



VINTAGE ADVENTURE

@ HOME

OUR FAITHFUL QUEEN

Dear Vintage Friends,

I do hope you have all been enjoying the Jubilee celebrations over the past few weeks. At 96 years of age, Queen Elizabeth II is the UK's longest serving monarch, living through unimaginable changes in our world. Not only has she overseen 14 Prime Ministers in her time, from Winston Churchill to Boris Johnson, reigned through WWII, witnessed escalating changes in transport, communication, health care and technology, but she has remained the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Before the Queen's Coronation in June 1953, she asked the country to pray for her:

"I asked you all, whatever your religion, to pray for me on the day of my Coronation - to pray that God would give me wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that I should then be making."

We have witnessed the importance of Queen Elizabeth's faith in sustaining her throughout her life and she has increasingly taken the opportunity of her Christmas Day broadcasts to speak of her faith. At Christmas 2000, she said this:

"To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example."

As we enjoy the contents of this Jubilee Vintage Adventure, let's continue to pray together for our Queen, that she will be sustained by her faith in Jesus until the end of her earthly life. I pray that we will all be encouraged by the Queen's life of duty and faith as we too seek to live out our lives faithfully, knowing we are loved and valued by God.

Blessings

Erica & the Caraway Team

WORSHIP



FAITHFUL SERVANT

Scripture

*For the Lord is good;
His loving kindness endures for ever
And His faithfulness continues to all generations.
Psalm 100:5*

Opening Prayer

Faithful One, whose word is life
Come among us with saving power
to free our praise
to inspire our prayer
and to shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

*Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

Reflection: Faithful servant

As we celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee we thank God for her faithfulness to her calling and for her dedication to us her people. Being royalty, having one's career already determined and one's life's priorities destined by heredity, tradition and protocol can't be easy! Jesus also was born with a lifelong purpose, to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Yes, he did it willingly because of his amazing love for us, his wayward people. He gave up the glories of heaven to come and live here on Earth, to experience the realities of humankind, the pain, the suffering and also the fun and joys of community, so we can be forgiven and so we can receive everlasting life. Both have given their lives for the good of others, something which we are also created and called to do;

to love one another, to care for our neighbours rather than to focus all our energies on making our own dreams come true. Will we one day hear Jesus say to us "Well done good and faithful servant"?

Prayer

We thank you that you have given Elizabeth our Queen a heart to serve her people, and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all who were before her: encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good, until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom. Amen

Hymn

This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King



Scripture

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God indeed; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Thought for today

God always keeps his promises, and the Bible is full of them. What he says stands, his word is true; it is not fake news! We can believe him, rely on him and trust him. His unconditional love for us endures for ever and his ear is always ready to hear our prayers, but in our busyness do we make time to listen to him?

Here is one of his many promises for us to meditate on:-

God's promise to us from Isaiah 54:10

*Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken
nor my covenant of peace be removed,"
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Pause and ponder these lovely words for a moment

God does not call us to be perfect.

He does not call us to be rich or powerful.

He does not call us to be successful.

He calls us to follow him and to remain faithful to him throughout life.

Hymn

This is our God, The Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to The Servant King

Prayer of thanksgiving

God our Father, we thank you for the Queen's 70 years of faithful service given to this nation as we celebrate her Platinum Jubilee.

We thank you for Jesus' faithfulness to us and for his sacrifice on the cross that we might be forgiven and receive everlasting life.

We thank you that he never leaves us or abandons us.

We thank you for all who have faithfully served and cared for us throughout our lives, through good times and through tough times.

And we thank you for those we don't know but who faithfully serve our communities and our nation quietly and without recognition.

With your grace may we help and serve others in love and kindness. Amen

Pause and ponder on the faithfulness of God to you.

REFLECTIONS



John chapter 1 verses 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Thoughts

Before all time Jesus existed, he and his father were so close that they were one. The love between them was the bond which could not be broken, so God made the world through Jesus. He made men and women out of his love, but we did not return his love, we rejected him. Jesus came to earth at his father's bidding, he humbled himself out of love, in order to bring us back to God. He became the servant King.

John chapter 1 verses 10 & 11

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Thoughts

Jesus' life on earth was to be one of obedience to his father, in whom he trusted, in order to win back those who had turned against him. This deep, deep love for his father and for us took him to the cross, to give his life so we might live and have life to the full. Those who turn back to God to love and serve him with all their heart, mind and strength, he gives the right to become his children and he will be their father.

Hymn verse

*Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated, victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated, sinners justified:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.*

Thoughts

Our Queen has been a good example to us all. She, in her platinum year has loved and served God and her people faithfully all her life, as she pledged to do. She has kept her promise of servanthood.

*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.*

The only reason that we can love God is because he first loved us and gave himself for us.

There have been many in history who have also loved and served God faithfully and whether great or small we can all do the same.

