



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

3rd MAY 2020

EASTER 4

<p align="center"><u>READINGS FOR TODAY</u></p> <p>Acts 2 v 42 - end; 1 Peter 2 v 19 - end; John 10 v 1 - 10</p>	<p>PARISH OFFICE: Closed until further notice. TEL:01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – 01252 321517 WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk</p>
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***ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!***



Jesus said 'I am the gate, whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.'

COLLECT FOR EASTER 4

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR FAMILY LIFE

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and
on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like emergency prayer for yourself or somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252 323037 – this is a confidential service.

If you would like a chat at any time, or if you need anything, please give myself or Carol a call – 321517 or (Carol) 313239. Be assured that we will be praying for you all, and that you are very much in our thoughts, every day. Please keep in contact with each other regularly.

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VOCATIONS SUNDAY

This Sunday is Vocations Sunday. Vocation isn't a word used outside of Church very often, except where people choose to do something, not because of great financial reward or career opportunities, but because it's something they believe in, something offered for the common good, something they feel called to do. Thinking about the courage and compassion of frontline keyworkers in the current crisis – medics, carers, teachers and many more – never have we been more aware of the importance of vocations.

Those fulfilling these roles have become a sign of selfless giving, the best of what we can offer. And in return that biblical sign of hope – the rainbow – has become the focus of our thanks and encouragement, together with the community applause offered each Thursday evening. Perhaps here there is a natural way in for us to reconsider what vocation means within the Church too.

When we speak about vocations we're not just talking about leadership or ordination. Most simply, it's about who God calls us to be and what He asks us to do. For some, yes, this is a specific calling to ministry (lay and ordained). For others, it could mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life. Both are vital to the Kingdom of God; the important point is that everyone has a vocation, and every vocation is worth celebrating.

Vocations Sunday is a special moment in the year when, we can "consider the special role that God is calling us to fulfil with the unique gifts and personalities, experiences and relationships, strengths and weaknesses with which He's entrusted us."

It's about, being "genuinely useful in our Lord's service, rather than simply driven by the expectations of others"

How can we all, this Sunday, encourage those in our church to reconsider what God's call means, and to celebrate the wonderful examples we see all around us?

Craig Holmes (Diocesan Director of Ordinands)

The Archbishop of Canterbury, has launched a free national phone line to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed. Daily Hope, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services.

The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

Morning Prayer to share at 10 am on Sunday

You may wish to light a candle. Have a Bible to hand.

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Psalm and in the Benedictus

(L) Alleluia, Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

(L) O Lord, open our lips
All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

(L) In your resurrection, O Christ
All: let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

L: *The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind:*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

(L): In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

(Pause for reflection)

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

All say *The Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Say the Collect for Easter 4 (see previous page)

Read Acts 2 v 42 – 47 followed by Psalm 23 ending with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Read 1 Peter 2 v 19 – 25

All: Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.' Alleluia.

Now read John 10 v 1 – 10. Here are some thoughts from Fr. Keith on today's readings:

Our Psalm this morning - Ps. 23, is probably the most well know psalm of all. It was written long before the time of Jesus and would have formed part of Jewish worship for centuries. Jesus would have grown up knowing it well and so been familiar with the picture of God as being like a

caring, loving shepherd who never lets the flock down. In Galilee, shepherds would have been much more visible than they are to most of us, in our suburban environment. It is not surprising, therefore, that Jesus takes up the theme of shepherding in relation to himself and what he had come to do, to help people understand Him better.

Jesus' most familiar words on the subject: 'I am the Good Shepherd', come, however, in the verse following the reading set for today. In the extract we have just read, although He talks about the sheep hearing His voice and following Him, He says 'I am the gate for the sheep – whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.' This, perhaps, isn't quite such an easy image for us to understand. What does Jesus as 'gate' mean?

In John 14 v 6 Jesus tells Thomas 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no-one comes to the Father except through me'. It seems to me that Jesus is making the same point here, just using a different image. He is saying that there is no alternative to Himself in order to be saved. Beware of imposters, is also the message here – the 'thieves and bandits' who are trying to lead people along false ways. Abundant life comes through listening and following Jesus alone – there is no other way into the heavenly sheepfold!

In our day, dominated, as it is, by social media, there is so much information out there that it can be difficult to know what to believe. I don't find myself agreeing with Donald Trump on virtually anything, but, the phrase that he often uses 'Fake News' is, I think, a fair description of lots of the so called 'information' that we can access on-line. Who, and what do you believe, are questions that are very pertinent today. Many people get taken in by falsehoods, and it can send them off down very dangerous paths. Sadly, this is particularly the case when it comes to religion. Heresy and lies that cropped up centuries ago, and were shown to be false by the church back then, easily rear their heads today as people unearth them anew and pass them on. Many people are apt to believe whatever comes up on their phone or computer. If it's on their screen, surely there must be some truth in it? Not necessarily!

