



There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly

# EXTRA: VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) 'To boldly go....'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **VE Day marked the end of WWII in Europe. Whilst there is still so much war in our world, this day offers the opportunity to think about why it's still important to remember this day and reflect on how we might uphold peace in our school communities. We reflect on some words written by surviving VE veterans to the nation – and on the words of Jesus, spoken thousands of years earlier. You may of course be hosting your own school celebrations, rendering this resource unnecessary!***

## Background information for teachers:

There are lots of places to look for information about VE Day, and some good suggestions for things to do in your school or local community:

[VE Day and VJ Day 80](#)

[Schools: Our Shared Story – VE Day and VJ Day 80](#)

[VE Day community celebrations - The Together Coalition](#)

Some good templates for decorating your school here: [The Great British Food Festival Resources – VE Day and VJ Day 80](#)

There are some good, free, images that you can download from the Imperial War Museum: [What You Need To Know About VE Day 8 May 1945](#)

Newsround articles about VE Day: [VE Day 80th anniversary: How is it being marked around the UK? - BBC Newsround](#)



## How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

As a Church school, national events are very much a part of the routines of school life, and so we offer these resources to help you to connect with this celebration, but also to remember that there are still many places in our world that need peace to come.

## Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- The reflective activity (slide 9)** will help pupils to think about / pray for parts of our world where peace is absent at the moment. If you are using it, you will need some red, white and blue paper and a stapler, for the reflective activity in this special resource. Print the words exactly as the resource suggests on p.4-6, in order to get the Bible verse in order! Staple them one word at a time in **Red-White-Blue** order.... **God** has **sent me** to **announce freedom** ...to **break the** chains of **everyone** who **suffers**. The script invites you to break this chain as a prophetic act that one day, peace will be restored. If you are not comfortable doing this, then just leave the chain as a reminder to continue to remember / pray.

## Gathering:

**Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:**

Use the greeting for this term

**Leader:** We are on this journey together...

**Children:** We are friends along the way...

**ALL:** May God go with us.

## BSL interpretation:

Sign for 'way' (nearest to the idea of 'journey'): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for 'friends': [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

## Engaging:

- Slide 3: What's going on here?** Talk together about what you can see happening in the picture.



'To boldly go.....!'

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It shows women and children having a tea party in their street – marking the day that victory in Europe was announced as the first big step in ending WWII.

Why do you think this was worth celebrating?

- **Slide 4:** On May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, World War II ended after 6 long years, with the signing of a peace agreement.
- **Slide 5:** Victory in Europe Day was celebrated all across the UK – and even the **Royal Family** got involved. Our late Queen, then Princess Elizabeth (on the left), recalled it as being one of the most memorable days of her life, when she was allowed to leave the Palace with her sister and celebrate with the rest of London!
- **Slide 6:** 10 soldiers who survived WWII have written a letter to the nation, and we are going to use some of their words to help us to think today.

*Few of us who fought in that war are still with us today. But those of us who are ask only one thing.*

***That you remember.***

*Remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice....*

*Remember how it took all of us coming together across classes, religions, nations and races to prevail.*

*Remember that peace and democracy don't just happen, they need to be maintained.... To remember what happened isn't just about honouring the fallen – to remember is also our best hope of avoiding it ever happening again.*

*[Explore together what this means, for the ages of children in your community.]*

- **Slide 7:** And so today/this week, we are choosing to remember. Lots of places across the country will have had a great big tea party on Bank Holiday Monday! *[Share some of the ways in which this will happen in your school / community context]*
- **Slide 8:** Every year, we wear poppies and **remember**, but on this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, it's as important as ever that we take time to remember again. *[pause between sentences]*

....We remember what it cost those who fought in WWII....

....We remember what their families had to go through, being separated from them....

....We remember how people worked together to bring peace.....

....We remember that peace should never be taken for granted.....

**....I wonder what we might do today to uphold (keep) peace in our school community?....**

*[If using paper chain image & slide 9: But we also remember that there are still places in our world where peace is hard to find....]*

**Slide 9: Responding (and words for worship):** *use whichever parts of this is appropriate for your context*

Many hundreds of years ago, when Jesus walked the earth, he stood up in the Temple in Jerusalem and read these words – ancient words that the prophet Isaiah had written long before he was born: he talked about breaking chains that held people prisoner, and so we have written the words onto a chain of our own. *[Read the words on your paper chain]*

**God has sent me to announce freedom ...to break the chains of everyone who suffers.**

You will know from the news that there are places in our world where people need peace to come, places where people are not free, and so on this day when we are thankful for peace, it is good to be able to remember these places *[and to pray for them.]*

The words spoken by Jesus are a reminder that peace is important to God too – and that one day, peace will reign, even in the places we have thought about. Jesus spoke these words not as a hope, but as a certainty. These words are echoed in the prayers of people all across the world.

**Optional action:** *And so, we are going to enact our hopes now – we are going to break this chain of paper, as we hope and pray for peace to come....[break the chain: you might want to say again the words that Jesus spoke: Jesus said: God has sent me to announce freedom ...to break the chains of everyone who suffers.*

**Slide 10:** So on this special day of celebration, I am going to invite you to pray if you'd like to:



**'To boldly go.....!'**

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God of peace

We are thankful on this day to be able to stand with the nations and remember how peace came at the end of World War II. May we continue to remember all who made this happen and to bring before you the places in our world that need peace.

Together, we will remember them.

Slide 11: Amen

**Sending:**

**Slide 12: Use this term's leaving words**

**Leader:** We have journeyed together today.

As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

**ALL: ...May God go with us.**

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

**To sing / listen to:**

There's a special song for this day, 'I'll Remember': [VE and VJ Day - Teaching Resources](#)

It's been composed for this occasion by Colonel Simon Haw MBE, who served in the Army Music Corps



Print onto red paper and cut into strips: *this will help you get the order right!*

God has sent me to announce freedom ...to break the chains of everyone who suffers.

God

me

freedom

the

everyone



'To boldly go.....!'

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**Print onto white paper and cut into strips: *this will help you get the order right!***

God has sent me to announce freedom ...to break the chains of everyone who suffers.

has

to

to

chains

who



**'To boldly go.....!'**

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Print onto blue paper and cut into strips: *this will help you get the order right!*

God has sent me to announce freedom ...to break the chains of everyone who suffers.

sent

announce

break

of

suffers.



'To boldly go.....!'

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