



VE Day 80

**Wendover's
Service of Commemoration and
Beacon Lighting**

Thursday 8th May 2025

Order of Service



The Greeting and Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:
All But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:
All A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airpeople who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace on this continent. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

All Our Father...

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5.16–21 - *The call to be reconciled*

⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was



reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Responsory

All Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
All righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
that glory may dwell in our land.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. **Your salvation is near to those who fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Cf Psalms 84, 89

Prayers

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to
serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for



the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

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.**

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect for Peace

A prayer for the Sovereign

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!



The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Lighting of Beacon by Cllr Stephen Worth (9.30pm)

I Vow to Thee, My Country (9.30pm)

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.



Thank you for attending.

Special thanks goes to:

St Mary's Church Wendover, Nadine Rose

St Anne's Church, Canon Derek Turnham

Wendover Free Church, Revd. Remco van den Heuvel

Greg Smith MP

RAF Halton

Wendover Parish Council

Wendover Parish Council Staff

Cllr Stephen Worth

Wendover Choral Society



VE DAY COMMUNITY DAY



Sunday 11th May
2pm – 5pm
Manor Waste,
Wendover

Live Music from
The Polka Dots Duo
Catch them at: 2.15pm – 3pm
and 4pm – 4.45pm

Fun for All Ages!

- **Community Stalls**
- **Delicious Food**
- **Free Face Painting**
- **Local Groups & More**

**Pick up your free Make Wendover
Smile sunflower seeds!**

**Come along for an afternoon of music, laughter,
and community spirit!**

www.wendover-pc.gov.uk

