



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST**

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY  
COMMEMORATION**

**Friday 26 January 2024  
2pm**

**Art Gallery Gardens  
Sheep Street  
Kettering**



**Kettering**  
TOWN COUNCIL



# PROGRAMME

## WELCOME

by the Mayor of Kettering – Councillor Emily Fedorowycz

We come to our act of memorial for those who died in the Jewish Holocaust and who have been victims of genocide in conflicts around the world including very recently.

This is a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Bosnia, together with recent atrocities and killings in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Through this moment, we can honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.

## RAISING THE FLAG

The Mayor will lead attendees onto Bowling Green Road to the nearest flag pole

Raise the flag....

From the rising of the sun until its setting.

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy –

Remember your people.

Two Minutes Silence

(everyone to return *to the Gardens, by the Fountain*)

## INTRODUCTION

by David Walsh , Rector of SS Peter and Paul Church, Kettering

### **Prayers of Hope and Confession:**

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others simply because they are different from us. In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness. Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

*(Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Senior Imam Qari Asim have come together and written this special prayer which is intended to be used by people of any faith at their HMD)*

## REFLECTION

### WHAT IF IT WERE ME BY NAOHM HANNON

Russell Attwood , Kettering Baha'i Community:

I was walking through the park one day  
Pottering about in my usual way  
When I saw two surly youths staring at me  
Two surly youths, with a boy pinned to a tree  
The youth called out, "You got something to say?"  
I bent my head low and went on my way  
But something stopped me, a sound, helpless and weak,  
It got louder and turned into a shriek.

I stopped in my tracks, "who would help me?  
What hope would I have were I pinned to a tree  
I could now hear their taunts and jeers  
With words so foul they burned my ears  
I turned on my heels and strode back to the tree  
Where the two boys stood, staring at me

"Its wrong and disgraceful, what you have done here  
Its behaviour like this that spreads violence and fear  
Everyone is different , no two are the same  
To judge someone inferior is cause for shame  
This isn't a game to share with a friend  
Its up to everyone to make racism end"

The youths sulked off and I noticed with glee  
That the boy was smiling, smiling, from under the tree

## ACT OF COMMEMORATION

### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT (STOCKHOLM JAN 2000)

A candle will be lit by the Mayor.  
All attendees are invited to lay a pebble at the base of the fountain, as an alternative to lighting individual candles, in memory of victims of genocide.

David Walsh to read

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh, master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
It isn't pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men let we receive  
And in dying that we're born to turn around

Oh, master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

*Words: St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1182-1226 paraphrased Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997 , Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy © OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE S-920702 for Jan 27, 2022*

## **WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON**

### **The Mayor, Cllr Emily Fedorowycz**

#### **We Refugees            by Benjamin Zephaniah**

I come from a musical place  
Where they shoot me for my song  
And my brother has been tortured  
By my brother in my land.

I come from a beautiful place  
Where they hate my shade of skin  
They don't like the way I pray  
And they ban free poetry.

I come from a beautiful place  
Where girls cannot go to school  
There you are told what to believe  
And even young boys must grow beards.

I come from a great old forest  
I think it is now a field  
And the people I once knew  
Are not there now.

We can all be refugees  
Nobody is safe,  
All it takes is a mad leader  
Or no rain to bring forth food,  
We can all be refugees  
We can all be told to go,  
We can be hated by someone  
For being someone.

I come from a beautiful place  
Where the valley floods each year

And each year the hurricane tells us  
That we must keep moving on.  
I come from an ancient place  
All my family were born there  
And I would like to go there  
But I really want to live.

I come from a sunny, sandy place  
Where tourists go to darken skin  
And dealers like to sell guns there  
I just can't tell you what's the price.

I am told I have no country now  
I am told I am a lie  
I am told that modern history books  
May forget my name.

We can all be refugees  
Sometimes it only takes a day,  
Sometimes it only takes a handshake  
Or a paper that is signed.  
We all came from refugees  
Nobody simply just appeared,  
Nobody's here without a struggle,  
And why should we live in fear  
Of the weather or the troubles?  
We all came here from somewhere.

## **A WORD FROM UKRAINE**

**Reading by Natasha Mamonova;  
Composed specially by the Ukrainians in Kettering**

In shadows of history, a tale unfolds,  
Holocaust's echoes, where darkness moulds.  
A cruel war's grip, both past and present,  
Ukraine's struggle, hearts heavy, but still resolute.

In the haunting whispers of a tragic past,  
Holocaust's sorrow, a legacy cast.  
Yet today, on Ukrainian soil, anew,  
A battle for peace, for freedom to renew.

Through tear-stained pages, the stories blend,  
Holocaust's pain and Ukraine's fight extend.  
Amidst the echoes, a resilient plea,  
For a world where peace reigns, and all are free.

War's bitter chorus, a mournful song,  
Yet hope persists, in the face of wrong.  
Let unity rise, dispelling the night,  
A future where love conquers the fight.





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**The Mayor thanks you for your attendance, and  
wishes you a safe journey home**

The Mayor of Kettering, Cllr Emily Fedorowycz

Kettering Town Council  
[www.ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk)



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