John chapter 1 verse 14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn verse

*Christ triumphant, ever reigning, Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining, hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown. the eternal name.*

*Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing by your humble birth.
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.*

Amen

ELIZABETH, OUR SERVANT QUEEN



This month we celebrate Her Majesty, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. At 96, she is our longest reigning monarch, and despite her great age, continues to carry out many hours of work a week for the benefit of the country.

Perhaps you remember seeing the coronation being broadcast in fuzzy black and white on a tiny TV? Many of us had to go round to a neighbour's home to gather to watch. As a small child I was fascinated by the pomp and circumstance, the glittering jewels and fabulous robes. In primary school we made a special scrapbook of newspaper cuttings and cardboard cut-outs of the royal carriage and the procession.

In fact, even before this, in 1952, the Queen had been preparing spiritually for this momentous occasion, requesting the people of the UK and the Commonwealth to:

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

The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, impressed upon the Queen the gravity of her vocation, telling her that she was 'God-called to exert spiritual power and lead her subjects by her personal example'¹.

The Queen's ideal of service to others originates by her commitment to serve GOD and respond to His calling her to this role. Later, the Archbishop presented her with a 'a little book of private devotions in preparation for her Majesty's Coronation: to be used from 1st May to 2nd June 1953.'

In the ceremony the young Queen vowed to serve her people as a servant of God. This was symbolised by the orb, a globe like shape representing the earth, surmounted by a cross to demonstrate the rule of Jesus over all the earth. This is a magnificent piece with over six hundred jewels and shows that Her Majesty is the servant of an even greater King, Jesus Christ.



The Queen is one of the most respected people to have lived, but like many of us, has endured extremely sad and difficult times, including the death of her husband and estrangement within her family. So what has been her source of strength through these seventy years?

Her many Christmas broadcasts give us some clues. In 2002, she stated, *'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad...'*

In her 2008 Christmas message, the Queen said, *... 'Jesus makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than in receiving; more in serving than in being served...'*

In 2013 she explained, *'This is the time of the 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.'*

On the occasion of her 90th birthday in 2016, as she recalled the prayers she had requested as a young woman, she wrote,

'I have been - and - remain very grateful to you for those prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness to me as I have sought to serve.'



Her Majesty has most certainly been true to her vows and commitment to serve both God and us, her people, faithfully and consistently. Let us make sure we follow her example as she has followed Christ's.

1 Marr, Andrew 2012 The Real Elizabeth p 131

A prayer for this Jubilee

Martyn Payne BRF 2022

Thank you, Sovereign Lord,
for our Queen's commitment
to loyal service and godly living,
that has inspired us through her long reign.
Bless and keep her in this, her platinum jubilee year,
with your steadfast and unfailing love,
to the end of her days.
For Your glory and the growth
of Your kingdom on earth.
Amen.

Notes from a Royal Supporter

Jill Heard

We can all be thankful that Elizabeth II has been Head of our Nation for so many years. As a 21 year old Princess she promised "that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service God help me to make good my vow". It is amazing that with the Lord's help she has steadfastly kept that promise for 74 years.

Personally, I admire our Queen's unswerving Christian faith, her unflinching devotion to her duty as our sovereign and her wise mantra for life: "never complain or explain". For me, Queen Elizabeth II embodies the very best of our nation with its proud traditions.

I really appreciate something the Queen said in 2002 - quoted in the Bible Society booklet "The Servant Queen" celebrating her 90th birthday:

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel".

Over the past twenty years I have had the time to indulge my love of all things royal by going up to London to watch the Trooping the Colour ceremony in the Mall. In 2011 my daughter came with me for Prince William and Kate's wedding, which was especially joyful. In 2012 I watched the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The excitement of seeing the Queen and her family, the colourful



spectacle of pomp and pageantry, stirring music, precision marching, clatter of horses and clashing of armour of the Household Cavalry thrill me to the core! On such special days I am just so proud to be British!

Usually I go to London on my own, as I cannot find anyone as crazy as me to come too! I take an early train; use the bathroom facilities at Waterloo station, then "manage" ok for the next 8 hours till I get back to Waterloo again! Once I have found a place to stand in the Mall I don't want to lose it! I aim to be there by 8 am and stand for the next 6 hours! Of course, the stalwarts who have camped out all night are in the front, so I am often 4 or 5 rows back. When I arrive the campers are sitting down. When they stand up I am sometimes very disappointed to find they are all really tall! On other occasions I am fortunate to find that I'm mostly behind children, so have a perfect view. At the end of the parade, the fun of being "kettled" begins! Somehow the police get half a million of us to walk in orderly fashion down the Mall to the Palace. When the Queen and her family appear on the balcony the noise of cheering is almost deafening. Afterwards I take a much needed rest, sitting on the grass in St James Park and then I walk the couple of miles back to Waterloo station for my second "loo stop" of the day, and my train ride home.

