commemoration at the memorial to German prisoners of war who lost their lives in Dorchester was revived in 1999, but it was a practice which existed throughout the inter-war period and beyond. A report in the Dorset County Chronicle from 15 November 1945 tells how members of the Mill Street Mission placed crosses of Flanders poppies on the graves of the Germans and also on the war memorial in South Walks on Remembrance Day. They held a service in the Corn Exchange in the evening. The Mayor's Chaplain led the service and the Chairman of Dorchester British Legion recited the Exhortation. The Salvation Army Band played.

Today we are not solely commemorating the Germans who died in Dorchester. Wars – whenever and wherever they are fought – affect a great many people. Young and old, civilians and military personnel, wives and husbands, children – everyone.

This morning we remembered the hundreds of Dorchester men and women who, along with countless others of our County, lost their lives in the horrific wars of the twentieth century. This afternoon we remember the millions upon millions of people of many other nationalities who have lost – and continue to lose – their lives through conflict.

## **Order of Service**

### **Welcome by the Rev Fiona Hall, Team Vicar at St George's Church**

#### **Opening prayer**

As we gather here today at this Memorial to German Prisoners of War, we acknowledge the value of every human life, and we remember the millions upon millions of people of many other nationalities whose lives have been affected by conflict and terror

. Help u to treat each person with dignity, and give us the wisdom and courage to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly in all that we do and say.

**Amen**

#### **Poem read by the Mayor of Dorchester German Prisoners by Joseph Lee**

When first I saw you in the curious street,  
Like some platoon of soldier ghosts in grey,  
My mad impulse was all to smite and slay,  
To spit upon you – tread you 'neath my feet.  
But when I saw how each sad soul did greet  
My gaze with no sign of defiant frown,  
How from tired eyes looked spirits broken down,  
How each face showed the pale flag of defeat,

And doubt, despair, and disillusionment,  
And how were grievous wounds on many a head,  
And on your garb red-faced was other red;  
And how you stooped as men whose strength was spent,  
I knew that we had suffered each as other,  
And could have grasped your hand and cried, 'My brother!'

## **Readings by Tess James a Quaker representative and Chairman of the Lübbecke Society**

### **“Aufruf” (Appeal)**

Schneidet das Korn und hütet die Herde,  
indes der Planet um die Sonne rollt!  
Keltert den Wein und striegelt die Pferde!  
Schön sein, schön sein könnte die Erde,  
wenn ihr nur wollt, wenn ihr nur wollt!

**By Erich Kästner, 1899 – 1974**

A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel.

**By William Penn, 1693**

### **Address**

### **Prayers**

Lord we bring to you all prisoners today, prisoners of war and prisoners of conscience. Be alongside all held in captivity physically, mentally or emotionally as a result of conflict and terror. Break the bonds of fear and isolation and bring your peace to families and friends who watch and wait. Mend the broken hearts of those who were never reunited.

God of the nations, you love justice and peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world. Comfort all who suffer as a result of conflict and terror including those whose faith in God and humanity has been weakened or destroyed. Be alongside all who are cut off from those they love. Comfort those who wait for news and those who, like these men we remember today, are never reunited in this life. **Amen**

## Poem by Kurt Rommel to be read by Jill Kohn

Herr, gib mir Mut zum  
Brücken bauen,  
gib mir den Mut zum  
ersten Schritt.  
Lass mich auf deine  
Brücken trauen,  
Und wenn ich gehe, geh du  
mit.

*Lord, give me courage to  
build bridges,  
give me the courage to  
take the first step.  
Let me trust you on your  
bridges,  
And if I go, you go with me*

## The Lord's Prayer

**We say together in our preferred language,**

**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.**

**The laying of wreaths, poppies and flowers led by the Mayor**

## Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.  
adapted from - ancient Gaelic runes.  
**Amen**