

## A Message from the Dean: VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**This weekend marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.** Because of current restrictions, most events – locally and nationally – cannot go ahead in their planned form. That makes it even more important that we mark it here, and indeed at this weekend's Sunday Eucharist.

Victory in Europe Day marks the end of the Second World War in Europe when the Allies accepted Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender on **Tuesday 8 May 1945**. The war itself formally ended with the armistice of **14 August 1945**, following the bombing of Japan.

One of the tragedies of the war is that there are few winners. The period following the war saw great need in our own country as well as in defeated nations. Many of you may remember Heike Prentice's account of how her own family became refugees in their own country following the end of the war in Germany.

This weekend's commemoration therefore focuses on remembrance of the past, and the cost of war. At the same time, we look forward with hope for a world that has the capacity, and we pray the wisdom, to move beyond conflict and to live in a peace where all can flourish.

**This Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**, we commemorate VE Day and Cathedrals had a whole series of events planned to mark the occasion. However, as we continue to stay in and save lives, we are doing this in a different way.

**The Big Picnic for Hope** is an opportunity for households to be part of a virtual get together. The project asks people to stay at home, to picnic indoors or in their gardens, and to join friends and families virtually. At the same time as something fun to take part in with other people around the country, the project affords a unique way to remember heroes who kept our country safe in the past and those on the new home front. It gives us another way of saying thank you for the incredible effort and sacrifice being made by our key workers.

The project also serves an opportunity to recognise that these times are difficult for many people and aims to raise £5000 towards The Trussell Trust, a charity supporting a network of foodbanks and helping those in need in the UK. Share your photos using #bigpicnicforhope and you can donate to the Trussell Trust at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bigpicnicforhope>

### Other events include:

**2.55pm:** An hour's programme of readings and music, introduced by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Bob Massey, which will include: Battle's O'er played by Jonathan Swan on the bagpipes, Churchill's Speech and local voluntary groups. Link will be posted on FaceBook and the Cathedral website, once known.

**6.55pm:** A Cry of Peace, read by the Mayor

**7pm:** Sound the bells, or keys, or pots and pans, outside, wherever you are, for a national "cry of peace"

## The Dean writes:

Early in the morning on Monday, 4 May brought the sad news that Norman Sharpe had died in Basildon Hospital of suspected Covid-19. Norman has not been well for some time and indeed had been admitted to hospital several times in the previous weeks because of his pneumonia, so he was already at high risk. But the shock for Pam and for the whole Cathedral community, especially in the current context, is complicated in so many ways. Pam is being characteristically robust and vulnerable and is deeply grateful for the prayerful support and strength of the Cathedral, even when at present we are unable to meet. Could I invite all of us "light a virtual candle" for Norman and Pam and hold them specially in our hearts at the moment?

Norman will be cremated at a date still to be arranged, but under the present regulations there are severe restrictions on funeral. It is unlikely that either Pamela or their son in New Zealand will be able to be there. However – in a way entirely characteristic, Pam is already looking forward to the day when we can all gather in the Cathedral together and say a huge thank you to God for Norman's life!

For many of us, Norman is part of our core experience of the Cathedral and for me I will always see him carrying the cross at the Eucharist, an image that seems like a very fitting memory as we begin to absorb the news of his death.

*Norman carrying the cross  
at the Easter Eucharist 2019*



## Pray with Us:

Pray as **Christian Aid Week** begins. God of the impossible, we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. And when the challenges seem too many, remind us of your resurrection power, and the miracles of your love that happen whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and live as if it might do so today. Amen

Pray for Trinity Methodist Church, City Centre

Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate

Pray for those who are unwell: Jim, Brenda and Chris Cole, Jean Cooper, Teresa Hipgrave, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Pray for the family and friends of Norman Sharpe and Ernie Andrews who died this week.

## Whole family challenge:

The Junior Church page of the website has lots of activities for children and families. Each week, Canon Imogen Nay produces some activities that run alongside the theme for the week. There is also a new activity video on praying the Lord's Prayer and new from this week, there are colouring sheets designed by Tony Harrington. These are normally used at our Stay and Play sessions, so we are really pleased to have them on-line to share!

COLOURFUL CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL  
*Colour Me...*



**The Cathedral is now completely closed**, and all staff are working from home. Therefore, the best way to contact staff is via email if possible. If you are not on email and would like a call from a member of clergy, please contact Marion Palmer tel: 01245 294497. Leave a voicemail message at the prompt and this will be sent as an email to Marion for her to pick up.

