

LIBERTON KIRK NEWS EXTRA

7th May 2020



Dear Friends,

Friday is VE day, some of you reading this will perhaps have a



memory of that day 75 years ago. The day that marked victory for Europe over Germany. There was still fighting against Japan which did not end until August of 1945. On VE day Winston Churchill in his speech said “We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. Many rejoiced

in the streets including Queen Elizabeth. Many went to church to give thanks.

After the war hardship continued with millions of people facing life without loved ones and the cost of the war meaning life was tough in so many ways. We are so thankful to all who gave their lives for our freedom. There are some parallels with today but I don't want to diminish the great sacrifice everyone made during the war. We are thankful the death toll is decreasing due to Coronavirus and that we may start to rejoice and hope for a return to some sense of normality. However I think we face what Winston Churchill described as the “toil and efforts ahead”.

In all of this faith can help us through, knowing we have an unchanging God who does care for us. Also it is encouraging that during and after the war as well as now, everyone is pulling

together and helping where needed. My hope is that all the people who are helping and volunteering will continue once this is over and we will remember others in the same way we are at the moment.

The flip side is many feel challenged in their faith when facing difficulties. Someone asked me “What about God?” How can I believe in God when he created all things including this virus. The answer is I don’t have an answer but it did make me think. The person I thought of was Job who went through severe trials, suffering and pain. Katherine Dell in the Church Times wrote this “Once he was restored to good health at the end of the book, Job took a new delight in his close family. He even had more children, and a long life to enjoy his grandchildren. He came out of the crisis the other side, and he never lost his faith in God. His trust in God was unwavering even through the darkest night of despair. He admitted that he did not fully understand why he suffered, and, in the end, he got no answers. And yet there was something about the journey that led him to a more mature faith, and an understanding of himself and others that he had not had before.

Plumbing the depths of suffering, whatever it may be, often leads to a degree of maturing. Experience of the darker side of life can help one to find hidden depths within oneself.

Challenging words yet it continues to make me think. I hope you are all keeping well and managing with limited contact with your family and friends. If we can help in any way or you have news to share please contact us.

With much love

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