

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN  
SOUTH BENFLEET

*Remembrance Sunday 2018 – CWGC Memorial Service*

**Introduction**

We have gathered in St Mary's Churchyard today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the World Wars and whose graves are listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, and the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered. We also remember the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare.

The memorials here are, of course, the tributes of those who remained anxiously at home in this community, let us pray that God will heal all memories, speak a word of peace, and bring us his healing.

Lord, have mercy.        [All] *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy.     [All] *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy.        [All] *Lord, have mercy.*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Reading**

[A young member of the local community reads an account by one of the Old Testament prophets of God's intention to make a new covenant, to bind people together in a common cause.] Jeremiah 31.31-34

[At the end, the reader says]

Blessed are the peacemakers, [All] *for they shall be called children of God.*

[The reading of the names: see the list]

[[After all the names inscribed on the memorial have been audibly read, a senior citizen from the local community says:]]

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.*

### The Commitment to Peace

Let us pledge ourselves today to live as good neighbours, to honour the past, to care for all who are in need, and to live at peace among ourselves and with all people.

[All] *Lord God, Father of all, we pledge ourselves to serve you and this neighbourhood, to bring relief to all who are in need, and comfort to the sad, lonely, and distressed; Keep us ever mindful of the struggles and achievements of former generations, and of this place where we pay tribute to the fallen, now, and in the days to come. Amen.*

### The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, the departed rest, the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all the world peace and concord;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. [All] **AMEN**

[A British Legion Remembrance Cross is now placed on the CWGC graves during the Remembrance 2018 National Peal of Bells]

British servicemen recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves  
Commission in the Churchyard at The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,  
South Benfleet

CROZIER, LEONARD AUBREY

Rank: Flight Lieutenant

Trade: Pilot                      Service No: 141472

Date of Death: 14/10/1944              Age: 26

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Son of Leonard John Alfred and Willa Blanche Crozier, of South Benfleet; husband of  
Margaret Benita Crozier of South Benfleet.

ELLEN, VICTOR SAMUEL

Rank: Private                      Service No: 6027768

Date of Death: 05/12/1940              Age: 28

Regiment/Service: Essex Regiment, 8th Bn.

Son of John and Florence Ellen, of Canvey Island.

FREEMAN, PERCY ERNEST

Rank: Leading Aircraftman                      Service No: 545216

Date of Death: 12/07/1941              Age: 21

Regiment/Service: Royal Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Freeman, of Tiptree.

