

11:15 am Service for VE Day May 8th after:

A national moment of remembrance two-minute silence at 11am.

The Greeting and Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:

All **But joy comes in the morning.**

God has been our refuge and our strength:

All **A present help in time of trouble.**

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



Hymn

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'Praise, my soul, the King of heaven'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDe0ABw5IHs&t=1s>

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 8:3-8

³Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. ⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. ⁵And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? ⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; ⁸and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Hymn

'Lord, for the years'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;^[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,^[b] we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[c] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Responsory

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
All **that glory may dwell in our land.**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
All **that glory may dwell in our land.**

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
All **Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Hymn

'Now thank we all our God.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J07OeeXR2vM>

VE day 75th Anniversary

On May 8th 1945 at 3pm Winston Churchill addressed the nation:

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

75 years later The Queen will make an address to the nation on the 75th anniversary of VE Day and will be broadcast on BBC One at 9 pm, the same hour as her father, King George VI, made his radio address marking victory in Europe after what he called "nearly six years of suffering and peril."

In her message on the occasion of the VE Day, which celebrates the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on May 8, 1945, the queen will commemorate the sacrifices of the Second World War generation.

After the message, the public will be invited to take part in a rendition of Forces' Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn's wartime anthem "We'll Meet Again,"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsM_VmN6ytk

Whilst listening to Vera Lynn read the following memories of VE day.

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VE day memories

During the war people from Bradwell and the neighbouring villages were very close to the action living in and next to a military base. When VE day came over the following days there was much merriment in the area.

Christopher talks of Cyril Kemp putting flags across the road from the shop to the trees at New Hall and a lorry going through and bringing them all down! Also, of all going to Waterside and seeing fireworks on the old pillbox at the Bradwell Quay (the pillbox was removed when the power station came). Jonathan remembers that when the war ending was announced on the radio Grandad Thorpe went into the garden and picked a big bunch of Lilly of the Valley for the house to make the rooms cheerful, also he remembers all going to the village hall where a bonfire was lit and Lou Joslin cycling to the hall with a guy of Hitler to put on the fire. He remembers much noise and merriment at New Hall across the road, which was an officer's mess. My mother talked about a big dance at the village hall, at this dance Joyce remembers Mick (Eileen) Bowtle getting on the stage at the hall and singing all night.

Whilst in London Wyn remembers all her road full of bunting and flags, and everyone having hats. All the evacuees and Land Army girls, including her sister and cousins were home. The road was laid out with tables and all brought their own beaker and plate to share fish paste sandwiches, small jam tarts and homemade lemonade. They had music on the piano and someone played the spoons. All joined in with dancing to Glenn Miller 'In the Mood' and singing along to 'We'll meet again' by Vera Lynn. As soldiers, sailors and Air aid Wardens turned up all joined in with the Conga up the road.



The **Royal Observer Corps (ROC)** was a civil defence organisation intended for the visual detection, identification, tracking and reporting of aircraft over Great Britain. The Bradwell group are seen here at their lookout post in Hockley Road.

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The **Home Guard** was the armed citizen militia supporting the British Army during the War. Operational from 1940 to 1944, the Home Guard had 1.5 million local volunteers otherwise ineligible for military service, such as those who were too young or too old to join the regular armed services or in reserved occupations. Here we see Bradwell Home Guard at the Village Hall.



Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Sounded air raid sirens, report on bombing incidents. They also enforced the "blackout". Heavy curtains and shutters were required on all private residences, commercial premises, and factories to prevent light escaping and so making them a possible target for enemy bombers to locate their targets. Women were involved in ARP services through the Women's Voluntary Service. Here we see the ARP outside the Kings Head, Bradwell.



Bradwell Bay MT Yard Ladies Grp 1.

Here we see some of the military personnel being photographed in the Military Transport (MT) Yard Bradwell. This is now the school playground, you can see behind the girls the houses in Cage Row, East End Road.



Bradwell Lodge, New Hall, Down Hall and other large country houses were requisitioned by the military usually for an officer's mess. Here we can see officers outside Bradwell Lodge.

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Down Hall, Bradwell-juxta-Mare.

Down Hall (now a Care Home) seen here during the war, occupied by the military.



RCAF Douglas Boston Mk III taxiing at RAF Bradwell Bay in 1942

The main airfield was first laid down before WW2 as a grass-surfaced landing ground for the nearby Dengie firing ranges. In 1940 it was made a RAF station with concrete runways, hangars and ancillary buildings. The station is unique as it was the only fighter station where the Fog Investigation and Dispersal Operation (FIDO) was installed.



Artists impressions by Alan Sorrell, better known for his later reconstructions of archaeological sites, particularly of towns. The one that shows the Lodge tells us that he did indeed visit Bradwell. The other one could so easily be based on the East End Road Communal Site with Blackberry Grove on the right. (The picture has been reversed to put the grove on the right). KB



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Prayers

For those who served and died in World War II

*O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service,
particularly in the Second World War,
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.*

Amen.

For those who serve today

*O Lord God of Hosts,
stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm
to strengthen and protect our service men and women.
Support them in times of conflict,
and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil;
endue them with courage and loyalty;
and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

For the peace of the world

*O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace;
that the design of your great love lighten
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows
and give peace to your church, peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

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Prayer of Saint Ignatius

*Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest,
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward;
except that of knowing that we do thy will.*

Amen.

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All **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.**

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.

All **Amen.**

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Collect for Peace

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace;
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A prayer for the Sovereign

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,
and all who are in authority under her;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The National Anthem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xm7CZvvsC64>

God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

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The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
and all people, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer/Jehovah'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofp6rdAgRrY>

End

Music While You Work 23 June 1940

The first edition of Music While You Work aired on 23 June 1940. It was announced in the Radio Times as a "half hour's music meant specially for factory workers to listen to as they work". It was broadcast twice a day. It proved a hit with general listeners too, becoming a light music institution which outlasted its origins in the dark days of Work War II. From October it also boasted a memorable theme tune in Calling All Workers, written by Eric Coates.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP1Ch1FVGhs>

Glenn Miller 'In the Mood'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= CI-0E jses>

Thanks to Kevin Bruce for the photos, Christopher, Jonathan, Joyce and Wyn for their memories of that day 75 years ago.