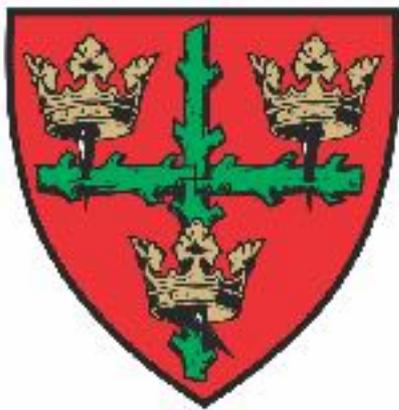


A Service of Thanksgiving on Battle of Britain Sunday



Sunday 16th September 2018
11:00am

St Peter's Church
in the Colchester Town Centre Parish

HISTORICAL NOTE

Battle of Britain Sunday commemorates the great victory won by the Royal Air Force, which saved Britain from invasion in 1940.

The enemy's object was to eliminate the Royal Air Force, both in the air and on the ground, and to obtain air superiority for a seaborne and airborne invasion.

Confident of success, the gathered formations of the Luftwaffe along the French and Belgian coasts began their first heavy onslaught early in July, directed against British shipping and the channel ports. The intention of this first phase of the battle was to draw our Air Force into battle and wear down its strength. The second phase, from 8th – 18th August, consisted of intensive day operations against coastal radar stations and fighter airfields. The third phase began after a 5-day lull with increased night attacks and attacks on the fighter airfields in the London area.

The daylight assault on London itself marked the beginning of the fourth phase, which opened on 7th September with attacks on the docks, which although serious in themselves, brought vital relief to the fighter airfields which had been under such pressure. This phase lasted most of the month and reached a climax on 15th September, when over one thousand sorties were flown against the capital in the afternoon and at night. The Luftwaffe suffered a heavy defeat, losing 56 aircraft.

Throughout October, the fifth and last phase saw the decline of enemy daylight attacks on London and an increase in the night bombing of Britain's major ports and industrial centres.

At the beginning of the battle the Luftwaffe had no fewer than 2790 aircraft to launch against England. To meet this aerial armada we had fewer than 60 fighter squadrons, representing some 650 aircraft, and the ground staff had sometimes to work 16 hours a day to keep the machines in the air. Between 24th August and 6th September alone, Fighter Command lost 103 pilots killed and 128 seriously wounded, while 366 fighters had been put out of action. The position was indeed grave.

On Sunday 15th September came what Sir Winston Churchill called "one of the decisive battles of the war" and with it the Luftwaffe's greatest defeat. In Churchill's famous words, "The gratitude of every home in our island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by the odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, turned the tide of the world war by their prowess and their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte, Praise Trust

THE INTRODUCTION

We are here to worship Almighty God,
whose purposes are good,
whose power sustains the world he has made;
who loves us though we have failed in his service;
who gave Jesus Christ to be the life of the world;
who by His Holy Spirit calls us to his way.

As we give thanks to God,
we remember those who have lived and died
in His service and the service of others;
we shall pray for all in need or suffering through war;
we shall ask His help and blessing
that we may do His will,
that the whole world may be one with Him.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

HYMN: Praise, my soul, the king of heaven!

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven!
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

THE CONFESSION AND COLLECTS

Let us now confess to God
the sins and shortcomings of the world.
Let us confess our share in what is wrong
and our failure to seek and establish
that peace which God wills for his people.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,
from whom true peace comes,
open our minds and hearts to a true love of peace.
Defend us your servants
from the assaults of our enemies,
that we may trust in your defence,
and not fear the power of any adversaries.
Guide us always in the ways of peace and charity
for all nations and peoples,
and grant wisdom to all in authority,
that justice may prevail here on Earth
as it is in Heaven.
Amen.

O Lord,
we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power
faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



**REFLECTING ON
THE RAF 100 —
THE REMARKABLE
TRUE STORY
OF FLYING OFFICER
CYRIL BARTON VC**

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 45.1-7

read by Belinda Mireku (Cadet, 308 ATC)

- 1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
- 2 "I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
- 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
- 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west,
that there is none besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
- 7 I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the Lord, who does all these things.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: God is our strength and refuge

[SPK leave for their groups]

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!

© Richard Bewes (born 1934), after Psalm 46

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 12.7-12

read by Peter Wallace (Cadet, 308 ATC)

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle-shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me, bright Heaven's Sun!
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish 8th Century, Public Domain

THE SERMON

HYMN: Who is on the Lord's side?

Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King?
Who will be His helpers, other lives to bring?
Who will leave the world's side?

Who will face the foe?

Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go?
By Thy call of mercy, by thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord's side — Saviour, we are thine!

Not for weight of glory, nor for crown and palm,
enter we the army, raise the warrior psalm;
but for love that claimeth lives for whom He died:
he whom Jesus saveth marches on His side.
By Thy love constraining, by thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord's side — Saviour, we are thine!

Jesus, thou hast bought us, not with gold or gem,
but with thine own lifeblood, for thy diadem;
with thy blessing filling each who comes to thee,
thou hast made us willing, thou hast made us free.
By thy grand redemption, by thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord's side — Saviour, we are thine!

