**Together 4 Fromeside Churches**

*Although most VE Day 75 Anniversary events have rightly been cancelled, as local churches we offer the following ideas to mark the day as a community while remaining in our homes on May 8th, 2020. We hope to join together more freely to mark the VJ 75 Anniversary on August 15th.*

**A Cry for Peace Around the World**

Cut out a white dove and display it in your window as a “cry for peace”, showing solidarity with all who work for peace around the world.

**Remembrance**

Use the following reflection and prayer

Tribute to the Millions

Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom 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 lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

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

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during several years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupation and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.

*Two-minute silence*

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.

Amen.

*From the Royal Navy Order of service for VE Day 75*

**Toast to the Heroes of WWII**

Join with the nation at 3.00pm, stand outside the house and raise a toast (choose your own beverage!) with the words: *To those who gave so much, we thank you.*