In 2016 my son and family came with me and when we were in the Mall to my amazement my daughter and two granddaughters suddenly appeared, having flown in from Holland that morning – so there were 9 of us together that day all shouting our heads off!

This year my daughter is flying to Southampton and we will catch the 6.15am train on 2nd June to watch the Trooping the Colour that morning. My son



and family will meet us there, so again that will be extra special. My daughter is treating me to 3 nights in a hotel, so she and I can join in all the Jubilee weekend events. I feel very spoiled. We hope and pray the Queen is well enough to attend and to enjoy the celebrations, also that my energy holds out too and that the sun shines on us all.

A PHOTO MONTAGE

From one of our team's Coronation scrapbook



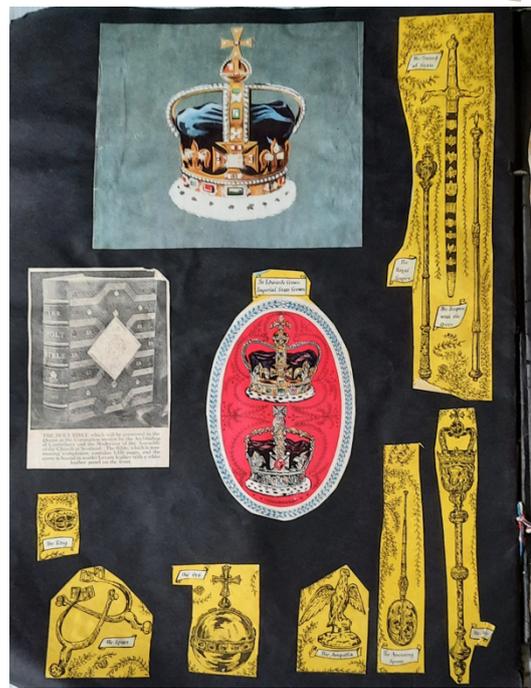
THE THREE QUEENS



H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II
At the age of 5 years



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



The Servant Queen

David Corfe

Wearing glittering robes of majesty,
her young head bowed beneath a weight of crown,
she bears the sparkling cross of pain above it.

Faithful to her vows these seventy years,
called to proclaim the diverse policies
of differing governments, stooped and alone
yet cheerful still, she remains a rock
above the batterings of change,
a laser beam in a world of darkness.
Hers is the power of a dedicated life
enabled and inspired by faith in God.

We thank you from our hearts, your Majesty,
and wish you courage as you near the goal;
in weakness lies your growing strength,
beyond your daily cross there waits your crown.



Fun facts about the Queen

Did you know that the Queen.....

- was given the name Elizabeth Mary Alexandra Windsor?
- held **two** sceptres at her coronation: the sceptre with the Cross and the sceptre with the Dove?
- has broadcast a Christmas message every year except one?
- has advised 14 prime ministers, starting with her first, Sir Winston Churchill?
- is the most travelled monarch in the world?
- has been patron of more than 600 charities across the UK and the Commonwealth?
- likes to feed her dogs herself?
- has sent over 50 000 Christmas cards?
- two of her present dogs are corgis, the other two a dorgi (cross between dachshund and corgi) and a cocker spaniel?

- has only two days off each year when she does **not** receive her official red box of papers?
- is woken each morning at 7 30 a.m. by a member of staff. No alarm clock!
- is the longest reigning monarch, and has beaten her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria (63 years)?
- her morning bathwater is exactly 7 inches deep?
- is the only person in the UK permitted to drive without a driving licence?
- sent her first tweet via twitter in 2014?
- writes her own Christmas message?
- first posted on Instagram in 2019?

Queenly Quiz

Try these questions about the Queen!

1. The coronation crown weighed approximately

1 ½ lbs 3 lbs 4 ½ lbs

2. Over the years has owned more than

24 corgis 30 corgis 41 corgis

3. Still works

7 hrs a week 15 hrs a week 40 hrs

4. Currently has

2 dogs 3 dogs 4 dogs

5. Sent her first email in

1976 1978 1981

6. Starts her official paperwork at

9.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m. 10 a.m.

7. Eats her lunch when at home at

12 noon 1.00 p.m. 1.30 p.m.

8. When she signs her name with Elizabeth R, the R stands for

Royal Regina Reigning

9. Did not give a Christmas message in

1969 1977 1982

10. Typically goes to bed at

10.00 p.m. 10.30 p.m. 11.00 pm

Queenly Quiz answers
1. 4 ½ lbs
2. More than 30 corgis
3. 40 hrs a week
4. 4 dogs
5. First email in 1976
6. 9.30 a.m.
7. 1.30 p.m.
8. Regina
9. 1969
10. 11 p.m.