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Dear Mr New,

The 70th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe (VE Day 70)

I am writing to highlight an opportunity for your members to play a role in this year's commemorations for Victory in Europe Day.

The Government and its partners will be arranging a variety of events to mark the occasion which will range from the lighting of beacons across the UK, to a service of thanksgiving and parade in central London.

The ringing of church bells has long been part of commemorating the moment in 1945 when peace broke out and brought an end to nearly six years of war and chaos across Europe. VE Day 70 is an opportunity to remember the sacrifice and sheer determination of the people who saw us through this dark period, give thanks to all those who so bravely played their part and celebrate peace and reconciliation.

The Government would like to invite churches and others to contribute to the weekend's events with a ringing of bells, in a manner of their choosing. We are proposing 11am on Saturday 9th May as a single moment to do this. However, we recognise that churches will have their own commitments that might not make it possible for all to deliver a ringing of bells at that precise moment. Therefore, we of course understand if churches select another moment, during the weekend of Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May to join in, in this way.

I am writing in similar to the Deans of English Anglican Cathedrals, Diocesan Bishops, Greater Churches Network and to the Royal Peculiars. We have also written to the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, inviting them to engage with their equivalent church networks.

I do hope that your members will wish to participate.

*Yr verch,
William Hague*

Rt Hon William Hague MP

**FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**Chris Mew
President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers**