

Petersfield and Liss URC

'In Touch'



Sunday 9th May 2021



Hello and Welcome!

LOOKING FORWARD TO V-DAY!

'Shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation.'
1Peter 1:5 NIV

In World War II, if you'd asked the brave souls in the French Resistance how they ever hoped to prevail against the forces of evil when they were ill-equipped and outnumbered, they'd have told you: "While we're struggling on this side of the Channel, an invasion force is assembling on the other side. Nobody knows exactly when, but soon a signal will be given, a fleet of ships will come, we'll join them and they'll carry us on to victory."

Every war has pivotal battles that shape the outcome, like Waterloo and Gettysburg. The Battle of Normandy determined the outcome of World War II, but it didn't immediately end it. In fact, things got worse before they got better. The battle was fought and won on D-Day, but it wasn't until V-day that the war officially ended and victory was declared. On earth we're in a life-or-death fight against the forces of evil. We live waiting for the trumpet that heralds Christ's return to lead us to victory.

Jesus said, "No-one knows ...that day or the hour" (Matt 24:36 NIV). In the meantime, He tells us to "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13 NIV). He also gives us, "A living hope through the resurrection...into an inheritance that can never perish...for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation...to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1: 3-5 NIV).

Christ's resurrection removes all our doubts about the final result. We won't limp out battered and broken, we'll march out triumphant, "a radiant church...holy and blameless" (Eph 5:27 NIV).

So live your life in the light of God's V-day!

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If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.

Josh – 01720 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Esmé – 01730 266636

The Deal

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

<http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Bible>

What is Ascension Day

I think of the Feast of the Ascension as a day of promise, a promise delivered some 2000 years ago and one we can still lean on.

The Feast of the Ascension always falls on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. Why 40? It's biblical, of course. According to the book of Acts, Jesus appeared to His disciples for "a period of 40 days" after Easter—that would be a Thursday. That day while the disciples were gathered together on the Mount of Olives He took His final leave.

Did they know He was about go? It's not quite clear but there's something valedictory about His remarks. I can picture the disciples looking nervously at one other. How were they going to get along without Him? What were they going to do? How would they explain what had happened to them?

As always, Jesus is several steps ahead of them. He tells them to stick around in Jerusalem, to stay together because soon they would be sent the Holy Spirit. "John baptized with water, but in only a few days," He said, "you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

That would take place on Pentecost, 10 days hence. For now He promises that they will be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth..."

Then—almost in mid-sentence—Jesus disappears. "He was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight," the Bible says.

They might have remained stuck in their tracks if two men robed in white—angels it would seem—hadn't appeared. "Why are you standing here, looking toward heaven?" the men ask. "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

There's the promise of Ascension. What goes up must come down. Jesus left this earth but in His wake, God has sent the Holy Spirit. And as we do the work of building the kingdom of God on earth, we can know, no matter how discouraged we get, how hopeless it might seem, He'll be back. Now that's something to celebrate.

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<https://www.guideposts.org/faith-and-prayer/prayer-stories/power-of-prayer/what-is-ascension-day>

Ascension

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: "If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth." For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

...We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

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Sermon for the Lord's Ascension



Notice

Don't forget! The deadline for items to go in the June Messenger is Sunday 16 May. Please send your items to Keith and Mary.

