

Dear all

Back in action again after a few days' 'staycation'. Cuning plans about excursions did not come to fruition, but some serious bits of weeding done, and serious chilling! Ready and raring to get back to business.

My apologies for the lack of Facebook service last week. For some bizarre reason, the browser Safari does not allow Facebook live. We will not have the wi-fi hub this week, but we will try to get the broadcast up and running. Check it out – hopefully it will be there.

Apologies for the short notice, but there is a job advertised for a part-time coordinator for Street Pastors in Stamford. The successful candidate does not have to live in Stamford as it is a work from home position, however they must be able to travel to Stamford when required. The role must be filled by a Christian. The position as it is very flexible and would suit someone wanting a part-time role that can fit around their other commitments. Details attached. Deadline is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested.

Today is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day. As Hon. Chaplain to the Langtoft, Deepings and District branch of the Royal British Legion, I led a small act of remembrance at the Boundary Memorial Garden. Very moving. The Kohima Epitaph was read by a veteran who had served in the Royal Navy in the Far-East. I was reflecting afterwards with another veteran, who served in Europe. He talked of the euphoria of VE Day, and that, in contrast, VJ Day was almost an anti-climax. It was truly a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'. No wonder they talk about the 'Forgotten Army'. Our service reflected this, and that we did not forget!

Here is a prayer specifically for VJ Day:

God our Father,  
in the dying and rising of your Son Jesus Christ,  
you have brought life and salvation out of cruelty and death.  
We mark Victory in Japan, and the end of the Second World War,  
in gratitude for the courage of the Allied forces  
who suffered for freedom in the Far East campaign  
and in sorrow for all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace.  
Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter memories of war,  
and hearts that long for the unity of all nations.  
We ask all this in the name of Jesus,  
in whom there is no east or west, no north or south,  
but one fellowship of love across the whole earth.  
Amen.

Another prayer recalled that the surrender of Japan was preceded by the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The atomic bombs were dropped on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, the Feast of the Transfiguration.

God, you are the Father of all the families of the earth,  
and call the nations to live in peace and unity.  
We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death

unleashed upon the cities of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.  
We pray for all whose lives are disfigured by war.  
We pray for ourselves, the often unwise stewards of the powers of the universe.  
Transfigure the lives and cities scarred by conflict by the revealing of your glory  
and move us by your uncreated energies to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.  
Amen.

A recent prayer from Nick Fawcett reflects our own calling to minister to a suffering world:

In the brokenness of our world, God is there.

In the cry of the hungry,  
the suffering of the sick,  
the plight of the homeless,  
and the sorrow of the bereaved,  
he is calling your name.

In the misery of the lonely,  
the despair of the oppressed,  
the plea of the weak,  
and the helplessness of the poor,  
he is seeking your help,  
asking for your response.

The world is bleeding,  
and God is bleeding with it,  
waiting for your hands,  
your care  
and your love  
to help heal the wounds.

As you have *come* to him,  
now *go* for him,  
in the name of Christ.

Amen.



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark