



## Staying Connected 8 Worship and Pastoral Resources

Week Beginning Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear friends

As you all know Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May was VE Day, the date when the allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany's armed forces.

Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, to mourn their loved-ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict until 15<sup>th</sup> August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War 11.

75 years on I expect, like here in Hathersage, there were plans in place where you live for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to remember and celebrate, joining our voices, our hearts, our lives, our thanks to those who celebrated and who mourned and hoped back in 1945. All of that, of course, has been put on hold and the Royal British Legion have made alternative suggestions for us. I have copied them overleaf. \* Included are specific arrangements for Hathersage. If you know of specific arrangements in your location, perhaps you could let your Church contact know in order that the details can be sent out to your Church family.

Life as people knew it back in the 1940's had also been put on hold. Today, although our war is different, life for us too has been put on hold. Perhaps, just as for those we remember and celebrate with today, the only thing that we can be sure of is the love of God, his presence with us throughout all that comes to pass, and, therefore, his help to guide us through.

Staying Connected today we remember the sacrifice of so many for us, giving thanks and celebrating the victory that they achieved and, we do so, by acknowledging the presence of God with us and with them. It may well be that life that has been put on hold will look very different for us, as it did following WW2. Some of that may well take some getting used to. Sharing our gatherings via Zoom is an example. Nevertheless, because our intent is to come to God to worship him, we can be sure that our ever-present unchanging God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, will guide us through these times.

As we gather then this week, may God bless you as you prepare to face the challenges both here now and ahead, may your hearts be open to His prompting and willing to respond according to his word to you. God bless you as you still yourself before Him.

Rev Julie

*<sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:*

*<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;<sup>[a]</sup> his mercies never come to an end;*

*<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

*Lamentations 3:21-23*

- Please note that most of these suggestions are for VE Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May



## Two Minute Silence

The Legion is calling on people where ever they are to join in a national moment of reflection and Remembrance at 11am and pause for a Two Minute Silence, not only in recognition of the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation, but also to reflect on the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on so many lives across the world.

People are invited to take part in the Silence in whatever way they feel appropriate be that standing at their window, stepping outside their home, whilst remaining distanced from others, or taking the opportunity for a quiet moment of reflection together in Remembrance at 11am. ***In Hathersage the start and end of this two-minute period will be marked by a salvo from the Shuttleworth's cannon in Hathersage Hall Business Park.***

## The Royal British Legion Livestream

Following the Silence, the Legion is hosting a VE Day livestream, sharing stories and memories from those who served and sacrificed during the Second World War. The Legion is inviting people to grab a cup of tea and join us for the livestream as we bring the World War Two generation together with today's generation to chat about their experiences.

Hosted by TV presenter Sonali Shah, the programme will feature contributions from social historian Julie Summers and cook and influencer Melissa Helmsley. The stream will be live from 11.15am on the Legion's website [rbl.org.uk/veday75](http://rbl.org.uk/veday75) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPoppyLegion>.

## VE Day 75: The People's Celebration BBC ONE: 20:00 – 21:10

The BBC in partnership with The Royal British Legion will honour and celebrate the World War Two Generation with an evening of memories and music. Featuring some of those who remember this historic day, together with Britain's favourite performers who will entertain us with popular songs of the era. In a fitting finale at 9.00 pm we will hear the Queen deliver a message followed by the opportunity for the nation to unite for a very special rendition of "We'll Meet Again" as we all give thanks to our veterans and remember our loved ones.

## 'We'll Meet Again' Singalong

Lyrics available on The Royal British Legion website <https://www.rbl.org.uk/stories/ve-day-singalong>

## VE Day 75 Learning Pack

Designed for 7-14 year olds the [learning pack](#) includes first-hand accounts from the Second World War generation, veteran interviews and a range of activities to allow families to explore and commemorate VE Day 75 together. People can follow the activity on social media using #VEDay75 and #VEDay75Live during the livestream.

In Hathersage arrangements have been made for a flag to be hoisted in The Village Centre. The current blue 'Tree of Thanks' will be taken away and replaced by the flagpole. The present two A2 display boards will be overlaid with a VE Day logo (right) and a descriptor panel (left) on 7 May, ready for 8 May Anniversary.

The Tree will be stored in the office and put back on (late) 10th or 11th. The fence and AstroTurf will all remain in place as now.