Celebrating VE DAY at Home

As most VE Day 75 Anniversary events have been cancelled, I offer the following ideas to mark the day while remaining in our homes on May 8th 2020 as we remember and celebrate this remarkable event.

Rev David Alderman.
Superintendent Minister
Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit.
Events Celebrating VE DAY at Home.

With members of the public unable to attend VE Day 75 events, The BBC is playing a central role in the delivery of a range of celebrations, including:

**BBC Two**

**In the lead up to VE Day, BBC Two** will show nostalgic archive programmes across the week including Dads Army, *We’re Doomed: The Making Of Dad’s Army*, *Spitfire Women*, *Churchill (1995)*, *Scotland’s VE Day: Countdown To Victory*, *Home Front Heroes* and *Britain’s Greatest Generation*. New programming includes the film premiere of *The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society* and Lee Miller’s arts documentary, *A Life On The Frontline*.

**Thursday 8th May, BBC One** will show Dame Vera Lynn: We’ll Meet Again, a reversion of Dame Vera Lynn’s 100th Birthday documentary.

**Friday 8th May**

**BBC One**

- **11am** a poignant **two-minute silence** to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This national moment of remembrance will pay tribute to heroes of the past and present.

- **2.45pm** The broadcast Sir Winston Churchill’s famous victory speech in which he addressed the nation to announce the end of the war in Europe, which he made from 10 Downing Street on 8 May 1945.

- **3pm** Join with the nation, stand outside your home and **raise a (glass) to toast** with the words: “To those who gave so much we thank you”.

- **8pm** Sophie Raworth will host a unique and unprecedented musical celebration for VE Day 75, including at 9pm a UK-wide sing along of Dame Vera Lynn’s ‘We’ll Meet Again’

- **9pm**—Queen addresses the nation

**PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Use the following reflection and prayer*

**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 occupation 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**

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.

From the Royal Navy Order of service for VE Day 75

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
• Cut along that line through both sides of the paper
• Unfold your paper

2) Decorate your bunting:
• Decorate the main triangle but leave the top strip blank
• You can decorate with anything you want – paint, pencils, collage, glitter, stickers, crayons, pens
• You can draw anything that inspires you but here are some ideas if you get stuck:
  • A soldier from WW2
  • Union Flag
  • A dove of peace
  • Your message of thanks
  • Your hero

3) Construct your bunting
• When you’ve decorated all of your flags, fold along the solid black line to make a flap
• Put the flap over your string or ribbon and glue or tape the flap in place
• Leave a gap between each triangle and keep adding them until you’re done with a spare bit of string/ribbon on each end for hanging
• Hang your bunting in your window for people to enjoy!

Thank You Posters
Colour in the poster on the back page and place in your widow.

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We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies chase
Those dark clouds far away
And I will just say hello
To the folks that you know
Tell them you won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That, as I saw you go
You were singing this song

Sunday 10th May

8.10am Radio 4’s Sunday Worship  Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College Cambridge and former Archbishop of Canterbury, asks how our nation can rise to its present huge challenges as it seeks to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

10.00am BBC One  Kirsty Young introduces full, uninterrupted live coverage of the final day of the 70th anniversary.

Antiques Roadshow VE Day Special
This special episode of Antiques Roadshow will trace the story of the Second World War through a series of objects seen on the Roadshow, culminating in the events of VE Day in 1945. Along the way, we will touch
on some of the critical events of the war, ranging from the retreat of Dunkirk to the Blitz, the Dambusters Raid and D-Day. The BBC will also feature first-hand testimony from those who were present on VE Day - including Henry Sandon, one of the Roadshow’s best loved presenters.

5.30pm Radio 3’s Words And Music takes the theme of gratitude on VE Day weekend. Rory Kinnear and Pandora Colin read diary extracts from 1945, recalling visits to see the royal family waving from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

Other Ideas

A Cry for Peace Around the World

Cut out a white dove and display it in your window as a “cry for peace”, showing solidarity with all who work for peace around the world.

English Heritage Home Pack

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/eh-ve-day-at-home-pack.pdf

Download ideas for home cooking, singalong song sheet, tips for dancing the Lindy hop swing.

Great British Bake Off - Prue Leith’s Muscovado Flapjacks

Ingredients you’ll need:

- 75g of brown sugar
- 75g of muscovado sugar
- 150g of butter
- 275g of porridge oats
- 1 heaped teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon of table salt

How to make the Muscovado Flapjacks

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees.
2. Line a small baking tray with a piece of non-stick baking sheet – Prue uses an oven liner.
3. Slowly melt the sugar and butter together in a medium sized saucepan.
4. Once this has turned into a liquid, stir in the oats, cinnamon, and salt. Then spoon into the baking tray and press down flat with the back of a spoon.
5. Once flat, score through to make twelve flapjacks.
6. Bake for twenty minutes until golden and set.
7. Take out of the oven and leave until warm, then separate between the already scored edges.

Organisers are encouraging the public to decorate the windows of their homes in red, white and blue, bunting and flags to mark the occasion, so that whole streets are adorned in the nation’s colours.

Make Your VE Day ‘Great British Bunting’

1) Make your flags:

To print out the template:

- Download and print the template from bbc.co.uk/makeadifference
- Cut along the dotted lines

OR

- To make your own template:
- Take an A4 piece of paper long ways up (portrait)
- Fold over about 2cm at the top
- Fold the paper in half long ways
- Draw a line diagonally from the outside of the paper at the top to the fold in the middle at the bottom