



### Katherine Jenkins OBE and Dame Vera Lynn



Many Christians enjoy the TV program 'Songs of Praise' and it is often used as a part of people's personal worship, especially by those unable to attend church services. In mid-2017 Welsh mezzo-soprano, Katherine Jenkins became one of the 'Songs of Praise' presenters.

Born in 1980, Katherine did well academically and won prizes and scholarships.

"At the age of 17 she won a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music graduating with honours and receiving a music teacher's diploma.

After working as a freelance voice coach, a tour guide ... and as a model she entered a modelling competition and became the Face of Wales 2000. She then decided to follow a musical career."

Katherine was quick to achieve singing success.

"Six out of seven of Jenkins's studio albums reached number one in the UK classical charts between 2004 and 2008" and she was in demand to sing at sporting events, public occasions and before the Queen.

Singing was not the only outlet for Katherine's talents. She appeared in several episodes of the TV series 'Emmerdale' and 'Dr. Who', was sawn in half while a magician's assistant and she competed on the USA program 'Dancing with the Stars'.

She first met Dame Vera Lynn at the London VE (Victory in Europe) day, concert in 2005.

"When I was performing the live finale, I saw her there in the wings. It felt wrong because this was her song, so I walked over to her, grabbed her hand and led her to the front of the stage. The audience was full of veterans and their families and it was a really emotional moment."

And it was a discussion the pair had backstage afterwards that led to Katherine embarking on trips to entertain troops overseas' as Vera Lynn had done.



The 2020 VE Day celebrations were understandably postponed due to coronavirus, however Katherine performed a half an hour show for that occasion in the empty Royal Albert Hall which was viewable via the internet. She included a virtual duet with Vera Lynn. Katherine sang live with Vera contributing her part by means of a film / recording of her singing many years ago. 'We'll meet again' by Katherine and Vera was also released for sale with all proceeds going to support the NHS (National Health Service) in the UK.

Katherine has given support to a number of charitable causes including raising over £22,000 for Macmillan Cancer Care by running in and completing the London Marathon in memory of her father Selwyn, who died of cancer when she was 15.

"I was brought up in the Christian faith,

When we were growing up, my mum was a Sunday school teacher so we were taught about God and the Bible. Back then, church was a huge focal point in our home life and the local community. My sister and I were choristers from the age of seven and I have some lovely memories of singing at St David's in Neath [Wales].

But after my dad died and I moved to London to study, I sort of lost my faith for a while. I think I was so hurt and angry that God had taken my dad away."

Grief-stricken and hurting, a call from her mum helped ease the pain and restore Katherine's faith. "I was in Australia and my mum rang to tell me of an unusual experience she'd had while at church. She told me that she'd been feeling very low and upset when, suddenly, she felt a great sense of comfort enfold her. That story stuck with me and it prompted me to go into a church in Sydney where I prayed and asked God to help me. From that moment it brought me back."



Katherine's friend Vera Lynn was known as the 'forces' sweetheart'. Lynn spent the war years entertaining the troops, performing in hospitals and army camps, and travelling as far as India and Burma. She stayed in tents and grass huts, and "went goodness knows how long without a bath".

Of her journeys to such threatening territory, she explained: "It was so important to get entertainment to the boys."

The war over, Lynn devoted much time and energy to charity work connected with ex-servicemen, disabled children and breast cancer.'

This year in March Vera Lynn turned 103.

In May she issued a statement that said in part "I hope that VE Day will remind us all that hope remains even in the most difficult of times and that simple acts of bravery and sacrifice still define our nation as the NHS works so hard to

care for us.

Most of all, I hope today serves as a reminder that however hard things get, we will meet again."

A month later in June, Dame Vera Lynn passed from this life.

Rev David [Wallis, Vera's local church vicar] said of her own beliefs: "I think she had a very open mind about faith. She had quite a background of a mixture of faiths. I know that her father was a Catholic, her mother was Church of England and her husband was Jewish. This gave her an appreciation of different ways of expressing belief in God and so she was extremely open and spiritually an aware person.

- [https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/life/entertainment/katherine-jenkins-campaigns-for-commemorative-statue-of-dame-vera-lynn/article\\_2d83de3d-55ea-559d-a2b1-35986484f08b.html](https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/life/entertainment/katherine-jenkins-campaigns-for-commemorative-statue-of-dame-vera-lynn/article_2d83de3d-55ea-559d-a2b1-35986484f08b.html)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine\\_Jenkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_Jenkins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzeEtnXaruc>
- <https://www.womanalive.co.uk/stories/view?articleid=3109>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vera\\_Lynn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vera_Lynn)
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-13118290>
- <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/dame-vera-lynn-s-vicar-praises-her-christ-like-quality>

### Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for Aboriginal pastors across the country.
- for Bible translators working to make the Bible available to Aboriginal people in their own language.
- for each other.



and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church currently intends resuming normal physical gatherings for worship services at Lyons on the 1st Sunday of September.

### Chaplains

Please pray that as coronavirus restrictions are gradually lifted, the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



#### Devotional material



#### Contacts

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#### Bible Reading



Prayer

Fellowship by Phone

**Canberra Christian Fellowship and Canberra Aboriginal Church - Worship Services are currently SUSPENDED.**

**CCF services resume on Sunday, 2 August, 2020 at 3pm**

**CAC services resume on Sunday, 6 September, 2020 at 5pm**