



# H.M.S. HOOD

**Service of Commemoration  
for those who lost their lives  
on 24 May 1941**

An online service from  
St. John the Baptist, Boldre  
Sunday 24 May 2020

# H.M.S. HOOD

Lost in action with the Bismarck 24 May 1941

Extract taken from the Despatch of  
Admiral Sir John Tovey,  
KCB DSO Commander Home Fleet.

“HOOD and PRINCE of WALES sighted the enemy at 05.35 hrs., and came into action at 05.53 hrs., steering to close the range as fast as possible. All three ships opened fire practically simultaneously at a range of about 25,000 yards. The shooting of both HOOD and the BISMARCK was excellent from the start and both scored hits almost at once. The BISMARCK’s second or third salvo started a fire in the vicinity of the port after 4” mounting. This fire spread rapidly and at 06.00 hrs., just after the ships had turned to open A arcs, HOOD was straddled again. There was a huge explosion between the after funnel and the main mast, and the ship sank in 3 or 4 minutes. She had fired only 5 or 6 salvos. The loss, by one unlucky hit, of this famous ship with Vice-Admiral Holland, C.B., Capt. Ralph Kerr, C.B.E., and her fine crew was a very grievous blow”.

There were only 3 survivors of the entire ship’s company of 1,418.



# ORDER OF SERVICE

## WELCOME and INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*Nigel Henley*

### OPENING HYMN

*During the singing of the first hymn, a member of the City of London Sea Cadets would normally bring the Book of Remembrance solemnly to the Sanctuary and Altar in procession with the Standards. They would have been placed there for the duration of the service.*

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all its sons away,  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

## OPENING SENTENCE and BIDDING PRAYERS

*Rev. Canon Andrew Neaum*

The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

**O God, our Father, we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed: we have not loved thee with all our heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. Have mercy upon us, we beseech thee; cleanse us from our sins; and help us to overcome our faults; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PSALM 46

- 1 GOD is our hope and strength : a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God : the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed : God shall help her and that right early.

- 6 The heathen make much ado and the kingdoms are moved : but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither and behold the works of the Lord : what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world : he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then and know that I am God : I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

### **FIRST LESSON**

Micah 4 : 1-4

*Lieutenant Commander Oliver James*

### **ANTHEM**

Locus Iste - *Anton Bruckner*

*Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.*

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery;  
it is without reproof.

### **SECOND LESSON**

John 15 : 9-17

*Captain Catherine Jordan*

## HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,  
    Forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
    In purer lives thy service find,  
    In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
    Beside the Syrian sea  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
    Rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
    Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
    And let our ordered lives confess  
    The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
    Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, & fire,  
    O still small voice of calm!

## HOMILY

*Rev. Canon Andrew Neaum*

## HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep.  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose Almighty word,  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
and calm amid its rage didst sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood  
upon the chaos dark and rude,  
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,  
and gavest light and life and peace  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,  
our brethren shield in danger's hour:  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them whereso'er they go:  
and ever let there rise to thee  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

## THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks*

A Commemoration of Vice Admiral Lancelot Holland C.B. and of the 1,415 officers and men who lost their lives in HMS HOOD in action with the enemy in the North Atlantic on 24 May 1941.

We are met together to commemorate and to commend to the love of God all those who died in His Majesty's Ship HOOD: to give thanks for their lives and their example, to pray that we may be worthy of their sacrifice, and that there may never be wanting in this realm a like succession of people of spirit, humble and unafraid.

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.

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure safekeeping, those who have died for their country in war; especially we remember those who served in HMS Hood and gave their lives in the service of their country. We remember with thanksgiving all who laid down their lives in the two World Wars, and those who have served in more recent and current conflicts. We pray for all whom we knew, or whose memory we treasure, and all who have died in the cause of peace and the service of mankind. **Amen.**

## THE LAST POST

*Rosie Taylor*

## SILENCE

## THE REVEILLE



## THE LAYING OF WREATH

*Titch Blachford*

When you go home  
Tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today.

## NAVAL PRAYER

*Commodore Andy Jordan*

Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; Be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and air, and from the violence of the enemy, that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the sea upon their lawful occasions: that the inhabitants of our island and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God: and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Rev. Canon Andrew Neaum*

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

O God our Father, the Creator and Giver of life now and in the world to come; we praise and thank you for your servants who

counted their lives not dear to themselves, but laid them down for their friends. We beseech you to remember for good their loyal service and their faithfulness to death, and to fulfil in them the loving purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God our Father, we pray for all who serve our country within the armed forces. Grant that meeting danger with courage, and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace, to the honour of your name. **Amen.**

Almighty God, direct the hearts and minds of those who bear in their hands the government of the people of our nation. Make them to uphold honour and justice, to restrain evil and oppression, and to seek the true prosperity of our nation and the welfare of humankind. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE SHIP'S BELL - TODAY

#### HYMN

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 the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same forever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
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 with us the God of grace.

## **THE BLESSING**

*Rev. Canon Andrew Neaum*

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and to all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with you and abide with you always. Amen.

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,	Thy choicest gifts in store
Long live our noble Queen,	On her be pleased to pour
God save the Queen.	Long may she reign.
Send her victorious,	May she defend our laws,
happy and glorious,	And ever give us cause
long to reign over us	To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.	God save the Queen.

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Festival Toccata – *Percy Fletcher*

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It is with immense gratitude that we record our appreciation for all who have been involved in today's Commemoration and without whose help this service would not have been possible, including:

Lieutenant Commander Oliver James  
Captain Catherine Jordan  
Commodore Andy Jordan  
Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks  
Titch Blachford  
Nigel Henley  
Rob White  
David Mearns  
Rev Canon Andrew Neaum  
Timothy Rice  
Rosie and Adrian Taylor

Excerpts from  
**'FOR YEARS UNSEEN'**  
- *How HMS Hood's Bell Came Home*  
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and Andy Jones and Rob White, Copia Productions.

The full film, lasting 30 minutes, can be viewed online at:

<https://www.maritimefilmsuk.tv/films/years-unseen-hms-hoods-bell-came-home>

or visit [www.maritimefilmsuk.tv](http://www.maritimefilmsuk.tv)