

Hello again,

As we all know this weekend was to have been filled with activities to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Plans in Oldmeldrum had been made for tea parties,, dinner dances, children's discos and many other events. It was to all culminate in a Joint Church service to be held in a marquee this morning, followed by a bbq. Well, looking at the weather this morning, perhaps that part might have been a little soggy and blowy!

I am sure many of you have memories of your own, or passed down through your family and friends, of how the day was celebrated 75 years ago. In my family it wasn't really celebrated that much on the day. My father was still fighting the war with Japan, as a pilot flying from Royal Navy aircraft carriers in the Pacific. His brother was in the army also in the Far East, so VE Day wasn't such a big celebration for my grand--parents still worrying about their sons. My mother was a young woman in Brazil at the time, so VE Day was not so important to her either. All the celebrations in my family's household came on August 15th 1945, which was Victory in Japan (VJ) Day, and marked the final end of the war. Perhaps this year we may be able to celebrate together on that date instead of VE Day and do then all the things we had hoped to do this weekend.

The week is the start of Christian Aid week. Normally there would be a band of volunteers running the Thrift Shop in the Church Hall, and distributing and collecting envelopes door to door. Obviously, neither of these will be taking place. However, Christian Aid continues its' work and helping people through coronavirus will be part of their job too. Please think about donating what you would have spent in the Thrift Shop or what you would have put in a envelope, via their on-line page. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> where you will also find information on all the work they are doing throughout the world.

UK churches together have made a video called The UK Blessing which has gone viral on the internet - to date it has been viewed 1.9 million times! If you haven't already enjoyed it, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>

Enjoy it and share it with your friends!

I also attach the reflection for this Sunday, and would like to thank all of you who have responded with words of encouragement to me during these past few weeks. They have been lovely - thank you!

Stay safe. Live in Hope for God loves you and is always with you.

Blessings

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