# Cathedral Life Weekly | 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020



## Study with Us:

### Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel:

**Bible notes for the Fifth Sunday of Easter: 10 May 2020**

I Peter 2.2-10  
Ps 31.1-5  
John 14.1-14

### Ring out your joy to the Lord!

This week's readings speak powerfully of faith, hope and trust in God. During the coming week and for the weeks ahead, God's word inspires, sustains and encourages us as we continue to live with the impacts of current events.

Peter (*First Reading*) speaks of the difficulties of living without faith and rejoices that those who are believers can be close to Jesus and become a holy people living in the light of God.

We are reminded that our hope is in God who is faithful, who loves justice and right, and who seeks to rescue the people who hope in his love (*Psalm*). I am invited to remember God as the source of my hope in difficulty, and to offer praise and thanksgiving with joy.

The Gospel is part of Jesus's farewell to his disciples. Although he will leave them physically, he asks them not to be troubled, to trust in God. He invites us also to trust. We will not be left alone, but will know our Risen Lord as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and be enabled to live the way, truth and life of Jesus for others.

I may like to ponder how am I making my decisions during this difficult time? Perhaps I am called to try to spend some time each day with Jesus, growing closer to him and his values.

I ask Jesus for the grace to live this week in hope, trust and joy.

### Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>: John 14.21-26  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>: John 14.27-end  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>: John 15.1-8

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>: John 15.9-17  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup>: John 15.12-17  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>: John 15.18-21

### Contact Us:

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**Giving Generously:** Although the Cathedral building is closed, our mission and ministry continues as we seek to care for and support each other and our community. We lost our income from the Chapter House and events in the Cathedral, but our expenditure has not substantially changed. Therefore, we are enormously grateful to everyone who is continuing to donate regularly through the bank. Now the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** has made it easy for those who were accustomed to give through the collection plate or donation box to give by phone. Many in the congregation already use this helpful scheme which looks after all the administration and claims Gift Aid for us monthly at no cost to the Cathedral. To arrange a 'paperless' regular donation, ring PGS on 0333 0022 1271 (you will need your personal bank details and the Cathedral's PGS parish code which is **080608001**). The call will last about 15 minutes or you can register your interest in the PGS by completing a simple secure online form at <http://register.parishgiving.org.uk/> and they will ring you back. If you need any more information, please do get in touch with Caroline, [treasurer@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk). We really need your continuing help and support to sustain the ministry of the Cathedral, thank you.

## Being Resourced

If you would like to receive the Dean's letter emailed to you once a week and you do not already receive it, please email [clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](mailto:clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)

**Growing in Faith** resources in a weekly email. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the 'Church at Home' page of the website or email [imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk](mailto:imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk)

**Stations of the Resurrection:** How do we encounter the Risen Lord in this time of darkness? Join with the Rev'd Canon Imogen and others as they lead us through personal encounters with the Risen Jesus, look at the website, or sign up to the Growing in Faith mailing, details above.

The '**Growing in Prayer**' page of the website is updated daily with prayers and reflections. There is also an opportunity to light a virtual candle and to request a name to be added to our new prayer wall for May. The page is accessed from the Home button on the Cathedral website.

## Social Time

### The Cathedral Quiz Night

We should have been gathering for the annual Cathedral Dinner, but instead with the unusual times we are living through, **John and Yvonne Spence** created a Cathedral Quiz Night by Zoom on Saturday, 2 May.

We have all heard a lot about Zoom over the last 7 weeks – it is essentially a business tool for video conferencing, and some people in our community are having to spend hours a week Zooming. We are even in the process of appointing the new Bishop of Chelmsford by Zoom.

But what a fantastic tool it turned out to be for a quiz night! It was just brilliant to see people, even if we were not physically together; to hear people chatting on, having a drink, sharing a joke. And in **Chris** we had a great quiz master – somehow he kept order among the multiple competing teams and kept the score. The questions were challenging but not too difficult and for many of us it was great not to have a round of sports questions!

**And the winner?** Well, these things are not about winning, are they? Just the taking part! But **James Davy** romped past the finishing post ahead of the rest of the field. The prizegiving is deferred to a later date!

A huge thank you to **John and Yvonne** for a great piece of community building in challenging times.

### Book Group

This month we are reading "**Where the Crawdads Sing**" by **Delia Owens**. We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email [sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.