



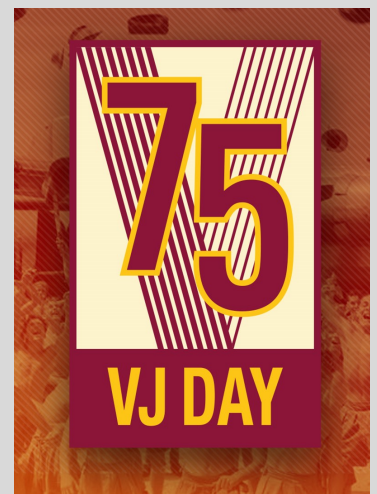
Defence Christian Network

September 2020 Update

Welcome to our update for September 2020. We hope you are well and remaining hopeful, following an unusual summer period. Since our last update in June, the DCN leadership team has sought to make forward progress wherever the pandemic has allowed. Our online profile has begun to take shape and welcome engagement opportunities with churches communities have developed. The membership of our Military Christian Fellowships continues to grow and we now have Christian Workplace Groups on 17 Defence sites. As ever, we are grateful for the support of our Chaplains and the MOD Central D&I team, whose expanded team now includes two new staff members dedicated to Faith & Belief. In these testing times, we pray for our leaders (1 Tim 2:1), as our nation seeks to regain some semblance of normality. We hope you are encouraged by this update; thank you for your interest in our network.

The Commonwealth heroes of VJ Day

On 15 August, many of us followed the 75th commemorations of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, which brought an end to the horrors of World War II. This year's event focussed on the huge [Commonwealth contribution](#) to this gruelling but relatively unrecognised campaign in the Far East and Pacific. Many of us were humbled to learn that the number of British troops in this theatre were outnumbered by those from the Commonwealth, including from India, Africa and Nepal. As part of the 14th or 'Forgotten Army' commanded by Lieutenant-General Bill Slim, these brave volunteers fought for our nation in treacherous conditions, against a relentless enemy. Their willing sacrifice is immortalised in the famous words of the Kohima Epitaph: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today".



DCN online profile

With some generous assistance from across the Defence Christian community, our online profile has continued to grow. In addition to our site on Defence Connect (MOD access only), the DCN now has a website, a Twitter account and a YouTube channel; links to these resources are provided below.



Website



Twitter



YouTube



Defence Connect

(MOD
access
only)

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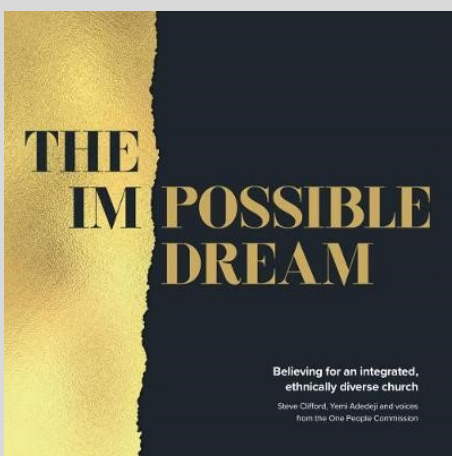
HELPING THE THINKER BELIEVE
AND THE BELIEVER THINK

MOD lunchtime talk series

You are warmly encouraged to dial into a series of monthly online talks ([MODNet OneDrive](#) / [GoogleDrive](#)) organised by our Christian Workplace Group at MOD Abbey Wood, in collaboration with the Zacharias Trust. The Zacharias Trust aims to address heartfelt questions about the Christian faith and explain the hope offered by the Gospel. Their vision is 'helping the thinker believe and the believer think', by intelligently presenting on challenging issues with sensitivity and respect. The next talk on Thursday 15 October at 1200hrs is entitled 'Searching for self? Identify in a fluid world.' Recordings of previous talks may be found on our [YouTube channel](#).

National Inclusion Week - Lived Experience

In the run-up to National Inclusion Week, the DCN has been focusing on the lived experience of Christians serving in the MOD. In 2017 and 2019, significant numbers of Defence Christians participated in a pan-Governmental survey conducted by our partner organisation Christians in Government. A summary slide ([MODNet OneDrive/ GoogleDrive](#)) of this longitudinal research gives an broad indication of issues which currently prevent some Christians from feeling able to bring their whole selves to work. We looking forward to sharing these findings during network discussion forums taking place in National Inclusion Week.



eBook Giveaway - The [Im]possible Dream

'The [Im]possible Dream: Believing for an integrated, ethnically diverse church' is a concise but powerful resource produced from the [One People Commission \(OPC\)](#), a large network of ethnic minority churches across the UK. The book charts the gradual development of this network between leaders from very different church cultures, who together committed to building a network which celebrates diversity, whilst also promoting unity across the Church. The DCN has partnered with the OPC to offer all of our members and supporters the opportunity to [download a free eCopy](#) of this insightful booklet using discount code DCNMEMBER.

Formalisation of the Catholic Military Association

Earlier this year, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Forces, Bishop Paul Mason gave formal church approval to the Military Association of Our Lady of Victories, including the right to call itself 'Catholic'. Within the ecumenical framework of the DCN, the [Catholic Military Association \(CMA\)](#) works with the Bishopric of the Forces to support military Catholics from the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. In common with all of our Military Christian Fellowships, the CMA also welcomes MOD Civil Servants. A range of membership types are available, plus opportunities to benefit from pilgrimages, prayer events and other spiritual resources. Further information is available on the CMA's website, including links to Facebook, Defence Connect and Instagram sites.



The new logo of the CMA, designed for internal use within the MOD.



Service of Prayer and Remembrance 2020

Despite the uncertainty of the pandemic, the committee for this year's event is pressing ahead with plans for a pre-recorded online service, to be broadcast on Thursday 5 November. Our Chaplains are bringing some fresh ideas to our maritime theme for this year's service, alongside more traditional elements of Remembrance. We are delighted that Bear Grylls has kindly agreed to provide a reading, in his role as Honorary Colonel Royal Marines. Updates to follow - in the meantime, please put 5 November in your diaries!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Lt Col Simon Maggs (DCN Chair)

P.S. This update is not intended for use on the internet/ social media. Please address any media queries to Katy Walton (media rep) via our mailbox: afnetworks-christian-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk. If you do not wish to receive these updates, please notify us and we will unsubscribe you.



Further information on the DCN is available at:

[MODNet OneDrive](#)



[GoogleDrive](#)