

Remembrance Sunday

9 November, 2105

On Sunday 8 November, 2015 two worship services were held by All Saints to commemorate Remembrance Sunday and those who died for peace and security in our lands.

The first was our regular Sunday morning service of Holy Communion. Our Wall of Saints was featured prominently so that our previous congregation and family members and some other saints of the church could look on. Our altar was already



Our altar after mass.



A wreath at our altar and Fr David celebrating Holy Eucharist with his military issue Communion kit.

adorned with a poppy-clad wreath when

we arrived, compliments of the Royal British Legion. Fr David had set up a smaller altar closer to the first pews and for his sermon, he used and explained the portable communion kit that was issued to him when he was a military chaplain. He told us about his worshipping congregation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 9 months of the Balkan War and the stresses upon that deployed group of soldiers during the Kosovar War of independence next door. In particular he showed us how an emergency service of Holy Communion was held, with reserved sacrament, when the combat elements of the Op Palladium Roto II, 2RCR Battle Group deployed from Coralici BH in order to provide security operations at the start of the Kosovar War.

Following our morning service of Holy Communion, which had been advanced to 9:00am, many of the congregation moved to the Mazargues Commonwealth War Cemetery in the 9th arrondissement of Marseilles for an outdoor service of remembrance amongst the war graves. The gathering was jointly sponsored by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and All Saints' Church, Marseille.



Alan McLean read scripture during the Remembrance Sunday worship service.

Andrew Buchanon the Chair of the Cannes Provence Branch of the Royal British Legion arranged for the honour guard and that invitations were sent out; Mr Ian Craig, the cemetery groundskeeper ensured the access gate was open and that the grounds were, as usual, immaculate; and All Saints' conducted the worship service.

Amidst prayers and the singing of hymns, and during two minutes of silence, wreaths were laid by Mrs Helen Brooking representing our church of All Saints, by Lt Col Edward Carter of the British Army, and by

Andrew Buchanon on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

Marseilles was the base of the Indian troops in France during the 1914-18 war. Throughout that war the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, British troops and Labour units worked in the port or passed through it. The bodies of Hindu soldiers and labourers were cremated from 1914 to 1916 and from 1917 to 1919, Mazargues was the primary place of burial of Indian soldiers and Indian, Egyptian, and Chinese labourers. The cemetery covers 9,021 square metres.

There are 1,738 casualties buried in Mazargues; this includes 1,487 from WWI and 267 from WWII.



Mrs Helen Brooking laid a wreath on behalf of All Saints Church.

The honour guard from various branches of the Royal British Legion at the beautiful Mazargues Commonwealth War Cemetery

