



Sung Eucharist

in memory of
the aircrew of
Lancaster ED823

and

Dedication of the
Halam Lancaster Bomber Memorial

April 10th 2011
11.00 am

Lancaster ED823

In the early hours of Saturday 10th April 1943 Lancaster ED823 belonging to 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit (H.C.U.) took off from RAF Winthorpe, near Newark. At 01:25 the aircraft crashed in Halam shortly after take-off, just eight miles from the airfield.

1661 H.C.U. at RAF Winthorpe was a unit set up to train aircrews to fly heavy bombers such as the Manchester and Lancaster. The six week course was designed to "convert" the crews from flying lighter aircraft to larger, heavier bombers with four engines. The final part of the aircrews' training course was night navigational exercises, such as the flight ED823 was making when it crashed.

All seven crew members were sadly killed in the accident.

The crash site is about 1/2 mile from the centre of the village of Halam. It is on the west facing slope of a gentle hill; in 1943 the field was pasture, now in 2011 it is part of Norwood Park Golf Course.

The Memorial

It was felt that the tragic events of that night should not be forgotten, or go unmarked, so small group of Halam residents started a project to erect a memorial to honour the sacrifice of the seven aircrew.

Two year later the idea has become a reality, and a memorial stone stands near the crash site.

The Halam Lancaster Memorial displays the badges of the airforces of Great Britain, Australia and Canada in honour of the three different airforces from which the crew was drawn.

Welcome and Introduction

Andrew Paris: Halam Lancaster Bomber Memorial Group

The Sung Eucharist

Rev. David McCoulough

Hymn: *All People that on earth do dwell*

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why! the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

The president may say

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

All The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,**
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy
heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,
and with all thy strength.
This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this:
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
There is none other commandment greater than
these.
On these two commandments hang all the law
and the prophets.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these
thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against thee
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed, through
negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve thee in newness
of life
to the glory of thy name.
Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect (Prayer for the day)

Readings

Psalm 139.7-12

David Lean - nephew of the Lancaster pilot, LW Lean

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *I vow to thee my country*

I VOW to thee, my country,
all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect,
the service of my love:
the love that asks no question,
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.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John from Ch 11

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Ven. Robin Turner DL

Prayers of Intercession

All Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of thy Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and with thy spirit.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
All It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty ...

...Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, ...

... by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be unto thee,
O Father almighty,
world without end.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

*Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has
taught us*

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is sung as the bread is broken

All **O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst
come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be
healed.**

This prayer may be said before the distribution

All **We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy
table.
But thou art the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
o to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by
his body
and our souls washed through his most
precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and
he in us.
Amen.**

*The president and people receive communion or a blessing
(please hold order of service to indicate you would like a
blessing)*

Prayer after Communion

All **Almighty God,
we thank thee for feeding us
with the body and blood of thy Son Jesus
Christ.
Through him we offer thee our souls and
bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of thy Spirit**

**to live and work
to thy praise and glory.
Amen.**

HYMN: *God is our strength and refuge
(tune Dambusters March)*

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 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

The Blessing

*We then process or drive to the memorial site
on School Lane*

The Dedication of the Memorial

The Bidding

We are gathered here, in the presence of God, to give thanks for the services rendered to our Country and the cause of freedom by all who served as Aircrew in the Royal Airforce during World War II, remembering especially those who lost their lives in these fields whilst carrying out their duties. Their names appear on this memorial stone. We also remember all the men of Bomber Command who lost their lives in the service of our Country

The Lord's Prayer

All:

**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 them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thins is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

The Dedication

Let us pray:

Let us remember before God, and commend to His sure keeping all those who have died for their Country in peace and war; those whom we knew, and those whose memory we treasure, and all who lived and died in the service of their Country and mankind.

To the Glory of God and faith of Jesus Christ, we dedicate this memorial to the memory of:

Flight Sergeant Leonard Lean

Sergeant Frank Dunkin

Flying Officer Edward Lambert

Sergeant Henry Oxspring

Sergeant William Graham

Flight Sergeant Raymond Lewis

Sergeant William Stephenson

Wreath Laying

The Exhortation

They shall not grow 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 Last Post

Then shall follow one minutes silence.

The Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

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

Prayers

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God, and our fellow men. That we may help, encourage, and comfort those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of all nations.

All **Lord God our father, we pledge ourselves to serve Thee and all mankind, for the cause of peace, for the relief and want of suffering and for the praise of your name. Guide us by Thy spirit; Give us wisdom; Give us courage; Give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always.**

AMEN.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, Queen, the Commonwealth, and all human kind, peace and concord; and to us and all His servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you always.

AMEN.

The Aircrew



Left to right: Raymond "Tony" Lewis; William "Jock" Graham; Edward "Ted" Lambert; Leonard "Len" Lean

A Lancaster bomber required a crew of seven to fly it on operations. The pilot sat in the left-hand seat of the cockpit with the flight engineer to his right. The flight engineer had a fold-down or "dickie" seat, but would have spent much of the flight standing.

Behind the pilot and flight engineer was the navigator's position. He sat at his chart table, behind a small blackout curtain to shield the pilot from his reading lamp.

Further back from the navigator sat the wireless operator with his transmitting and receiving equipment.

The bomb aimer was forward of and below the pilot. He would man the front gun turret until it was time for the bomb run. He would then drop down to look through the perspex bubble at the front of the Lancaster, guiding the pilot in on the target.

The other two crew members were both air gunners. One would man the mid-upper turret, the other would man the tail turret - probably the loneliest position in the plane.