So, what can we do to avoid being taken in by 'Fake News'? How can we be sure that it really is Jesus' voice that we are hearing when it comes to matters of faith? Well, I am a firm believer in the role of the Church as the custodian and arbiter of the Faith. Two thousand years of teaching and interpreting of the scriptures, to me, should not be ignored and ditched in favour of individual opinions. Individuals make up the church, but the church is not just a collection of individuals – we are a community, one body in Christ, as is described in our reading from Acts today. The role of the Bishops down the centuries, working together in what are called 'Councils', has been to examine any 'new' interpretations of what Jesus is saying put forward by individuals or small groups. The results of their deliberations are most familiar to us, perhaps, in the words of the Creed. Those words are answers to false interpretations from the earliest years of the faith, and there have been many other pronouncements ever since. From the day of Pentecost onwards Christians have believed in the guidance of the Holy Spirit in matters of faith for the whole of Christ's Body. In the Church of England we have inherited that tradition and the various rules and regulations that govern our Church are there to protect us from false ideas and actions that obscure what Jesus is really calling us to do. We ignore them at our peril!

Over the centuries the Church has certainly grown in its' knowledge of Jesus, but the Truth Himself does not change. It is important, therefore, to listen to the wider Christian community and not just individuals with their own ideas. Only then can we be sure we are entering by the Gate, and have life abundantly.

Pause for your own reflections, and then we say:
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The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

1) Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

2) He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

3) Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

4) To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

5) This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6) Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7) And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8) To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9) In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10) To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1.68-79)

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

We now have prayers of intercession, written today by Ceri Hurcombe

Loving God, thank you for the great triumph of your love celebrated through Eastertide and for the way it transforms our attitude not just towards life but also towards death.

Thank you that when all seemed lost all in fact was gained; that what appeared to be the end of the book was merely the opening of a new chapter: Teach us all, especially through these challenging times, that you are a God who is constantly able to turn things around, to bring light out of darkness; hope out of despair; and joy from sorrow.

We pray for our Christian church and especially for the community at St Peters which remains strong even though the church building is closed. We give thanks for all those who have reached out to others during this time bringing hope and companionship to those who are lonely or fearful.

We pray for those leading our country and for the medical and scientific experts guiding and supporting them. We give thanks for all the doctors, nurses and paramedics who work for the NHS, for all those working in care homes and for all those who care for people in their own homes. Help us all to follow their example of care and compassion for others.

We bring to mind others known to us who are struggling with poor health at this time. Help us, Lord, not to simply look forward to a day when normality is resumed, justice is done, poverty ended and when no one is going hungry. But lead us and give us strength to try and do whatever we can to bring that day closer.

Loving God hear our prayer for all those who mourn, reach out to them in their grief, sorrow and loneliness. Grant them the comfort of your promise that death is not the end but the gateway to new life.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven.....

This hymn may then be said or sung:

He is Lord; he is Lord
He is risen from the dead
and he is Lord,
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King; he is King
He is risen from the dead
and he is King,
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is King.

He is love; he is love
He is risen from the dead
and he is love,
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is love.

Let us pray:

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make us perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us and all who we love, today and always. Amen.

(L) Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED,
ESPECIALLY:

JUNE LARBY; FREDDIE JONES; JUDY ASTBURY; BETTY WRIGHT
ANNIE TYLER (Annie was a member of our Flower Guild for many years, and a great supporter of St Peter's)

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – EASTER 5

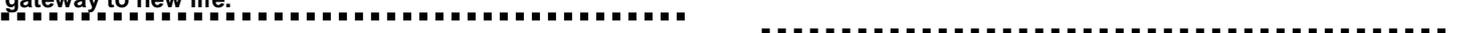
Acts 7 v 55 - end; 1 Peter 2 v 2 - 10; John 14 v 1 – 14

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

ROD SMITH (4TH); MASON SHARP (5TH); PHOEBE WILLIAMS & ANGELA MARSHALL (8TH)

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

‘Do you want to speak the praise of God? Be yourselves what you speak. If you live good lives, you are his praise.’ (St Augustine)



Evening Prayer for the Easter Season (3)

O Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Be still for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One, is here;
Come, bow before Him now,
With reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
Our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
In faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

We pray:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever Amen.

