

# Ilminster Town Council: Deputy Mayor's Report

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## 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Since our last meeting in October, I have had the honour and privilege of being present at the following events, in the company of or on behalf of the Mayor and Town of Ilminster.

- **11am, Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.** On Armistice Day, I joined the Mayor in attending a gathering before Ilminster War Memorial, to observe the two-minute silence. The short ceremony was organised by the Ilminster Branch of the Royal British Legion and their Chair Mr. Kevin Joslyn and led by our Vicar the Revd Jo Stobart. The weather was kind to us and there were many in attendance, including a large contingent from Herne View Primary School.
- **Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.** On completion of the two-minute silence and in the company of the RBL Chair and Standard Bearer, I attended a small ceremony of remembrance at the former Adult Learning Centre. Organised by the school, a small posy of poppies was laid at the memorial in the garden, dedicated to those former school pupils who were killed in World War I. Readings were given by some of the present-day pupils, as part of a project reflecting on the experiences of soldiers during the conflict. It was poignant to note that one of the children who laid the posy, was from one of our Ukrainian families, currently sheltering from a present day European conflict.
- **Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.** I was privileged to attend the 'Welcome and Installation of The Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley as the 80<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Bath and Wells' at Wells Cathedral. An historical event dating back to the creation of the bishopric in 909 by King William Rufus, it was certainly an honour to witness.
- **Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.** On Remembrance Sunday I attended St Mary's Parish Church, Chard for their Remembrance Service. This involved meeting at Chard Guildhall and parading to the Church through the streets of Chard. Once again, the weather was glorious. The sun shone throughout the parade and the wreath laying ceremony prior to entering the church and the service. Along the route and outside the church it was good to see so many had gathered to pay their respects.

- **Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.** On the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, I attended our own Service of Remembrance at the Minster. The weather continued to favour us and in the setting winter sun, as we laid our wreaths and remembered those who had fallen, the Minster provided a wonderful glowing backdrop. On completion we escorted the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Brigadier Richard Toomey DL to the dais set up on Orchard Vale to take the parade salute. Thank you to all those who helped organise, manage, and coordinate this important annual event. Particular thanks go to the Town Council Office, who did a lot of work in the background and ringing around on our behalf.

Brian Hamilton | Deputy Mayor | Ilminster Town Council