

## Collective Worship - Monday June 29th 2020



### Candle Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for being the light of the world.

**May the light shine brightly in your world.**

Thank you for being the light of our lives.

**May the light shine brightly in our lives.**



Today we are going to be finding out about this incredible lady.

Do you know who she is?

Vera Margaret Welch was born in London on 20 March 1917. Her dad was a plumber and from the age of seven, Vera began to sing in various places in her local area. When she was 11 years old, she began to tour UK music halls and changed her name to Vera Lynn. Three years later, she gave up school. Gradually, Vera became better-known and in 1937, she joined a band on a radio programme called 'Life from Mayfair'. Being heard on the radio soon made Vera one of the most popular singers in the country.

In 1939, the Second World War started, and by 1941, Vera had been given her



own radio show. It was called 'Sincerely Yours' and became very popular with soldiers fighting the war overseas. The programme not only reminded the soldiers that people at home were thinking about them, but it also brought them hope that one day they would be reunited with those whom they loved

Listen to her singing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHcunREYzNY>

In 1941, Vera married Harry Lewis, and five years later, their daughter was born. After the war, Vera continued to sing and appear in films and musicals. In 1952, she became the first British artist to have a number 1 hit in the US charts.

Vera always used her popularity to help others. She worked alongside and supported many charities, including several that sought to help those affected by war. Vera also founded Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, which helps children with cerebral palsy



In 2009, Vera became the oldest living person to have a number 1 top-selling album in the UK. *We'll meet again: the very best of Vera Lynn* topped the UK album charts when Vera was 92 years old.

Throughout her life, Vera used her gift for singing to bring hope and joy to people in their time of need. She counted it a privilege to be able to help people in this way. She is reported to have said once, 'I got so many letters. I still get them now, and I'm always moved by them. It seemed extraordinary that soldiers would come back from the war and write to thank me for what I had done. It made me feel very humble, and that's why I've always done everything I can to thank them back.'

Dame Vera Lynn died peacefully at the age of 103 a few days ago.

### Reflection

Vera Lynn lived her life well and had an enormous impact on many people. She used her gifts for the benefit of others.

Let's thank God for the life of Vera Lynn and for the hope and peace that her music has brought to so many people.

Let's pause to think about our own lives. How can we use our lives to help others?

Vera used her talent of singing to bring peace and hope to people in a time of fear and sadness.

In the Bible, there is a parable about using our talents rather than hiding them. All of us have talents that we can use to bring happiness to others. Are we willing to use these talents?

### Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for the life of Vera Lynn.

We thank you for the joy, peace and hope that she brought to many people.

Please help us to follow her example and use our gifts and abilities to help others.

Please be with all those who are experiencing fear at this time.

We ask that you bring peace.

Amen.

### Hymn – When it's a Sunny Day

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=73\\_y1ESHxql&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=73_y1ESHxql&feature=emb_logo)