

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



4th Sunday of Easter, 3rd May



Next week is Liberation Day, and we had been gearing up for months (if not years) for the celebrations of this 75th Anniversary.

Sadly, much that was hoped for will not come to pass, and the celebrations will look very different than we expected. But that doesn't mean the significance will be any less.

'Not getting what we hoped for' is a theme that runs through Scripture and our life as Christians. Last week we heard the words of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, '...we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel...' But because they were stuck in the mindset of Good Friday, they could not see the profound reality of the Resurrection.

Hope and expectations are never truly satisfied when they spring from our own needs and wants for perfection. Instead we pray to God that *His will be done*, and that *in His will* we may find comfort, peace and liberation.

It seems strange to prepare to celebrate liberation when our whole community - our world - is locked down. But do not be fooled. We have already been liberated! By his birth, life, death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has established forever that God's love is stronger than any hardship we may face. Stronger even than death.

We are liberated. Let us celebrate the liberation!

Rev Jonny

Liberation 75

Despite the cancellation of so many of the planned celebrations for Liberation 75, there is still plenty that we can do to remember this most significant of anniversaries.

Homes and buildings across the Parish are festooned with flags, bunting, posters and flowers. In St Martin, we are encouraged to join a Liberation Street Party (though each of us in our own front gardens) which will run from 3pm on the 9th May.

Karen, the Connetable, has set up prizes for the best decorated house or garden, and there's a fancy-dress competition too!

As a symbol of our remembrance, I will be lighting a large candle by the War Memorial from dawn until dusk that day and will lead prayers for all those who suffered under the Occupation and thank God for the safe Liberation of our Islands.

Details are attached separately, but you can find more information from the Parish Hall or follow @ParishofStMartin on Facebook.

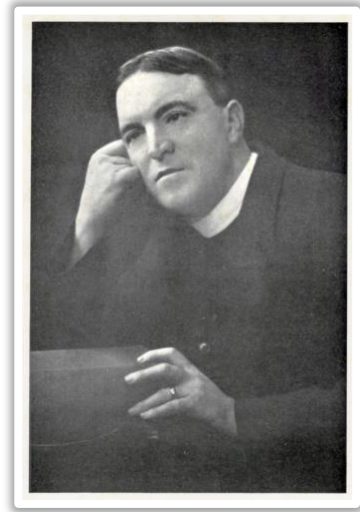


Canon John Russell-Wilford

A reminder that Episode 5 of the Occupation Diary of a Country Rector (the memoirs of Canon John Russell-Wilford) is being broadcast **Sunday morning at 9.40am.**

I hope you've been enjoying these, and thank you to those of you who have written to me with your own memories of Canon Wilford.

A remarkable priest.



S'Martenies Craft Flags

We thought it would be great to make some flags to celebrate Liberation Day, and to thank God for the love and the peace he offers us. Everyone can have a go, not just the children!

Full details can be found on our Facebook Page, and attached to the Weekly Email.

Why not take a picture of your flag and send it to church (stmartinsrector@gmail.com) and we will share them online.

Daily Hope Phonenumber

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phonenumber as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line.

The line - which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Please spread the word to our folk who aren't online.



To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: stmartinsrector@gmail.com