Fierce may be the conflict, strong may be the foe,
but the King's own army none can overthrow;
'round his standard ranging, vict'ry is secure,
for his truth unchanging makes the triumph sure.
Joyfully enlisting, by thy grace divine,
we are on the Lord's side — Saviour, we are thine!

Chosen to be soldiers, in an alien land,
chosen, called, and faithful, for our Captain's band;
in the service royal, let us not grow cold,
let us be right loyal, noble, true and bold.
Master, wilt Thou keep us, by thy grace divine,
always on the Lord's side—Saviour, always thine!

Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879)

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Duncan Breckels (Lay Reader, St Peter's)

At the conclusion of the prayers:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE NOTICES

HYMN: Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), Tr. C. Winkworth (1827-1878)

THE ACT OF EXHORTATION

*led by James Burgoyne
(Chairman, Royal British Legion: Colchester Branch)*

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.

We will remember them.

Silence is kept.

THE ACT OF REDEDICATION

On this Battle of Britain Sunday
let us praise God
for those who planned, prepared and fought,
to the end that our country should not be helpless
before the challenge of an invader.
Let us also offer ourselves anew to the service of God
and of our neighbour.

**Teach us, good Lord,
to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward
save that of knowing that we do your will.
Amen.**

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice:
God save the Queen.

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*Please remain standing
as the Standard-Bearers, Choir and Clergy exit.*

*Lunch is served in the North Churchyard
(or, if wet, in the Church Hall)
shortly after the end of the service.
Everyone is welcome.*

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CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

starting soon

What's the best news you've ever heard?



Cyril Barton VC

(5th June 1921 — 31st March 1944)

Was it surprising? Did it change the way you think? Or was it something you wanted to be true but didn't dare hope?

Christianity Explored is a relaxed and informal way of sharing the best news you can ever hear, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life.

Over seven sessions in Mark's Gospel, guests find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

starts on Monday 8th October

31 St Peter's Street, from 7:45pm

for more information, contact Rev Aella Gage

aella.gage@gmail.com or 07796 475130

DIARY DETAILS

Sunday 16th September

9:45am Morning Service (*St Botolph's*)
11:00am Battle of Britain Service (*St Peter's*)
followed by Lunch in the Churchyard
3:00pm Confirmation Service (*St Peter's*)
6:30pm Joint Evening Service (*Castle*)

Monday 17th September

all day the ReNew Conference (*Leeds*)

Tuesday 18th September

all day the ReNew Conference (*Leeds*)

Wednesday 19th September

10:30am Midweek Communion Service (*St Peter's*)
7:30pm Crosslands Ministry Training (*the Vicarage*)

Saturday 22nd September

9:15am PCC Meeting (*in church*)

Sunday 23rd September

9:45am Communion Service (*St Botolph's*)
11:00am Morning Service (*St Peter's*)
6:30pm Joint Evening Service (*Castle*)

CONTACT DETAILS

The Town Centre Parish Office

01206 572529 & towncentrepishoffice@gmail.com

Associate Minister: **Aella Gage** (07796 475130)
Churchwarden: **Dan Watts** (866630)
Churchwarden: **Wendy Whitfield** (790431)
PCC Secretary: **Bernice Watts** (572529)
PCC Treasurer: **Richard Lawn** (540510)
Safeguarding Rep: **Anne Kavanagh** (07544 391882)
Vicar: **Mark Wallace** (572641 or 07772 615378)
Vicar's PA: **Bernice Watts** (572529)

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CHURCH NOTICES

Christianity Explored starts soon... on Monday 8th October. For further information, please see the invitation cards or contact Aella Gage.

Our new Parish Safeguarding Representative is now Mrs Anne Kavanagh, who should be the first point of contact for any safeguarding issues or concerns in the church, the parish, or the diocese.

Car parking — free and nearby — is now available to any at St Peter's who would find it helpful on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, please speak to Mark (572641) or Bernice (572529).

Today (16th September)...

- the 11am service is a military service for the **Battle of Britain Sunday**, with the ATC, the RAFA and the Royal British Legion in attendance;
- **the Big Lunch** (for everyone!) will be in the churchyard from 12:30pm to 2:30pm (in the Hall if wet);
- the **Confirmation Service** will be at 3:00pm, as we welcome Bishop Roger and the families and friends of the ten candidates.

The next PCC meeting will be on Saturday 22nd September, 9:15 for a 9:30 start, meeting in church.

The Tuesday Community Group will meet again on the 25th September at 12noon, starting with a light lunch.

St Leonards Church, Lexden, are holding a Flower Festival over the weekend of the 6th October. Everyone is very welcome at any of the events planned. For more information, please see the noticeboard.

On Sunday 14th October there will be an evening of poetry and music at Colchester Art's Centre with the launching of Alice Goss' history/poetry book. All the proceeds will be donated to St. Peter's Guest House Project, Emmaus, The Night Shelter, CRSG (bus conversion project) and the Food Bank. More details can be found on www.facebook.com/ColchesterPoetryProject/

For more information about St Peter's, please refer to www.stpeterscolchester.org or [www.twitter.com/StPeters_CO11DZ](https://twitter.com/StPeters_CO11DZ) or www.facebook.com/stpeterscolchester