

I thank you all for your attendance here today for the Act of Remembrance for ANZAC Day. I would particularly like to thank Lord Vestey, our Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Group Captain Paul Nicholas, representing The Australian High Commission, Counsellor Carl Berensden, representing The New Zealand High Commission, Mr Andrew Crompton, representing the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Squadron Leader Andy Marshall Officer Commanding 501 Squadron RAuxAF, representing RAF Brize Norton. We also extend a very special welcome to Mr Kevin Dixon, the Grandson of Henry John Dixon who served here at Leighterton during the 14-18 War, Special thanks to Ms Meryl Hatfield, the Headmistress of Leighterton Primary School, and her staff for all the work they have achieved with the pupils of the school; and like me you will be impressed with the way they have supported this very special day.

It is important today that we look back and in particular remember those Australians and New Zealanders who gave their lives at Gallipoli in an attempt to secure world peace. On 25 April 1915 Allied Forces started to land on the beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsula, in the fighting which lasted for 8 months, 87,000 Ottoman and 56,707 Allied Troops were killed which include 8,709 Australians and 2,779 New Zealand soldiers of the newly formed Australian New Zealand Army Corps. Today we salute all who died in the campaign. We particularly remember the 24 Airmen buried here in Leighterton. It is however also a solemn day in the UK as we remember the 73,000 British and Irish Troops who lost their lives at the Battle of Gallipoli.

The Children from Leighterton School are going to place rosemary on the graves of the 24 airmen in this cemetery; rosemary is also traditionally worn on ANZAC Day in Australia. It is significant because it grows wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula. I thank all our Standard Bearers for attending today; they bring solemnity and dignity to our Act of Remembrance. Thank you to everyone for attending and taking part in this very special Act of Remembrance.