

 (West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary, Broomfield & Cheddon Fitzpaine)



*Although most VE Day 75 Anniversary events have rightly been cancelled, we offer the following ideas to mark the day while remaining in our homes.*

75 years ago today Winston Churchill announced to the people of the United Kingdom that the war in Europe was over.

Today we give thanks for the peace which followed nearly 6 years of World War, we commemorate the lives of all of those who died in armed conflict or as civilians, we remember the sacrifices made by so many at home and abroad, we hold before God all places of war and violence today,

the members of the Armed Forces serving at this time, and those they leave behind, and we pray in hope and faith for peace.

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace,

whose will it is that wars may cease, and all people know his peace.

**Prayer**

Lord our God, our defence in trouble

and our refuge from the storm,

hear us as we remember and pray

on this 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe,

help us never to forget the sacrifices

which won for us our freedom,

and bless your world with peace;

for we ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

**A Cry for Peace Around the World**

Citizens, one and all,

Please join this cry for peace, that you now hear from me.

Remember men & women, old & young, who died to make us free. The women left at home did not just sit and wait.

They toiled in harsh conditions before dawn to very late.

Factories, farms, other essential jobs, to women were quick at learning. They worked, some died, to keep the home fires burning. As we remember this day, do not forget that every day someone needs your aid. Do not put away your poppies, letting your memories fade. Celebrate with knowledge that VE Day is also a time to remember, beyond the solemn wreaths of the 11th of November. Let’s thank all those who have gone before, with their colours proudly unfurled.

Let us unite as we say, peace to all the world.

**Prayer**

We pray for the power to be gentle;
the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding on to what we believe to be right

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women

to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfil the destiny for which we and all men and women were created. **Amen**

**John 20:19-21**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

**Hymn – Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

**Prayers**

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.**

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 and glory of your name

and the good of your Church and people;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Tribute to The Millions**

Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, sons and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during several years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupations and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.

*Two-minute silence*

**Prayer**

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.**

**Toast to the Heroes of WWII**

Join with the nation at 3.00pm, stand outside the house and raise a toast (choose your own beverage!) with the words:

*To those who gave so much, we thank you.*

*Abridged from the Royal Navy Order of service for VE Day 75*