

# GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

**12 November 2014**

### **Green Oak School Children Remembers the Fallen**

On Tuesday, 11 November 2014 Green Oak School marked Remembrance Day with a reflective service at the school, led by the Reverend Beverley Hunt.

The whole school had been thinking about the priceless value of peace and some of them wrote poems. They also prayed for the servicemen buried in Eashing cemetery whose lives had been offered to maintain peace in our country. These included Frank Collyer who served in the Royal Horse Guards and was injured at Ypres in May 1915; he died of his wounds in October 1915, aged 25 years; and Howell Thomas, who lived in Station Road, Godalming, and served in the machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He died in March 1920, age 22 years, two years before the Corps was disbanded. The children also thought about those parts of the world currently where people are caught up in war and do not know peace and security in their lives.

Among the staff and children at the service were the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Andrew Wilson, the Reverend Robbie Harvie and Mr John Walsh. The Mayor read the bible passage to the 148 children present and they reflected on what Remembrance Day is about and why poppies are used to remember the fallen. The whole experience was enhanced by a bugler, Mr Ray Pont of the Godalming Band, who played The Last Post at the end of the Exhortation. A minute's silence was observed as the children held their crosses in an act of remembrance.

Rev Beverley said, "we are grateful to Godalming Town Council who helped us to organise this service, which was initially going to be held at Eashing cemetery so that the children could lay crosses on the graves of those service-men interred there. However, it was very special having it at the school. The children shared what they had learnt about the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in their lives". Speaking on the day, the Head of School, Ms Wendy Todd said that the service was an important

opportunity to bring the school and local community together and for the children to think about how history has shaped their lives today.

The Mayor of Godalming said "I was extremely impressed by the Remembrance Service held at Green Oaks School and especially impressed by the understanding shown by those pupils who read the Exhortation and the commitment of all the pupils who have promised that "we will remember them".

End

For the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Notes to Editors: This is the third year running that Godalming Town Council and Green Oaks School have worked together to enable the children to understand the importance of the war graves in Eashing Cemetery which is located next to the school.

For Further information please contact:

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