

This week marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day when we remember and give thanks for the end of war in Europe.

The beginning of the national worship service starts in this way.

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

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

It's a good response for us now, just as it was for those 80 years ago.

A reminder of God's providence and mercy.

When living in Norfolk I came to know and love the writings of Julian of Norwich. She wrote, 'He did not say, you shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be travailed, you shall not be afflicted. But he said, you shall not be overcome.'

Assurance that whatever life's circumstances, whatever trouble, difficulty, pain, whatever hardship or suffering, God's nature remains the same and God's name is love. Hence Julian was able to say the words most people associate with her '*all shall be well; and all shall be well; and all manner of thing shall be well.*'

80 years ago people dared to hope once more, with the prospect of healing and reconciliation, that all might 'be well'.

Now as then, it is sometimes hard to believe this to be true, but remember how hard it was on that first Easter for the disciples to believe that there would be new life.

Our Christian faith believes that God's purposes of love can never be thwarted: '***all shall be well.***'

