



GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A Service of Commemoration to mark the
80th anniversary of D-Day**

D-Day 80

**Foreshore Green, Priory Road, Hardway
Sunday 9th June 2024**



10.10 HMS Sultan marching platoon will form up along with the Royal Marine Volunteer Cadet Band, Cadet units, Standard Bearers and veterans on Priory Road

10.20 The Parade will step off from Priory Road

10.30 The Parade will arrive at the Foreshore Green, Hardway
Standards take post around the Memorial area

10.35 Macebearer to lead the Mayor's party from Hardway Sailing Club to the memorial site

10.45 All VIPs in position

O/C Opening address from Reverend Emma McPhail

10.58 Parade brought to attention – The Revd Emma McPhail will lead the Act of Remembrance followed by Mr Robert Bartlett, Chairman of the Alverstoke and Gosport Royal British Legion who will recite the Exhortation.

The Kohima Epitaph will be recited by Mr Robert Bartlett, Chairman of the Gosport and Alverstoke Royal British Legion

O/C Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL and the Worshipful the Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Richard Earle, will lead the wreath laying at the Memorial

O/C The Reverend Emma McPhail will continue with the order of service.

O/C Royal Marine Volunteer Cadet Band will play the first verse of the National Anthem.

On Conclusion the Parade Commander will address Admiral Sir Jones confirming the Parade is complete and requesting permission to dismiss.

ORDER OF SERVICE

St John's School Choir: I vow to thee, my country

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above
Entire and who and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar, the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul, and silently, her shining bounds increase
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are
peace.

Opening address and Prayer:

Reverend Emma McPhail, Mayor's Chaplain

On D-Day 80 years ago, from 6th June 1944, many allied troops moved into Normandy, by land, sea and air, to push back the invading forces of the enemy in World War 2. Many left from this very shore in Hardway, some never to return again. Today, we remember those who sacrificed their own freedom to pave the way for ours. We will remember their bravery and their loved ones. We remember that the freedom we enjoy today is a result of 'Operation Overlord', fought on the beaches of Utah, Juno, Omaha, Gold, and Sword.

We give thanks for the freedom D-Day achieved for our country, our families and future generations. And we acknowledge all those who serve to preserve that freedom and peace today.

Gracious God, thank you for the valiant men and women who have defended, and do defend us. May we not take our freedom for granted and only use it for the good of all around us. As we particularly remember all those who serve, and have served, in the military, especially during times of war, we thank you for your mercy and for the current peace on our shores. We commit to you those who patrol these waters on a daily basis and ask for your protection of all those around us here working in defence and on the sea. **Amen.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

A reading and 'The Lord's Prayer': Reverend Emma McPhail

In the gospel of John, chapter 15, these words of Jesus Christ are recorded: 'This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.' (John 15:12-13). As we begin our remembrance of those who have laid down their lives for us, let us pray together in the way that Jesus taught his disciples...

(The Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in
heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and 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,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

The Exhortation: Led by the Royal British Legion

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**
- **2 Minute Silence**
- **Reveille**

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

Music by the Royal Marine Volunteer Cadet Band

Wreath Laying

Led by Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL and the Worshipful the
Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Richard Earle

**A reading by the Worshipful the Mayor of Gosport,
Councillor Richard Earle**

Today we remember.
Although they are gone, they remain.
As the years and generations pass,
They live on through our children and thoughts.
We thank them for their service, for peace, freedom and our
sovereignty.
Their sacrifice will not be forgotten.
Today we remember.

**A MEDLEY OF SONGS PERFORMED BY ST JOHN'S
SCHOOL CHOIR**

A Reflection read by St John's School

On 6th June 1944, the combined armies of Britain, America and Canada, joined together in the largest military operation on land, sea and air ever attempted. Thousands of troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, to win Europe back from German control. The Germans were not ready for D-Day!
An elderly man called Peter remembers this day, saying, 'I was 7½ and my brother was 6½. We were playing in the garden and my mother called us in. It was a strange situation because I had never seen my mother cry and there were tears rolling down her cheeks. I wondered what on earth was going on. She put her arms around me and my brother and she said, 'I want you to remember this day for the rest of your lives.' I later found out why. It was because she had just heard on the radio that the soldiers had landed in France and, like many people, she was relieved that this was the beginning of the end of World War 2.

*Source: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-d-day
(edited and adapted)*

ALL: Land of Hope and Glory

Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the free
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider, shall thy bounds be set;
God who made thee mighty, make the mightier yet!
God who made thee mighty, make the mightier yet!

Repeat

The Blessing: Reverend Emma McPhail

May the blessing of God Almighty, the eternal living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, watch over those we love, protect those giving their lives in both military and civilian service, continue to bless us with peace in our land and remind us of the sacrificial nature of true love. May we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ - who gave his own life for us all, and provides us with the ultimate example of love, forgiveness and reconciliation. May he bless your families, friends and loved ones near and far. May he bless you with all comfort, peace and joy as you enjoy the rest of this day. Amen.

ALL: The National Anthem

**God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!**

PARADE DISMISSAL

The Friends of Hardway would like to invite you to enjoy community refreshments/ice-creams etc on the Green on conclusion of the Civic Parade

Free Tea/coffee/squash and cake & biscuits are also available at Gosport Waterfront Baptist Church, 102 Grove Road (around the corner from the Windsor Castle Pub), from 11:15am-12:45pm.

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Gosport Borough Council would like to express their thanks to the following for their kind assistance in donations of water for this event:

Marks & Spencer, Brockhurst Gate
Tesco Express, Carless Close, Rowner
Morrisons, Gosport



By attending this event consent is given to Gosport Borough Council to use photo(s) or any recording for the purpose(s) of official Gosport Borough Council business, including social media