



# Commemorative Service to honour Edward John Mott VC DCM Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 St Peter's Church, Drayton

Conducted by the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE,  
Bishop of Dorchester

Prelude: Solemn Melody *Sir Henry Walford Davies KCVO OBE*

Welcome and Opening Prayer *Bishop Colin*

## **Welcome to you all.**

Edward John Mott, who we are honouring today, was born here in Church Lane, Drayton on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1893. Edward (who was known as 'Jack') was the first son of his parent's second marriage. He had two brothers and fifteen half-brothers and sisters. Here present today are over forty of Jack's direct descendants, including his surviving daughter, Edna Coggins, who is here with her husband, Bernard and their family. Jack and his wife, Evelyn had a family of four boys and four girls, seventeen grandchildren, an even larger number of great grandchildren and a growing number of great-great grandchildren! In attendance today are also descendants of Jack's half-brothers and sisters as well as nephews of his wife, Evelyn.

I should also like to welcome Colonel John Bridgeman, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, who is representing our Queen, the Lord Mayor of Abingdon and the Chairman of the Vale White Horse District Council and leader of Oxfordshire County Council. Jack Mott served as a professional soldier in the Border Regiment, and we welcome Major Shaun Laidler who is representing The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, the Borderers successor regiment. Our local army base is represented by serving soldiers from 3 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, based in Dalton Barracks, Abingdon., including RSM Danny Lowe and his colleagues, and our bugler today is Rifleman James Howard from the BAND of PSI 7 RIFLES

Finally may I welcome the current residents of Drayton, including the representatives of the Parish Council who have organised this commemoration.

You are all most welcome.

Jack Mott left Drayton in December 1910 at the age of 17 to enlist in the Border Regiment in Carlisle, he never lived in the village again, although he lived nearby in Milton for most of the rest of his life. Jack was a very brave man; he was highly decorated winning not only the Victoria Cross, but also the second highest award for bravery the Distinguished Conduct Medal as well as being mentioned in Dispatches. Jack survived the First World War and served on the Home Front during WW2. He died in Witney in 1967.

## **Gathering prayer:**

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

*You are our God, with us in all the times of life to offer hope and light and comfort.  
We come to you now with thanks: thanks for our freedom, thanks for our peace; thanks for our prosperity and security.  
On this day, we thank you especially for the women and men who gave of themselves in times of war to help to ensure the blessings that we enjoy. The names, the faces, the stories come to us once*

again and we honour them, their courage their sacrifice, their willingness to put themselves in harm's way for a better world.

Almighty God you have created us in your image and have called us to live in peace and mutual love. Forgive our sins and our failure to live according to your will; and give us grace to serve you, and our brothers and sisters for your sake. For all who came before us, for all those who gave from their hearts, who gave from their lives, that there might be a better world, a safer world, we pray for peace in their name.

May we never forget. Keep us faithful Lord God and give us the encouragement that we need. May we encourage one another in the faith and ministry of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn 366:** O God Our Help in Ages Past

Bible reading: Isaiah 40: 28-31 *Howard Stone, Grandson*

Address: Colonel John Bridgeman CBE TD DL,  
Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

**Hymn 134:** For All the Saints

Eulogy: Cllr Richard Webber

Dedication of the memorial stone *Bishop Colin*

'As we bless this Commemorative Stone in memory of Edward John Mott help us O God to honour you, and him, by our actions and our aspirations. May this stone, and all it commemorates, lead us to love you with all our hearts and to serve you in our lives. Then indeed will this stone be a blessing both in this generation and for generations to come. In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen'

Wreath laying (tbc)? – Edna Coggins (Daughter)

The Rainbow *written by Leslie Coulson at Transloy, August 8th, 1916*  
*read by Jennifer Sandison, Granddaughter*

*I watch the white dawn gleam,  
To the thunder of hidden guns.  
I hear the hot shells scream  
Through skies as sweet as a dream  
Where the silver dawnbreak runs.  
And stabbing of light  
Scorches the virginal white.  
But I feel in my being the old, high, sanctified thrill,  
And I thank the gods that dawn is beautiful still.*

*From death that hurtles by  
I crouch in the trench day-long  
But up to a cloudless sky  
From the ground where our dead men lie  
A brown lark soars in song.  
Through the tortured air,  
Rent by the shrapnel's flare,  
Over the troubleless dead he carols his fill,  
And I thank the gods that the birds are beautiful still.*

*Where the parapet is low  
And level with the eye  
Poppies and cornflowers glow  
And the corn sways to and fro*

*In a pattern against the sky.  
The gold stalks hide  
Bodies of men who died  
Charging at dawn through the dew to be killed or to kill.  
I thank the gods that the flowers are beautiful still.*

*When night falls dark we creep  
In silence to our dead.  
We dig a few feet deep  
And leave them there to sleep –  
But blood at night is red,  
Yea, even at night,  
And a dead man's face is white.  
And I dry my hands, that are also trained to kill,  
And I look at the stars – for the stars are beautiful still.*

*By Leslie Coulson*

**Choir:** Christ as a Light *Margaret Rizza*

**Two minute silence followed by Reveille**

**Address:** Bishop Colin

**Prayers of Intercession** *Anthony King*

*Bless those who serve in our armed forces at this time.  
We remember before You the men and women serving overseas, and we are mindful of the anxiety, fear  
and cost to the lives of family and loved ones who remain at home.  
Be with our sailors, soldiers and air personnel who find themselves in danger. May they serve the cause of  
justice, peace and freedom, to the honour of Your Name.*

*Bless our friends and those who were our enemies, who suffered or are still suffering from war. Grant that  
Your love may reach out to the wounded,  
the disabled, the mentally distressed, and those who faith has been shaken  
by what they have seen and endured. Comfort all who mourn the death of loved ones and all who this day  
miss the camaraderie of friends and comrades.*

*Bless our young people.  
Forbid that our children should ever see the flames of war or know the depth of cruelty to which men and  
women can sink.  
Bring quickly the day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall neither shall they learn war anymore.*

*Bless Your Church throughout the world.  
Pour upon Your people in this and every land,  
The courage to lead lives lived in service to others, selfless and faithful.  
May we be instruments of that peace, bringing peace to our homes, our communities, our nation and our  
world.*

*God of love, justice and power, bless our nation  
Give wisdom and strength to all who help govern it and direct our common life  
May law and order, prosperity and sense of community flourish and thrive for the benefit of all and to the  
glory of Your Name. Amen.*

**Lord's Prayer – Bishop Colin**

**Hymn:** I Vow to Thee My Country (*words overleaf*)

**Closing Prayer & Blessing** *Bishop Colin*

*Teach us good Lord to serve Thee as thou deservest;  
To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds;*

*To toil and not to seek for rest;  
To labour and not to ask for any reward,  
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

*A Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)*

Postlude: Nimrod from Enigma Variations - *Edward Elgar*

## **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.

*Words: Cecil A. Spring-Rice, 1918.*

*Music: Thaxted Gustav T. Holst, The Planets 1921*

