

FFWPU UK: Over 70 Gather for our National Annual Memorial Service 2025

Bogdan Pammer
August 3, 2025



On Sunday 3rd of August brothers and sisters made their journey to the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland in Stanton Fitzwarren. They came to attend the National Annual Memorial service, a time when our community come together to remember and honour our beloved ascended members.



It was good to be together on this special occasion. There was a quiet understanding and care among each other. We sat together in a full Holy Oak Community Hall, and some sat outside under a gazebo as the forecast for the day was potential rain. Fortunately, it did not rain, and we ended up with a beautiful sunny afternoon.



Annerose A our MC welcomed us and guided us through the service. Our main message was given by Bogdan Pammer, a message full of poetry and meaning comparing our life to the 2 sides of the Jordan river, crossing on the other side was our eternal home. The musical contributions of Russell G. on the guitar, David R. on the flute, Viola D. with a beautiful song by Enya from the Lord of the Rings and Bernard C. with 'Without you' sang on his guitar added a lot to inspire us all.



Members then shared some deeply moving testimonies on how they had felt the presence and support of their ascended loved ones. The service continued with a report from the Seonghwa Caring Ministry. Françoise M., ministry chair, began by leading a one-minute silence to honour Masako C., Joan L., Ania B., and Barabara van P., who passed away since the last Memorial service in 2024. She then mentioned the various activities, webinar and a project of installing memorial plaques at the Memorial Woodland for ascended members buried elsewhere. She thanked everyone for their generous donations which had allowed the ministry to sponsor some of the 7 plaques.



Certificate of thanks was given to Keiko de G. who envisioned and created the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland on the land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Masters and next to the Holy ground consecrated by True Father. Special thanks were also given to Kumiko L. who took over of Keiko in maintaining and caring for this sacred place. As we sang together 'Grace of the Holy Garden' roses were given to all who attended the service.



We all gathered then in the burial ground around the newly installed memorial plaques where FFWPU Continental Directors Dr. Michael and Fumiko Balcomb conducted the sanctification with special "Death Valley" Holy Salt provided by True Mother. A few steps away we came together again for the sanctification of another beautiful 50th Anniversary Memorial Stone, commemorating True Father planting of the Holy Tree in 1974. A resonating og mansei concluded our Memorial service.

Group photos were taken and members spent time going around the various wonjeon laying flowers, praying, and reminiscing about each of the members buried there. The afternoon concluded with a potluck lunch enjoying each other's company and conversations.



It was a wonderful day, we all felt uplifted and grateful, keeping our loved ones close to our heart.

The Memorial service was organised by the Seonghwa Caring Ministry team with the help of Kumiko L. and the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland committee.



Many thanks to David R. for providing the sound system, photos and videos. Many thanks also to Tina C. and Pascal M. for taking some additional photos.