

Resources and ideas for use in acts of worship, commemorations and other events in remembrance of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

## Prayers

### Thanksgiving

We thank you, loving God, for the faithfulness, discipleship and reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We thank you for the strength, wisdom and long life with which you blessed her. We commend to your tender care her family and all who mourn her passing; may they know the truth of your promise that those who mourn shall be blessed. Pour out your Spirit of compassion, kindness, strength and wisdom upon your servants King Charles and the Queen Consort; guide and bless them especially over the coming days. Hear us in the name of the King of kings, even Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Praise and thanksgiving

Loving God, we thank you for the opportunity to come together to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth.

For her courage, her dignity, her sincerity, **we praise you.**

For her dedication, her resilience, her faith, **we praise you.**

For all the ways she put service before self, **we praise you.**

And we ask your blessing on all those she loved at this sad time, and especially on King Charles and the Queen Consort as they seek to follow her example and take on the mantle that has passed to them. **Amen.**

### Intercessions

As our nation remembers Queen Elizabeth II, we call to mind her role in the services and we pray for all those in our own country and overseas who serve in the military and all those whose lives are shattered by the war which is going on around them. We hold before you the leaders and people of Ukraine and pray for peace in that troubled land.

As the nation recalls the faithful service of Queen Elizabeth II, we call to mind her compassion and we give thanks for the hundreds of charities to which she was connected. We pray for them and those whom they seek to serve. We commend to you the people of Pakistan as they seek to rebuild their lives after the devastating flood and all the various aid agencies working there.

As the nation grieves the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we pray for her family who mourn a mother and grandmother and we remember all those who at this time are saddened as a result of the passing of a loved one those who have suffered a recent bereavement, those for who it is a time of anniversary and those for whom the pain is constant. May they know your comfort and peace.

As we prepare to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II and commend her to your eternal care, we pray for our nation that as we have been united by grief, we may be united by commitment to serve one another. Bless King Charles III and the Queen Consort, give them strength and wisdom that above all things they may serve you in the roles to which you have called them.

Loving God as we remember your faithful servant, Queen Elizabeth II, we thank you for her faith and for the wisdom and strength with which you blessed her. Bless us and all your children that we may follow her example, live in peace and unity and serve each other's needs.

In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### A prayer of commitment

In the name of Christ, and following the example of Queen Elizabeth, let us pledge ourselves to live out our faith responsibly, dutifully and courageously.

Will you offer your hands in friendship and welcome to those who are a long way from home, to those of all nations who are in need?

**We will.**

Will you use your feet to go where there is loneliness, to visit those who are hurting, to stand up for those who have been brought low?

**We will.**

Will you use your voice to speak out for the voiceless, to speak words of peace, to speak blessing over those who have never known love?

**We will.**

Will you give your life, whether you are young or whether you are old, in service of your family, your friends, your church and your community?

**We will.**

Will you open your heart to the peoples and all the creatures of the world and pray and work for peace and compassion?

**We will.**

Will you honour the memory of Queen Elizabeth before God, in and through all the seasons of your life, by living as she has did: responsibly, dutifully and courageously?

**We will. In the name of Christ, we will. Amen.**

### A grace for a shared meal

Lord Jesus, you feasted with friends and found joy in those around you. Bless us now as we share this food, celebrating and remembering Queen Elizabeth, and all those she served in your name. **Amen.**

## Ideas

### Creative ideas for children, youth and all ages

#### Host a watch party

Your church could open its doors to show the funeral on a large screen, allowing your congregation and community to grieve and connect together. You could offer prayer for individuals, children's craft activities, cups of tea, etc.

#### Book of remembrance

Set out an empty notebook, or sheets of good quality paper, and invite people to write stories of their memories of the Queen –

e.g. interactions or meetings, awards, the Coronation, the Jubilee. – any reflections about her impact on their life.

### Leaving your mark

**You will need:** coins, paper and crayons.

Use the crayons to make rubbings of coins, showing that the imprint of the Queen's face comes through the paper. What impact do you make on the world and/or people around you? How would you like to be remembered?

### Not alone

Many young children are worried about being left behind when someone dies. [What will happen to the Queen's dogs](#), now she has died? We are told that the dogs will go to live with one of her children, Prince Andrew. God has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31.8). You could listen to the song '[I Will Never Leave You](#)' (feat. Ruth Waldron / Gospel Voices United). God has promised to love us forever and care for us even after we die.

### Faith, family, friendship

In her final [Christmas speech](#), the Queen said her life was centred around her faith, her family, and her friendships. What three words would describe what your life is centred on?

### Balmoral

Talk together about the Queen's service to the country, and her faith which has helped her in sad and happy times in her life. Show images of her with her horses and her dogs (e.g. at Balmoral or Sandringham) and reflect on her love of the outdoor and natural world. You could link the two together: her love of God's creation and for family and nation – and link this to God's love and care too.

*(With thanks to Tracey Williams, Children's and families' worker, [Oxton St Saviours Church](#) for this idea)*

### Wreaths and crowns

Create a wreath collage to remember Queen Elizabeth.

**You will need:** a thick ring of card (wreath shape), images of the Queen's life for collage, coloured paper cut into different shapes e.g., hearts and diamonds, pencils, glue. You could adapt this activity for outdoor worship and create a wreath from natural materials.