Len Lean - Pilot



Len was born in Wentworth Falls in New South Wales, Australia in January 1921. He volunteered for service in the RAAF in September 1940, and his initial flight training began in June 1941 in Australia. He was awarded his "wings" on 6 February 1942.

On 16 May later that year he embarked for England, and the start of his operational training.

When he had finished his operational training on Wellington bombers at RAF North Luffenham, Rutland he was posted to RAF Winthorpe on 9 March 1943.

It was usual at 1661 HCU to train on both Manchester and Lancasters. Len's log book records his initial flights on Manchesters, but there are no entries after the end of March.

He is buried in Newark cemetery.

Frank Dunkin - Flight Engineer



In January 1940, Frank was living in Armidale near Sydney, Australia when he heard on the radio that the RAAF was recruiting. He wrote to the local recruiting centre offering to volunteer for the airforce; he was 18 years and 5 months old.

As he had four years experience working in a motor garage he had technical and practical experience so initially he started training as an aircraft fitter - a ground

based role, then in the summer of 1941 he was shipped to England and reclassified for aircrew training as a Flight Engineer. He would be trained to support the pilot by "keeping the kite flying" - he would be responsible for keeping the planes systems running in flight; the electrics, hydraulics, pneumatics, fuel systems and so on, would all

be his responsibility.

He was posted to RAF Winthorpe a couple of weeks before Len Lean. He was Len's Flight Engineer on that fateful night. He is also buried at Newark cemetery,

Ted Lambert - Navigator

The Navigator, Ted Lambert, lived with his wife Lavinia in Overhulton near Bolton, Lancs. At 34 he was looked on by the rest of the crew as "the daddy" of the aircrew as he was "so much older" than the rest of them. He was also the most senior officer onboard ED823 when it crashed.

Ted worked as a reporter on the "Fleetwood Chronicle" as a young man, before taking over the family business - the Manor Road Dairy. When war broke out he volunteered for the Police Reserve. He then decided to join the RAF.



He was sent to Canada for aircrew training and returned as a Leading Aircraftman. Later being promoted to Flying Officer.

On his death he left behind a grieving widow, and a young son, Geofery. He is buried in Fleetwood Borough Cemetery, near Blackpool.

Harry Oxspring - Bomb Aimer



Harry came from a large family living in Hoyland Common, near Barnsley, Yorkshire. He had six brothers and three sisters.

In January 1941 he left his job at the Brough aircraft factory as a craft inspector to join the RAF. His initial training was at RAF Abbey Lodge in London, after which he was sent to the No. 7 Initial Training Wing based at Newquay, Cornwall.

Initial Training Wings taught basic flying theory, service protocols etc and also sorted recruits into their potential RAF trades (pilot, observers/navigator, wireless operator/air gunner etc). Harry was chosen to be a bomb aimer.

In the photograph he sits proudly displaying his sergeants stripes and the "O" badge with a half-wing, his Observers' Half Brevet badge.

He is buried in the Hoyland Nether Cemetery

William Graham - Wireless Operator

William, known to his friends as Jock, was the son of Robert and May Graham, from Maryhill, Glasgow.

He was a machine tool setter when he volunteered for the RAF in Edinburgh in March 1941.

After basic training, he was promoted to sergeant and was then sent to 29 Operational Training Unit, arriving on the same day as Len Lean. The next day Tony Lewis joined them, and the core of the aircrew was formed.

Sadly we have not been able to trace any family or relatives for Sgt Graham. He is buried in the Glasgow Western Necropolis.



Wireless Operator's "half-wings" - "S" for signals

Raymond “Tony” Lewis - Air Gunner



Tony volunteered for the RCAF in his home town Melfort, Saskatchewan, in Canada in the Autumn of 1941. His ambition was to be a pilot, fighting for the Commonwealth, but after six months initial flight training it was deemed that he was more suitable to be an air gunner.

He passed his training and was awarded his Air Gunner's Badge at the end of July, 1942. He left Canada for England the next month. Six weeks further training followed,

after which he joined 29 OTU and his fellow airmen who were to form the crew of Lancaster ED823.

He is buried in Newark cemetery along with his two Australian colleagues.

Air Gunner's badge - both Flight Sergeant Lewis and Sergeant Stephenson would have worn this badge



Billy Stephenson - Air Gunner



Billy was born in Edinburgh into a fairly large family of four boys and two girls. Billy's parents moved to Leicester where they kept a corner shop, and the family were well known in the district.

Billy volunteered for the RAF in February 1941 and began his training for aircrew.

Despite not having perfect eyesight, Billy managed to pass the initial tests and

was trained as an air gunner.

The Lancaster had two air gunners; one was midway along the top of the fuselage, the other was right at the back of the plane. The "tail-end" gunner was a very vulnerable position and the loneliest role of the aircrew. The air gunners kept a keen watch for incoming enemy fighters, and also any "wandering" friendly bombers which might threaten to collide with their own Lancaster.



Many thanks...

The erection of this memorial would not have been possible without the support, assistance and kind generosity of many individuals and groups - we are extremely grateful for all the help received in realising our project.

In particular we wish to acknowledge; Nottingham County Council for funding through the “Local Improvement Scheme”; Lafarge Aggregates & Concrete UK for the donation of the granite boulder; Sir John Starkey and the Trustees of Norwood Park for the memorial site; Halam Paris Council for supporting the project.

Our thanks too go to; Shani Lambert; LDC Restorations Ltd.; D&M Monumental Masons; Acer Landscapes; Sir Edward & Lady Helen Nall; The Waggon & Horses. Halam and Thwaites Brewery.

... and also to everyone else who helped us in anyway, no matter how small: this wonderful memorial wouldn't have happened without you.



“Lest we forget”