A Psalm is said: Mon 114; Tue 116; Wed 47; Thur 85; Fri 36; Sat 84, ending with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Monday – Deuteronomy 9 v 1 – 21, Ephesians 4 v 1 – 16

Tuesday – Deuteronomy 9 v 23 to 10 v 5, Ephes.4 v 17 – end

Weds – Deuteronomy 10 v 12 - end, Ephesians 5 v 1 – 14

Thurs – Deuteronomy 11 v 8 - end, Ephesians 5 v 15 – end

Fri - Deuteronomy 12 v 1 – 14, Ephesians 6 v 1 - 9

Sat – Deuteronomy 15 v 1 - 18, Ephesians 6 v 10 – end

O gladdening light, of the holy glory of the immortal Father heavenly, holy, blessed, O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and see the evening light we give praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worthy are you at all times to be worshipped with holy voices, O Son of God and giver of life: therefore all the world glorifies you.

Gospel Cantic: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

Prayers of thanksgiving are made for the day that is ending. Intercessions are offered for the church, the world and for individuals, the sick and the departed.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

A SERVICE FOR VE DAY: FRIDAY 8TH MAY

Heaviness may endure for a night:

All: But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

All: A present help in time of trouble.

Today we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent. We are conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations. And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We are joyful today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, we pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we say:

All: Our Father...

This hymn may be said or sung:

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father like He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise him, Praise him,
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise him, Praise him,
Praise with us the God of grace.

Old Testament Reading: Micah 4.1–4

New Testament Reading: Luke 15.18–24

Your salvation is near to those who fear you
All that glory may dwell in our land.

(L): Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

All: that glory may dwell in our land.

(L): Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

All: Your salvation is near to those who fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.

Prayers may include the following:

- an expression of sorrow for the atrocities of war;

- that former enemies may be forgiven,

- that we may be freed from feelings of fear, revenge, and xenophobia,

- and finally, that we may be thankful for times of peace and find joy in the company of one another.

There follows this Act of Commitment:

We pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations:

All: Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom come. Amen.

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and all who are in authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The National Anthem is said or sung

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all today and always. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

This hymn may be said, or sung to the tune of 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'. If sung, repeat the last line of each verse to fit the tune.

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

(continued)



You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind; that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

SOME OTHER PRAYERS

For those who served and died in World War II

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

For those who serve today

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm to strengthen and protect our service men and women. Support them in times of conflict, and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace; that the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Saint Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward; except that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.

The Naval Prayer

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who has compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into Thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of Thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass upon the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our islands and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of Thy mercies to praise and glorify Thy Holy Name; Amen.

An Army Collect

Almighty God, whose command is overall and whose love never fails, let us be aware of your presence and obedient to your will. Help us to accept our share of responsibility with strong heart and cheerful mind. Make us considerate of those with whom we live and serve, and faithful to the duties our country has entrusted to us. Let our uniform remind us daily of the traditions of the Army in which we serve. When we are tempted to sin, let us resist. When we

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fail, give us courage to try again. Guide us with the light of your truth, and keep before us the example of Jesus in whose name we pray and in whom we trust. Amen.

Royal Air Force Collect

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles, we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support us in our endeavour, that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and a sure defence to our homeland. Help us to fulfil our several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that we may prove to be worthy successors of those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All this material is from the Church of England worship website.)

Sadly our planned celebrations of VE Day 75 at St Peter's have had to be cancelled – our Songs of Praise on Sunday 10th May followed by a 'Street Party'.

However, here are some ideas for commemorating the event, as well as the service suggested above:

The Royal British Legion is calling on people across the UK to join in a moment of reflection and Remembrance at 11am on Friday 8th May, the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, and pause for a Two Minute Silence.

There is more information about the VE Day commemorations on their website:

'Grab a cup of tea and join us for a 45-minute stream as we bring the World War Two generation together with today's generation to chat about their shared experiences. We'll be sharing stories and memories from those who served and sacrificed during the Second World War, as well as recognising the difficulties people are experiencing today.

Hosted by TV presenter Sonali Shah, the programme will feature contributions from social historian Julie Summers, and cook and influencer Melissa Helmsley. We'll be streaming live on the webpage after the Two Minute Silence from 11.15am, as well as on the [Legion's Facebook page](#)

Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2

At 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of their own home, people are being encouraged to stand up and raise a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertake the following 'Toast' – "To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

You could also take part in celebrations safely from home by joining your BBC Local Radio station initiative in making your own VE Day Great British Bunting. Download everything you need at bbc.co.uk/makeadifference

I hope that we will all support this aspect of VE Day from the safety of our homes.

With my very best wishes,

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster VE Day 75

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