



Press Release
For immediate release

issued 11th February 2011

Oak tree to commemorate the 'generous spirit' of the people of Wootton Bassett

An English Oak, the *Quercus Robur Fasigiata*, more commonly known as the Cypress Oak, will be planted in the grounds of St. Bartholomew & All Saints Church on Friday 18th February at 12 noon in tribute to the respectful actions of the townspeople at repatriations through their High Street.

The Wiltshire Tree People, an organisation that works towards the conservation, planting and appreciation of trees in Wiltshire and the world, is giving the tree as a living gift to be enjoyed for generations to come.

The idea behind the tribute comes from John Neale, Chairman of the Wiltshire Tree People. "I felt it was important to express our thanks to the people of Wootton Bassett for their unwavering respect at each fallen soldier's repatriation," he says, adding, "They represent so many of us who appreciate the regard they show others. The tree will stand as testimony of our regard for them."

Vicar of Wootton Bassett, The Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse, says, "The worshipping community at St. Bartholomew's feels privileged to have been asked to provide the space and place for this commemorative tree, given to the people of Wootton Bassett by the Wiltshire Tree People."

Residents and visitors to Wootton Bassett have stood in shared silence and respect as repatriated fallen military personnel have journeyed through the town since 2007. This is scheduled to come to an end in September as RAF Lyneham is closed.

The Reverend Canon Woodhouse continues, "That a tree will form part of the ongoing witness to the fallen and solidarity with their families is very appropriate, for we read in The Revelation to John that, "On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

A brass plaque will accompany the tree and will bear the inscription,
*“Presented to the people of Wootton Bassett to record their generous
spirit in honouring the fallen heroes of war 2007 – 2011.”*

-ENDS-

338 words

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

For further information, please contact Johnathan Bourne at the Wootton Bassett Town Council office
on 01793 850222.

VISUALLY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER TO BE PRESENT.

Wootton Bassett Town Council
117 High Street
Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire SN4 7AU
Tel: 01793 850222