



V.E Day 80th Anniversary

A Shared Moment of Celebration and Remembrance

Thursday 8th May 2025, from 6.30 till 7.30 pm

The Centenary Paddock, Station Road, Countesthorpe

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Cllr Mick Gillespie, Chairman of Countesthorpe Parish Council

We welcome you to today's service. First of all some housekeeping. The service is only planned to be an hour long, but should you need toilet facilities, these will be available at The Cornerstones. If you have any concerns during the service, please speak to one of our event organisers who can be identified with the hi-viz. For those who have brought along a dog, we would be grateful if you would be able to keep them on a lead during the service.

PROCLAMATION

Cllr Mick Gillespie

Eighty years ago today the United Kingdom and its allies from around the globe celebrated VE Day – the end of the war in Europe. Today as we come together to commemorate what came to be known as VE Day our thoughts turn to thanksgiving and remembrance of those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom we all enjoy today. We remember those we lost, those who were wounded or scarred, those whose lives were forever changed by war. Nobody was immune from the impact of that terrible conflict. Let us pause to remember their sacrifice. We reflect too upon the words of our late and glorious Queen, Elizabeth – “Never Give Up, Never Despair”.

Let us also not forget those many of thousands of Armed Forces personnel who were still engaged in fighting in the Far East up until the surrender of Japan on 15th August 1945. Whilst VE Day marked the end of war in Europe, VJ Day marks the end of the Second World War. Fighting in the Asia-Pacific took place from Hawaii to North East India with Britain and the commonwealth’s principle fighting force being the most diverse in history. The descendants of many of the Commonwealth veterans are today part of the multicultural communities around the world, a lasting legacy to the success of comradeship of those who fought in the Asia-Pacific.

Victory came at a price for all those involved, and so we offer thanksgiving for the selflessness of those who gave up so much in order that future generations should enjoy the blessings of freedom, democracy and peace.

God Save the King

HYMN – I VOW TO THEE MY COUNTRY

Introduction by Cllr Mick Gillespie

I am delighted to now introduce Hannah will sing the wonderful and uplifting anthem 'I Vow to Thee My Country' on this patriotic of evenings.

Lyrics

I VOW TO THEE, MY COUNTRY

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above

Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love

The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test

That lays upon the altar, the dearest and the best

The love that never falters, the love that pays the price

The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice

And there's another country, I've heard long ago

Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know

We may not count her armies, we may not see her king

Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering

And soul by soul, and silently her shining bounds increase

And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace

DISPLAY OF FLAGS OF PEACE

To be introduced by Reverend Richard Reakes

We would be delighted if the Countesthorpe Scouts would display their Flags of Peace which they have done a wonderful job of painting along with other youngsters from the village. These will be on display at our Celebration event here on Saturday.

WITH RAISING OF THE V.E. DAY FLAG

To be introduced by Reverend Richard Reakes

And now we would like to invite the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mick Gillespie to raise the official VE Day Flag.

LIGHTING OF THE LANTERN

To be introduced by Reverend Richard Reakes

Cllr Mick Gillespie, Chairman of Countesthorpe Parish Council and Mr Edward Thomas

This anniversary of VE Day is not only a remembrance but also to celebrate peace which has emerged and has lasted for the 80 years. We will now light the Lamp Light of Peace along with the rest of the nation. The Lamps will symbolise the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war and to promote peace in our troubled world.

I therefore would like to invite Mick Gillespie and Mr Edward Thomas to light the lamp

MUSIC FROM 'MUSICAL VILLAGE'

Cllr Mick Gillespie, Chairman of Countesthorpe Parish Council

We now welcome the choir, 'Musical Village' who are here to perform an ensemble of songs of remembrance. This community choir is made up of local residents of all ages and abilities who enjoying exploring the joy of singing by coming together to enrich health and wellbeing.

LAST POST

FOLLOWED BY ONE MINUTE SILENCE

REVEILLE

PRAYER

Reverend Cameron Wiltshire-Plant

Prayer of Thanksgiving for VE Day

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us;

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression;

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace;

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of this nation, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served;

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

THE TRIBUTE

Reverend Richard Reakes

Let us remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to all enjoy the peace we have today.

Let us remember those who came home, wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working and family lives after years of conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, wives, sons, daughters and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen and women of other nationalities and faiths from Commonwealth and allied countries who fought, suffered and died during the six years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupations and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front – the doctors, nurses who cared for the wounded, the men and women who toiled in the fields, the fisherman who fished the seas those who worked in the factories and the air-raid wardens, the police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers and the young people of the Scouts and Guides who played such a vital role in the war effort at home too.

THANK YOU

Cllr Mick Gillespie

Thank you for joining us here today at this reflective occasion. As a celebration of the anniversary of the end of the war in Europe we will have our event here on Saturday where there will be entertainment and refreshments. It runs from 1pm to 5pm and we look forward to seeing you there.

7.30PM – CHURCH BELLS TO

MARK THE CLOSE OF THE EVENT

As part of the national celebrations, we are grateful to the St Andrew's Church Bell Ringers who will play us out by ringing of the bells from 7.30pm to 7.45pm as a mark of remembrance.