



## **VJ Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service from Leicester Cathedral**

On Saturday 15 August at 5pm, Leicester Cathedral will broadcast a Service of Commemoration to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day – the day Japan surrendered, bringing to an end the Second World War. This is a pre-recorded service as it is not possible to hold the service as planned in the Cathedral itself.

As part of the service HRH The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the National Far East Prisoners of War Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association, will read an Extract from The Speech of King George VI, 15 August 1945. The service will be led by The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, and the sermon will be given by The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester. The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough, will lead prayers. The service will pay grateful tribute to all who served in the Far East Campaign between 1941–1945, who endured great hardships and became known as ‘the forgotten army’. This service will ensure they are not forgotten with an Act of Remembrance including the laying of a wreath and silence. The Bishop of Leicester will also invite those of us in today’s age to continue to strive for peace in an Act of Commitment.

The county of Leicestershire and city of Leicester has particular reason to commemorate the service of the troops in the Far East campaign, as the Leicestershire Regiment was a key player. It was in recognition of the Regiment’s outstanding service in the Far East and other theatres of war that King George VI awarded it the title of the Royal Leicester Regiment in 1946. As well as the online Cathedral service, in Leicestershire, the City and County Councils, together with the Lieutenancy Office, the Royal Tigers’ Association and the Children of Far East Prisoners of War (COFEPOW), have been working together to create a website honouring local veterans. This can be found at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/VJDay75>.

The link to the pre-recorded service from Leicester Cathedral at 5pm on Saturday 15 August will be posted here: <http://leicestercathedral.org/covid-19/online-services/>.

The Order of Service will also be available to download from this page.