

The Dedication and Blessing of the Royal Navy Clearance Divers' Memorial Garden



Horsea Island – 7th October 2016

Welcome & Introduction

The Revd James Tabor RN

As we gather on this special occasion to bless the Royal Navy Clearance Divers' Memorial Garden we give thanks for the sacrifices made by all divers but especially those named today who risked the depths of the ocean for their country. We pray for all members of the Clearance Divers Branch: those departed this life, those still alive but unable to join us and those with us today. We give thanks for all those involved in bringing this project to completion and for the continued work of all Divers.

Reading Psalm 107:23:32

Those who go down to the sea in ships and ply their trade in great waters,
These have seen the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep,
For at his word the stormy wind arose and lifted up the waves of the sea.
They were carried up to the heavens and down again to the deep; their soul
melted away in their peril.
They reeled and staggered like a drunkard and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and he brought them out of their
distress.
He made the storm be still and the waves of the sea were calmed.
Then were they glad because they were at rest and he brought them to the
heaven they deserved.
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and the wonders he does
for his children.
Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people and praise him in the
council of the elders.

Address

The Revd Martin Evans RN

THE NAVAL 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.

Lord God, our power forevermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with us all beneath the sea;
Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.

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.

BLESSING & DEDICATION of the Memorial Garden

Lord as we dedicate this garden to the memory of those Clearance Divers who have served their Queen and Country, we ask you to bless this Garden, that it may be a memorial to the courage, sacrifice and valour of Clearance Divers now and in the years to come, in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

COMMEMORATION OF NAMES

(Names of those who have died since the Branch was founded are read out)

“Five Bells”

*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 Prayers

Let us give thanks to God for all who risk their lives for others and for the sake of peace in our world.

Almighty and everlasting God, the creator and upholder of all, who has in every age inspired your servants with courage and skill, we give you thanks for the example of those who have gone before us; for the sea-farers and, in particular the divers of our nation; for all who have braved the perils of the deep; for all who have given their lives for their country and served in war and in peace. For ourselves grant, O Lord, that we may be conscious of your ruling hand. May we be found watchful at our posts. Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, sharing their joys and bearing their burdens in the work which you have given us to do; and keep us always in your love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us pray for our families and friends

O God, who sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live in an earthly home, we pray you to bless our homes, and all who live in them; grant that we may always remain faithful to them, and they to us, and help us to remember that though time and distance may part us, we are all one in you for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Lord, help us to strive for all that makes for peace. Help us seek to heal the wounds of war and inspire us to work for a just future for all humanity. We pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace and security, for the preservation of further loss of life and the relief of need and suffering. Guide us by your Spirit; and give us wisdom, courage and hope; now and always. **Amen**

*The Memorial Garden is entrusted into the Clearance Diving branch keeping
on behalf of the Nation*

BLESSING

GOD grant to the living, grace: to the departed, rest; to the Queen, our nation, the Commonwealth, and all humanity, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting. **Amen**



In a fraction of a second they are projected into eternity and will never possess a final resting home. They have graves without bodies, they are an exceptional breed of people. It is an utmost prouddness of myself to have met these men, those lords that I salute, praise and admire.

Winston Churchill PM on Royal Navy Clearances Divers

September 1944