

Dear Friends,

5th May 2020

This week should have looked so different. Even the weather is perfect! When ever did we plan street parties and outside events and the British sun came out! There were national events, local events and we as a church had all sorts of plans. Well, that is not how it's turned out.



Friday 8th May will still be VE Day and there will be all sorts of creative ways of marking it. I suspect there will even be some cheeky socially distancing street parties. It's good that this is still happening because it is an important anniversary. We still have plenty of people who can remember the day. We can hear their stories and catch the emotion of the day through them. The next big anniversary will be 100 years and by then it will have become an event in history. We will read about it but we won't get inside the experience in the same way. Please keep a look out for things that will happen locally. Our efforts will be on-line and I hope you will join us.

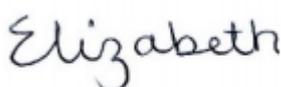
We will have livestreams of memories and on Thursday 9.30am Rosie and our local historian Paula Kitching will have a discussion about local history. On Friday starting just before 11.00 we will have a short livestream service including a 2 min silence: www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch/live_videos Then at noon we have a Zoom with a chance to share memories and chat – perhaps with a glass of bubbly! Join by computer at www.zoom.us and 'Join a meeting' or dial in by phone: 020 3481 5237, meeting ID 830 6434 9334, participant ID # and password 396381.

The Oldham Hall virtual coffee mornings continue -if you get in touch with Rosie or Elizabeth we can make sure you get a zoom invitation -a simple link to a joint discussion. Sunday's services at 8am, 10am and 6pm will be live at the link above. If you don't have internet or would otherwise like to phone in to hear just the sound of the 10am, we are trying something new (better than last week we hope) - please phone 020 3481 5237 using meeting ID 830 6434 9334 and password 396381 between 9.45-9.55am– full details on the newsheet.

There is a conversation emerging across the country about what the CofE will look like in the future. Will things just go back to how they were before? How do we grow new fruit on an ancient tree? I wrote this on a recent post and it prompted a lively conversation, with people fearful of their churches or Dioceses slipping into bankruptcy: 'Certainly giving in our church is not abstract or indeed duty driven. Most giving comes out of a sense of community. We are with people we love, we worship together, laugh together, weep together and that depth of shared humanity is worth supporting. At the moment we remember those feelings and we are all doing a fabulous job keeping in touch - but we can't feed off memories forever. Some sort of normal will emerge but I bet it won't look the same as old normal.' I'd love to know what you think.

Do get in touch if you'd like a chat, a prayer or help. We will write again soon.

With our love and prayers,



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