



Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 16

Sunday 28th June 2020

Summer Outreach Weekend

Hi, I am Will Andrews and my wife Lynne and I are the Counties Evangelists for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire (www.CountiesUK.org). We used to live in Dunstable, but now live in Stevenage and have been in Christian ministry since 1992.

We are so sorry that COVID19 has prevented us from being able to with you for your picnic, but we trust that some of you may be able to join us 'virtually' at one of the events over the weekend as we look at the theme of 'Hope Beyond Coronavirus' and seek to connect with what we have been through as individuals, and as a nation, over these past few months.

As I write, I have just heard of the news of the death of Dame Vera Lynn, aged an amazing 103 years old! She will, of course, be forever linked with the song, that she made famous during World War Two, 'We'll meet again'. A song, whose lyrics, longed for the return to 'normal' days and the renewal of contact with friends.

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Those sentiments, that have come to be applicable to all of us again during this pandemic, were used by Her Majesty the Queen in her address to the nation on the 5th April this year, where she said, "We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

At the moment, scientists around the world are trying to find a cure for COVID19 and until a vaccine is found we will have to endure 'social-distancing', masks and various other rules and precautions. We pray that one day a cure will be found, and that life will return to 'normal'.

But, the good news of the gospel that gives us, 'Hope Beyond Coronavirus' is that God has a cure for the virus of sin, that separates all of us from Him. We do not need to find a vaccine or obey a set of rules because He has opened up the way for us to get right with a holy God. Irrespective of race, age or gender, individually we matter to God and He loves us with an everlasting love.

The apostle John put it so well in his epistle, 1 John 1:9-10 (NLT)

‘God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.’

Whilst on earth Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, calmed a storm, fed the hungry, cast out demons and cured people with leprosy; but His greatest work was to die. When He was crucified, He took on Himself our greatest enemy – death. He paid the penalty for the wrong that we have done in order to offer us forgiveness and new life. Three days later He rose from the grave, and it is the risen Jesus Christ who says to us, who have faith, “Fear not!”

In these difficult days we do well to remind ourselves of the words of Psalm 46:1 (NLT)
‘God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.’

However, if you are reading this and you know that you have not become a ‘real’ Christian. You have not dealt with that inner virus, of sin, and that you do not have a real and personal relationship with God that gives you forgiveness, peace, and hope, then the risen Jesus Christ calls to you, “Come follow Me!”.

The call of Jesus is an invitation to travel. Sometimes, we talk about inviting Jesus ‘to come into our hearts’ – for Him to come where we are. But actually, He says, “Come follow Me!”, He invites us to go where He is going, to walk His way. To become a follower of Jesus.

May God bless you, wherever you are on your journey of faith.

Will Andrews

Note: If you are not yet a Christian and would like a copy of the free booklet, ‘Hope beyond Coronavirus’ that we will be using this weekend, please email me your postal address at andrews@CountiesUK.org and we will send you a copy. We will not contact you further unless you request it.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.



Dame Vera Lynn

1917 - 2020



Remembering “The Forces’ Sweetheart”

Sir Cliff Richard described Dame Vera as ‘truly an icon’ and said ‘my best, and favourite memory was sharing a performance with her in front of Buckingham Palace for the VE Day Celebrations in 1995. We walked to the stage through a crowd of survivors of that war, and they were reaching out to touch and get a smile from Vera.’ ‘Vera, Thank you, God bless you, and I loved you too. Rest in a very deserved peace.’

Katherine Jenkins who joined Dame Vera to record a special version of We’ll Meet Again to raise money for NHS Charities Together said ‘I simply cannot find words to explain just how much I adored this wonderful lady. There will never be another Dame Vera Lynn.’, and Captain Tom Moore who served in India and Burma said ‘She had a huge impact on me in Burma and remained important to me throughout my life.’

During the Coronavirus address to the nation Queen Elizabeth included the words from one of Dame Vera’s most well known songs saying ‘we will meet again’. Dame Vera said ‘I had no idea she’d use those immortal words We’ll Meet Again in her address and I thought it was absolutely wonderful.’

As well as singing the song at many concerts for the troops Dame Vera also sang it in 1942 at Her Majesty’s 16th birthday party.

On 25th August 2009 the album ‘We’ll Meet Again, The Very Best of Vera Lynn’ was released which included the songs We’ll Meet Again, (There’ll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs Of Dover, and Up The Wooden Hill To Bedfordshire.

The Band of the Coldstream Guards played We’ll Meet Again in London in tribute to Dame Vera Lynn on the afternoon of the 18th June 2020 after the news of her death.

Born Vera Margaret Welch on 20th March 1917 in East Ham, London, her father was a cockney plumber and her mother a dressmaker. Vera later adopted her grandmother’s maiden name of Lynn. Vera married in August 1941. In November 1941 the BBC gave her a one and half hour weekly show ‘Sincerely Yours -Vera Lynn’, and Vera starred in the film We’ll Meet Again in 1943. Vera was asked to perform for the forces, choosing to go to Burma to perform for the ‘forgotten’ Fourteenth Army who were engaged in the Burma jungle campaign, because that was where fewer entertainers had been. Vera went on an eleven week tour to Egypt, India, and Burma, a two thousand mile tour, during which she performed concerts to over three thousand men three times a day, before flying back to England on D-Day 6th June 1944.

On VE Day 1945 Vera was at home with her parents and grandmother in their garden at Barking, East London, listening to the wireless when the announcement was made. They had a cup of tea and later a

glass of sherry, making a toast with the neighbours across the garden fence. Vera also travelled to Germany and sang for troops who had liberated the concentration camps.

There were many further milestones in Dame Vera's life which followed:

- ◆ 1946 Daughter Virginia was born.
- ◆ 1953 Founded cerebral palsy charity SOS (The Stars Organisation for Spastics).
- ◆ 1969 Award of the OBE.
- ◆ 1975 Made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for charitable services.
- ◆ 1976 The Breast Cancer Research Trust founded with Dame Vera its Patron.
- ◆ 1978 Received the Freedom of the City of London.
- ◆ 1985 The Burma Star awarded for entertaining British guerrilla units in Japanese-occupied Burma.
- ◆ 1995 At the age of 78 sang to vast crowds before Buckingham Palace on VE Day with the Queen, Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret watching from the balcony.
- ◆ 1998 Her husband Harry died after 57 years of marriage.
- ◆ 2001 Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity for children with cerebral palsy established.
- ◆ 2009 At the age of 92 became the oldest artist to have a No 1 in the British album charts with *We'll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn*.
- ◆ 2016 Made a Companion of Honour by the Queen for services to entertainment and charity.
- ◆ 2018 Received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Classic Brit Awards.
- ◆ 2020 Died at Ditchling, East Sussex on 18th June at the age of 103.

Earlier this year, ahead of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Dame Vera spoke of remembering 'the brave boys and what they sacrificed for us.' 'My songs reminded the boys of what they were really fighting for' she once said 'Precious, personal things rather than ideologies and theories.'

In May, she urged the nation to 'remember the brave boys and what they sacrificed for us', adding 'They left their families and homes to fight for our freedom, and many lost their lives trying to protect us and our liberties.'

In a special message before she turned 103 in March, she also encouraged the British public to 'rediscover that same spirit that saw us through the war' amid the coronavirus pandemic.

