

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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This year, 2022 we celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the longest serving monarch in British history and is a much loved and respected figure head throughout the globe.



Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on April 21, 1926, in London, to Prince Albert, Duke of York and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. It was never envisaged that one day she would be queen.



With Elizabeth's younger sister, Margaret Rose born 21 August 1930 and died 9 February 2002

On the day of King Edward VIII abdication in December 1936, Elizabeth's life and expectations changed drastically. Her father became George VI which made her next in line to the throne.



With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Elizabeth and her sister, Margaret Rose were relocated to Windsor Castle. From there she made the first of her famous radio broadcasts in 1940, with this particular speech reassuring the children of Britain who had been evacuated from their homes and families. The 14-year-old princess, showing her calm and firm personality, told them "that in the end, all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace."

Like her parents, Elizabeth was heavily involved in the war effort during the Second World War, serving in the women's branch of the British Army known as the Auxiliary Territorial Service, training as a driver and mechanic.





Elizabeth started taking on other public duties. Appointed colonel-in-chief of the Grenadier Guards by her father, Elizabeth made her first public appearance inspecting the troops in 1942. Elizabeth and her sister Margaret anonymously joined the crowded streets of London on VE day to celebrate the end of the war.



On Elizabeth's 21st birthday in 1947, in a speech from Cape Town over the radio stated,

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

The announcement of her engagement came in early 1947 to her distant cousin Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten of the Royal Navy, formerly Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark.



She married Philip in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. On the eve of the wedding her father, the king, conferred upon the bridegroom the titles of Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich. They took residence at Clarence House in London.





In the summer of 1951, the health of King George VI entered into a serious decline, and Princess Elizabeth represented him at the Trooping the Colour and on various other state occasions. On October 7 she and her husband set out on a highly successful tour of Canada and Washington, D.C. After Christmas in England she and the Duke set out in January 1952 for a tour of Australia and New Zealand, but en route, at Sagana, Kenya, news reached them of the king's death on February 6, 1952.

Elizabeth, now queen, at once flew back to England. The first three months of her reign, the period of full mourning for her father, were passed in comparative seclusion. But in the summer, after she had moved from Clarence House to Buckingham Palace, she undertook the routine duties of the sovereign and carried out her first state opening of Parliament on November 4, 1952.



Her coronation was held at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953. Elizabeth became Queen of seven Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka) and her titles included:

Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.





The coronation was the first to be tele-vised, serving to increase popularity in the medium and doubling television licence numbers in the UK.





They had 4 children. Their first child, Charles Philip Arthur George, was born November 14, 1948, at Buckingham Palace. Their second is Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise, born 15 August 1950 at Clarence House; Next was Andrew Albert Christian Edward, born 19 February 1960 and lastly Edward Antony Richard Louis, born 10 March 1964.



On September 9, 2015, she surpassed Queen Victoria's record reign of 63 years and 216 days. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change.





Through the good and difficult times of family life she has remained a constant source of strength. She has experienced losses and great grief but her faith has helped her through those dark times.



Her family has grown and she is much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.





In August 2017 Prince Philip officially retired from public life, though he periodically appeared at official engagements after that. In the meantime, Elizabeth began to reduce her own official engagements, passing some duties on to Prince Charles and other senior members of the royal family.

Having dealt with several physical setbacks in recent years, Philip, who had been Elizabeth's husband for more than seven decades, died in April 2021. On their 50th wedding anniversary, in 1997, Elizabeth had said of Philip, "He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years." One of the saddest photographs of her majesty was seeing her at the funeral service, sitting alone, as many during the covid outbreak had done also.

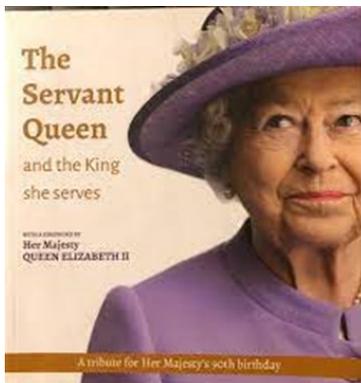


Queen Elizabeth II has a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As well as her formal role as 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England', which came with monarchy, her personal faith was evident even before she was crowned.



'Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'

That was the prayer request made by Queen Elizabeth II in her first Christmas broadcast in 1952. Her father, King George VI, had died on 6 February 1952.



Her Christmas broadcasts to the Commonwealth are among the few speeches she writes herself. They frequently refer to Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity, whose birth is celebrated at Christmas. Alongside her official role as head of the Church of England, the Queen expresses a personal faith in Jesus Christ. As she said in her Christmas broadcast in December 2000:

'For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.'



The Queen was crowned in a deeply symbolic church service devised in AD 973 and including prayers and a service of Holy Communion. The orb, sceptre, ring and crown used in the ceremony each include a cross to symbolise the rule of Jesus Christ over the world.

Even though the crown jewels are set with many of the world's most valuable gems, a Bible was, and will always be, presented during the coronation and described as 'the most valuable thing that this world affords'.



The most sacred moment at the heart of the ceremony is the anointing, when the symbols of royal status are removed. The Queen, sitting under a canopy to hide the sacred moment from the cameras, was dressed in a simple white dress with no jewels or crown. As the Archbishop anointed her with oil, the prayers said over her invited God's Holy Spirit to set her apart as God's servant. Christians believe that God's anointing fills his people with his love and empowers them to follow him.

The theme of service runs throughout the coronation and, during the Queen's long reign, she has been inspired by the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ, who said of himself: he 'did not come to be served, but to serve'.





The Bible story the Queen refers to most often emphasises this theme of service. In four of her Christmas broadcasts she has talked about the parable Jesus told of a 'Good Samaritan'.

In 1985 she said the story 'reminds us of our duty to our neighbour. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story: "Go and do thou likewise".'

In 1989 her reference to the story reflects the influence of her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, who shared her practical Christian faith and sense of duty. She said, 'Many of you will have heard the story of the Good Samaritan, and of how Christ answered the question (from a clever lawyer who was trying to catch him out) "who is my neighbour?".

'Jesus told of the traveller who was mugged and left injured on the roadside where several important people saw him, and passed by without stopping to help. His neighbour was the man who did stop, cared for him, and made sure he was being well looked after before he resumed his own journey.



Throughout her long life, Christ's example and teaching have been seen acted out in the dutiful and faithful life of our servant-hearted Queen.



In 2012 she concluded her Christmas broadcast by praying for her people and inviting a practical, servant-hearted response to Jesus Christ's message of love:

'This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son "to serve, not to be served". He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in



the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others. The carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter" ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service:

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part...



'The carol gives the answer, 'Yet what I can I give him – give my heart'.

Throughout her long life, Christ's example and teaching have been seen acted out in the dutiful and faithful life of our servant-hearted Queen. It seems that her prayer from the start of her reign has been answered.





God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

Information gained from

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