

**ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
St Clement Danes  
Church



## **The Aircrew Association**



Service to commemorate the closing down  
of the Aircrew Association  
as an International Body  
And to lay up the ACA Standard  
in the Royal Air Force Church

held at St Clement Danes  
on  
5th May 2011 at 11.00

**The church is fitted with a hearing loop.  
Please turn off your mobile phones.**

*Music by:*

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force,  
*under the direction of*

Flight Lieutenant Piers Morrell LRSM LTCL DipTCL RAF

*The Band plays by the kind permission of the Air Force Board of Defence Council*

*and by:*

The Choir & Organist of St Clement Danes

*Director of Music*

Peter Long MSc FTCL ARCS ARCM

Organ Music before the Service

Adagio in G Minor

*Albinoni*

# Order of Service

Conducted by  
THE VENERABLE RAY PENTLAND QHC BA DPS MTh RAF  
Chaplain-in-Chief Royal Air Force

Assisted by  
THE REVEREND DAVID OSBORN BD AKC RAF  
Resident Chaplain

And  
THE REVEREND 'BILL' PEGG  
Honorary Chaplain to the Aircrew Association

*At 1100 preceded by the cross of St Clement Danes,  
the clergy procession will enter by the West Door.*

*All Stand*

*The Choir will sing:*

INTROIT

O praise God in his holiness

*Psalm 150 setting by Stanford*

THE BIDDING given by The Resident Chaplain

We come together in the presence of Almighty God to give thanks for the work of the Aircrew Association and to lay up the standard of the ACA. We honour the many from all three services who are currently serving or have served in the Air Forces of the United Kingdom and those Nations allied to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Especially we give thanks for all those who gave their lives so that we might live in peace and prosperity.

Grant that we may continue the work which you have given us to do and come at last to your everlasting Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*The ACA standard borne by Flt Lt Tom Broughton I Eng BEd (Hons)  
National Standard Bearer, is paraded into church as all sing:*

HYMN – God is our strength and refuge

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!

*Words from Psalm 46*

*Music Dambusters*

*All Sit*

READING

A Veteran's Hope (by R. Craven)

Read by

Air Commodore Des Richard CBE MRAeS, Chairman ACA

I hope there's a place way up in the Sky  
Where veterans can go, when they have to die  
A place where a guy can buy a cold beer  
For a friend and a comrade whose memory is dear

A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread  
Nor a veterans affairs type would ere be caught dead  
Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, a little smoke  
Where they like to sing and have good joke  
The kind of place where a lady could go  
And feel safe and protected by the men she would know

There must be a place where old vets go  
When their pain is finished and their walk gets slow  
Where the whiskey is old and once again we are young  
And songs about wars and comrades are sung.  
Where you see all the fellows you have known before  
And they call out your name as you come through the door  
Who would buy you a drink if your thirst should be bad  
And say to the others "he was quite a lad".

And then through the mist you spot an old guy  
You have not seen in years and you realise the past has gone by  
He would nod his head and grin from ear to ear  
And say "welcome buddy, I'm pleased that you're here  
For this is the place where veterans come  
When their journey is over and the war has been won".  
They've come here to be happy and get a good rest  
This is Heaven my son – you've past the last test.

## THE LESSON

Ephesians Chapter 6 Verses 10 to 18

Read by

Colonel John Goodsir CBE, Vice Chairman ACA

Finally my bretheren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

## ADDRESS

by the President of the Aircrew Association,  
Air Marshal Peter Walker CB CBE BA

### *All Stand*

## HYMN – The Airmen's hymn

O Ruler of the earth and sky  
Be with our airmen when they fly;  
And keep them in your loving care,  
Amid the perils of the air;  
O let our cry come unto Thee  
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

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.

O Holy Spirit, God's own power,  
Give in sudden danger's hour;  
Bring calm of heart and be Thou near  
To those who watch and those who fear.  
To Thee will rise our grateful prayer,  
Of those who serve Thee in the air.

