Order of Service – dedication of a new Standard

HYMN

During the singing of the hymn the Standards will process into the church and take up position. The Colour Party with the New Standard furled and at the slope will move forward towards the chancel steps.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Buglers sound the Last Post (Standards dip)

THE EXHORTATION

The officiating clergy or a senior member of the Legion shall recite:

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.'

Response: 'We will remember them.'

THE SILENCE

Buglers sound: Reveille (Standards return to the Carry)

Then shall the furled Standard be delivered to the officiating clergy.

Then shall the officiating clergy say:

BRETHREN, we are met together in the presence (and House) of God to take part in the hallowing and dedication of the Standard of the (.......INSERT BRANCH) Branch
of the Royal British Legion established in this place; and to witness thereby to the noble ideals and great purposes, inspired by Almighty God, which animate the members of the Legion - such purposes being the succour of those of our brethren who are still serving in our military forces and those who have served and who have fallen out by the way of life, the care of the widows, orphans and other dependants of those who served, the fostering of brotherly love and comradeship amongst all its members, the remembrance of the ideals for which we served, and of our fellow citizens who have laid down their lives for us: and also the preservation of true loyalty and devotion to our Queen and country at all times, and in all places. To this end I call upon the members of the Legion and the whole congregation here present, to offer humble prayer to Almighty God, that He will bless this Standard now to be dedicated to His Glory, and that He will inspire the members of the Legion to carry out with a single heart and devoted purpose the high aims for which they are joined in fellowship.

Or, alternatively:

GRANT, O merciful God, that with malice towards none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as Thou givest us to see the right, we may strive to finish the task which Thou has appointed us, to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for the widow and the orphan; to do all that may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clergy: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

People: Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

Clergy: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.
The Standard Bearer, with the furled Standard at the Slope will come forward alone and the Standard being brought to the Order kneel on the right knee: the escorts will remain at the chancel steps.

PRAYERS

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever. Amen. O Lord God of our fathers, Who didst lead his people through countless sufferings, keep us, we beseech Thee, ever mindful of Thy mercy; pour Thy blessing upon the peoples over whom Thy servant Elizabeth, our Sovereign Lady the Queen, is ruler; unite us in the bond of brotherhood and in the service of our country; that the offering of our life's work may be acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRANT, we pray Thee, O Almighty God, that all we who here do honour to the memory of our brethren's loyal sacrifice, may be filled with the spirit of their love and courage, and, forgetting all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the Glory of Thy Name, and in the service of our fellow men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE DEDICATION OF THE STANDARD

Then shall the officiating clergy unfurl the Standard, lay his hands upon it and say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart this Standard that it may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen and country in the sight of God and a symbol of the service the Royal British Legion is called upon to render.
The Standard Bearer will then stand and the unfurled Standard will be taken by the officiating clergy and placed on the altar, drums or table, where it will remain until the conclusion of the service.

We yield Thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that Thou has put it into the hearts of these Thy Servants to join together in the fellowship of the Royal British Legion in this place and to desire to carry out its aims and purposes; Let Thy Fatherly hand ever be over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so guide their meetings that they may set forth Thy Glory, and help forward all the great works to which they have given themselves so that by their witness and their labours the spirit of love and comradeship among those who have served may be advanced in this place, and loyalty and devotion to Queen and country may be established here on a sure foundation, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

HYMN

THE ADDRESS

HYMN

During the hymn the clergy will take the Standard and return it to the Standard Bearer who will return to join his escorts at the chancel steps.

BLESSING

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (Standards Dip)

GOD save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the Queen!

(Standards return to the Carry)

The Standard will precede the members of the Legion in procession following the clergy from the place of the service. The congregation will remain in position until the clergy and Legion members have passed.
Notes:

- The Union Flag should not be carried at this service.

- 'To dedicate' means "to set apart for some special use" thus a Legion Standard is 'dedicated' so that it symbolises the principles and objects of the Legion.

- The Standard to be dedicated will remain furled until it is unfurled by the officiating clergy just before it is dedicated.

- While furled it will not be dipped but held at the Order during the National Anthem, Exhortation and Silence.