

VJ DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



A special service to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day was held at Easingwold Parish Church last Sunday. Due to the pandemic restrictions, only vicar Revd. Margaret Young and assistant curate Revd. Lottie Cranfield were in the church, along with organist Peter Smith, Gina Smith to lead the singing, and Tim Young to handle the technology! All were suitably Socially Distanced there, while the rest of us followed the service on 'Zoom'.

We were welcomed by Margaret, who started by laying a wreath at the altar. After the opening hymn: "O God our Help in Ages Past", the service was structured round the themes of: 'Act of Remembrance', 'Exhortation', 'Responsory', 'Prayers' and 'An Act of Commitment'. We heard readings of Scripture from Micah and the Gospel according to Luke, and the poems: "Hiroshima Child" and "VJ Day, Khanburi", read by Lottie and David Kenworthy. The hymns included "I Vow to Thee my Country" and "Now Thank we all Our God".

We saw a special video recorded at the Easingwold War Memorial the previous day, featuring:

Piper – Rachel Blueman
Laying of wreath at Memorial – Keith Watson

The Last Post – David Senior

2 Minutes Silence was kept

Reveille – David Senior

Kohima Prayer – Margaret Young

Church Bells – 75 tolls – Chris Leese
Piper.



There were also videos of “VJ Day across the World” and “War Museum VJ Day 1945”.

There followed prayers of ‘A Collect for Peace, ‘A Prayer for the Sovereign’ and ‘A Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation’. We sang The National Anthem, before Margaret gave The Blessing and we finished with the hymn: “Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer”. Margaret concluded by thanking everyone involved in making the two events happen, mentioning especially John Cleaver of Easingwold British Legion. (Pictures by Tim Young) M.W.

