

Rudgwick

Magazine



May 2025

no. 353

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Dear Friends

This month sees the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE day), the 8th May marking the formal acceptance of Germany's unconditional surrender at the end of World War II, with the end of the war in the Far East coming a few months later on 15 August.

Whilst we see film footage and photos of people (understandably) celebrating the end of the war, it does not seem right, when so many gave their lives, that we *celebrate* VE day but rather commemorate it. There will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey to do just this.

For 80 years we have lived with peace across most of Europe, although sadly, in recent years with the war in Ukraine, that has changed.

Speaking about what theologians call ‘the end times’, Jesus predicted that we would “hear of wars and rumours of wars” and that “nation will rise against nation”. Whilst sadly history has proved this to be true, in his most famous teaching – the sermon on the mount - Jesus also affirmed that “blessed are the peacemakers”.

We will probably not know of the wars that never happened because of the peacemakers. But when we see armies going to war, they are a reminder that politicians and diplomats have failed as peacemakers. So, this VE day, as well as commemorating and remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom in WWII, let us also pray for our politicians and diplomats. Let us pray for those who work for peace, and let us pray for peace in Europe, the Middle East and around the world.

Every blessing

Martin King