**Friday 8th May**

1 Corinthians 15: 57, 58

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**58**Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Today is a special Bank Holiday (what does that actually mean in a lockdown?!) to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day. This is the day on which the allied forces won a decisive victory, and the fighting in Europe essentially stopped to the great joy and celebration of the British people (although fighting continued in other parts of the world, including the Far East). We celebrate that the victory was won, and that peace was restored, but we also remember that is was won at the expense of hundreds of thousands of lives. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is describing the battle that Jesus won over sin and death and hell through His death and resurrection. There is great rejoicing in the victory and the hope and freedom that it gives us, but also remembrance of the great cost that Jesus paid, for that freedom.

There had been lots of public events planned to mark VE Day, which can no longer take place, but I always think the best way that we can honour those from previous generations who gave their lives is to play our part in living for peace, locally and globally. In the same way, how do we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus that has won us freedom and peace? There is no better way than to live in the victory that he has won and he has given to us, and to live to make His name known, so that others too can taste the beauty of victory, freedom and peace with God.

*Father, we thank you for the precious gift of Jesus and for the way that he went to the cross for each of us. Thank you too that death could not hold him, and he won a wonderful victory! Help us to live in the fullness of all that he has won for us, offering our whole being to you, and give us opportunities to share this amazing good news with others. Amen*