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

Words *Anon*

Music *Melita*

*All Sit*

## THE SERMON

*Given by*

The Venerable (AVM) R.J. Pentland QHC BA DPS MTh RAF  
Chaplain-in-Chief Royal Air Force

## CHOIR ANTHEM

How lovely are thy dwellings fair

*Brahms*

*All Stand*

## THE LAYING UP OF THE AIRCREW ASSOCIATION STANDARD

The Chaplain-in-Chief will say:

“It is an ancient and laudable custom to lay-up in the House of God the consecrated emblems of man’s duty and service, there to remain for all time as a reminder of duty well done and of the strength that God supplies”.

The President will say:

“ Venerable Sir, I ask you to receive this Air Crew Association standard for safe lodging in the House of God until such a time as it shall pass to dust like those whose courage and devotion are enshrined in its history”.

The Chaplain-in-Chief will reply:

“We receive this standard into the safe keeping of God’s House, here to hang for all time as a reminder to those who pass by of man’s duty to God, to his Sovereign, and to this country”.

*The Chaplain-in-Chief, followed by the President, will proceed to the altar rails where he will receive the standard from the President and lay it upon the Holy Table. The President is then to turn about and resume his seat. The Chaplain-in-Chief will then say the following prayer:*

“Almighty and Everlasting God, giver of all strength and grace, and Captain of our Salvation, we offer in this thy House the symbol of man’s faithfulness. May thy blessing rest on those who have borne it, and may it ever remain a sign of that unity which springs from the acceptance of thy grace, who art with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen”.

*All sit or kneel*

## PRAYERS

Led by the Reverend ‘Bill’ Pegg, Honorary Chaplain ACA

We pray for the peace of the world; for statesmen and rulers that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right; for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed. And for all men and women the world over that they may have justice and freedom and live in security and peace. These prayers we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

We also pray for all who suffer as a result of war; for the injured and disabled, the mentally distressed, for those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents, and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief. This prayer we ask through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Amen**

Hear us, O Lord, as we pray for your Blessing upon our Gracious Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Family, our Houses of Parliament and our Commonwealth. We add our prayers for all who serve in our Armed Forces at home or abroad, on land, sea, or in the air, as they strive to keep the peace and defend the right. We also pray for all ordinary men and women who aim to live a life of goodness and love. These prayers we ask through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Amen**

May we now pray together for all young people and the future of all the nations represented here today.

**All. Father of all, we pray for your blessing on young people, on our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, deliver them from the false and fatal attractions of a faithless world and all who would exploit their youth and innocence. Send into your vineyards labourers who will guide our young into the ways of moral goodness, truth and love that they may come to know and enjoy that life which Christ died to give us. Lord God hear and grant our prayer.**

**Amen**

*All Stand*

The Aircrew Association Dedication Prayer

*Led by the Honorary Chaplain ACA*

To be repeated by *all aircrew*

Through the comradeship of aviation  
United with the Aircrew of the Royal Air Force  
The Royal Navy and the Army past and present  
And the Aircrew of the Commonwealth  
The United States and other Nations  
Who are drawn into the comradeship of this Association  
We pledge to keep the memory of those who died  
In the cause of justice, freedom and peace  
In their name  
We dedicate ourselves to this most noble cause  
Reverently and gratefully  
We will remember them.

*All*

**We will remember them**

## THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*The Honorary Chaplain ACA says:*

Let us remember before God,  
and commend to his sure keeping;  
those who have died for their country in conflict;  
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

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 We will remember them.**

LAST POST

SILENCE

REVEILLE

KOHIMAH EPITAPH

Read by Geoffrey Hulett (Chiltern Branch)

When you go home tell them of us and say:  
'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

*The Choir will sing:*

GOD BE IN MY HEAD

*Walford Davies*

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

*All remain standing to sing:*

## 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 clergy procession, led by the Cross of St Clement Danes,  
moves to the West door.*

*The congregation is requested to remain seated  
until directed to move by the ushers.*

*There will be a retiring collection in aid of the continuing work of  
St Clement Danes Church.*