Sit together in a circle and use the images to help children share their recollections about the Queen. Explain that wreaths sometimes help us to remember those who have died (e.g., poppy wreaths). Show the empty wreath shape and ask: What is special about a circle? Use any ideas the children offer to help explain that a circle is a reminder of things that last forever, i.e. heaven and God's love. Work together to decorate the wreath with images to symbolise the life of the Queen and shapes to represent her qualities. Older children can write onto the shapes some of the values the Queen demonstrated. Younger children can explain verbally what their symbol represents.

When the wreath is finished, say a prayer thanking God for the Queen, her faith, and her service to the country. Finally, point out that the wreath looks quite like a crown. You might like to use this as an opportunity to pray for King Charles, that he will draw strength from the King of Kings.



This large image is made of many smaller ones, each of which has its own story to tell. Where do you belong in Queen Elizabeth's story? And God's story?

## Reflections and anecdotes

The peaceful death of Her Majesty the Queen last Thursday has stirred many deep feelings. As the world's longest-serving Head of State, the stability she embodied will be missed by other national leaders, not least in the Commonwealth. Her absence from the life and culture of the United Kingdom, from her annual Christmas message and Maundy Thursday ceremony to the Royal Variety Performance and her image on coins and stamps, will take considerable adjustment for many. We should remember, however, that in addition to her innumerable public roles, the Queen died a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and offer our prayers for her family as we would for any others experiencing bereavement; may they find the comfort and consolation they need in this time of grief and loss. [Robert Beard, ROOTS In touch, 11 Sep 2022.](#)

'Family does not necessarily mean blood relatives but often a description of a community, organisation or nation.' (*Queen Elizabeth II*) In recent days, our country, and indeed the world, has been struck by the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. During her coronation in 1953, Elizabeth promised to serve her country and God until her dying day, and indeed she did just that. In Luke 16.1-8, Jesus explains how, if we can be trusted with small things, we can be trusted with larger things. Our late Queen has been an exemplary leader – having been entrusted with plentiful resources, she used them faithfully to help build up communities, support charities and serve others. Although we may not have the wealth of the British royal family, how can we show that we can faithfully use the things that we have been given? The Queen was generous in her charitable giving, but

perhaps the biggest impact she had on the smaller communities was her giving of time too. Is this something which you could explore - how to use the time given to us to glorify God? This week why not challenge yourself to explore further the work the Queen undertook whilst being trusted with her role as Britain's head of state? Is there anything which inspires you to imitate her actions so you can build up and look after your own community too?

[Natasia Bullock, ROOTS Check-in, 18 Sep 2022.](#)

I was privileged to live and work on the Sandringham Estate (as curate) and in the next door villages (as Rector) for seven years in the 1990s. I met the Queen on a number of occasions, formally and informally. There are stories I could tell but I don't want to end up in The Tower! But what I can say is that Queen Elizabeth never ceased to astound and inspire me by the knowledge and genuine interest she had in everyone she came to know. We might wonder how someone surrounded by so many layers of protection and security could ever get to know the 'ordinary' people of the local area. But she did – and often much better than I ever did as the local curate! 'You know [so-and-so] who lives [such-and such]', she would say to me, 'well did you know that he/she has just...' and their story would be told with real understanding and compassion. For me, trying to understand how the God who holds in being the whole of the wonderful and exotic and mysterious universe might be interested in little old fallible me, living on a tiny rock in a seemingly insignificant corner of that universe, Queen Elizabeth is a true and shining example of the what and how and why of it. There is rejoicing in heaven over the one – because God knows and values and loves every single one of us. Amen to that.

*Martin Adams, ROOTS AAA Editor*

Like many, I grew up with the sense that the Queen was 'always there' — and always would be. I was just eight when my father became Clockmaker to the Queen; prior to this he worked at a jewellery shop in our town, so his appointment was a red-letter day for the family. Dad had the utmost regard for the Queen and was privileged to serve the royal household for over 30 years. And our family were all honoured to have met the Queen and/or been in her presence at special events.

Many people are remarking how they felt as if the Queen was a member of their family, and it is easy to understand why. The Queen was genuinely interested in people and took time to speak to them. Over 70 years of faithful service she upheld values such as dignity, integrity and respect and many other admirable qualities. I sense that our family Christmas won't feel the same without the Queen's Speech; not only did it provide an opportunity to reflect on what had gone before, Dad often gave us a nugget of information about the room where it was recorded, and the timepiece featured (carefully set to 3pm!). And of course, the Queen didn't miss the chance to share her Christian faith and values with the nation.

Just last year, in her [address to General Synod](#), the Queen wrote, 'None of us can slow the passage of time; and while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged, including the Gospel of Christ and his teachings.'

We might be tempted to 'Stop all the clocks' and 'cut off the telephone' but we must not lose sight of the hope of the Gospel. As we mourn, I thank God that the Queen chose to serve her country and its people so faithfully and I pray for King Charles and the Royal Family as they adapt to this new season.

*Pam Elliott, ROOTS C&Y Editor*

## Links to other resources

*From ROOTS*

[Coping with bereavement](#) - creative ideas to help children and young people.

Templates from the archive: [A crown](#) • [A crown and jewels](#)

*From other places/organisations*

[Muick says goodbye](#) to the Queen

[Ideas for prayer stations](#) from Sun Hats & Wellie Boots

[Prayer activities](#) from Prayer Spaces in Schools

[Teaching resources](#) from Westminster Abbey

[Tears and celebrations](#), new words to a familiar tune, sung by Katherine Jenkins