

Remembrance Day Service

Monday November 11th, 2024 at 10:30a.m.

On behalf of the Old Cestrefeldians Trust, which organises the service, OCT Chairman, Frank Gorman welcomed all present including representatives of Brookfield School and the Vice-Principal of Chesterfield College.

The service was led by Revd Ron Smith, the Past President of the Old Cestrefeldian Society. Brookfield School and OCs took part in its delivery.

Tony Hine also gave a presentation on the lives and service of Joseph Edward Goddard and John Alfred Turner who are commemorated on the WWII Plaque outside the former Headmaster's Study. A transcript follows.

The Last Post was heard before two minutes' silence was observed. The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

[A video of the whole service is accessible here.](#) The Service begins after about 21 minutes.

Immediately after the service, those present reassembled outside the former Headmaster's Study.

Memorial wreaths were laid between the WWI and WWII memorials by OCS President, Stephen Pettett, Pippa and Jonah, representing Brookfield Community School and Craig Acaster representing Chesterfield College.



Left:
After the Remembrance Service, Rev Ron Smith is joined by Pippa and Jonah.



Right:
Stephen Pettett, OCS President, positions the OCS/OCT wreath.



Left:
Pippa and Jonah are joined by Mrs Andrea Williams, Assistant Head Teacher, in front of the be-wreathed memorial plaques.



Right:
Mr Craig Acaster, Head of HR, having added the wreath on behalf of Chesterfield College.

We are very grateful to Chesterfield College, West Studios, for their assistance in making all of the above possible.

Photographs and videos are courtesy of Brookfield Community School and Derrick Priestley, OCS Chairman.

JOSEPH EDWARD GODDARD AND JOHN ALFRED TURNER

Each year, we remember one or more OCs who made the ultimate sacrifice and who are commemorated on the plaques now located here outside the old Headmaster's study. We also have publications giving details of the OCs named on the plaques for both world wars, thanks to extensive work undertaken by Old Cestrefeldians Mike Briggs, Philip Riden and John Drabble.

Today, I would like to recall Joseph Edward Goddard and John Alfred Turner, both of them members of 101 Squadron, part of No. 1 Group, Bomber Command, based at RAF Ludford Magna in Lincolnshire. The Squadron flew Lancaster Bombers fitted with a secret radio jamming system codenamed "Airborne Cigar." By transmitting over Germany, the aircraft were especially vulnerable to attack, and 101 Squadron had the highest casualty rate of any in the RAF.

Joseph Goddard was born and lived in Grassmoor in 1916, where his father was a miner. He won a minor scholarship from Grassmoor School to the Grammar School. In 1939 he joined the Hampshire police before volunteering to join the RAF in August 1941. Having been sent to America for training in January 1942, he was awarded his wings in August of that year and joined 101 Squadron as a sergeant navigator. On 28th July 1943, he was the navigator in a Lancaster bomber which was taking part in Operation Gomorrah, the mass bombing of the port of Hamburg. His plane was shot down by a Messerschmitt 109-night fighter. None of the crew survived and he was buried in Hamburg Cemetery.

John Turner was born in Chesterfield in 1915, the son of a master butcher. After attending the Grammar School, he became a law student and solicitor's managing clerk before volunteering for the RAF and becoming a navigator, with the rank of flying officer. On 13th August 1944, his Lancaster bomber was shot down by a Luftwaffe Junkers Ju night fighter over Sulingen in Lower Saxony while on a mission to Brunswick. None of the crew of eight survived and he was buried in Hanover Cemetery.

As well as being commemorated here on our Memorial Plaque, the names of Goddard and Turner are included on the Walls of Names surrounding the imposing Memorial Spire at the Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln. These record the names of nearly 58,000 men and women who lost their lives serving or supporting Bomber Command during World War II.

Brookfield Community School Remembrance Service

A service was later held at Brookfield Community School when the OCS was represented by Nigel Moss (OCS Secretary), Steve Winnard and Philip Tooley and a wreath laid on behalf of the Society and the Trust.



Photographs courtesy of Brookfield Community School.

The Brookfield School wreath was placed in the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust display cabinet that is located in the School Reception area.

