

staines

Methodist Church



Newsletter
October 2022

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 21.04.1926 – 08.09.2022

We mourn the death of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II who, on Thursday 8th September at 3:10pm, passed safely into the hands of the loving God in whom she trusted unfailingly and whom she had served her whole life. After a lifetime of service to her country and to the Commonwealth and Realms, she is now reunited with her beloved husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who likewise served her and her peoples loyally throughout their long marriage. We ask for God's blessing and peace to be with her now, as she rests with Prince Philip and with her parents George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, whose example of service she followed.

As a mark of respect, we dedicate this issue of our monthly Church Newsletter to the memory of our late Queen, who touched all our lives and is fondly remembered by so many of us, as you will see from the many tributes included in this month's pages. We think of her family as they mourn, and pray that they may be comforted by the personal memories which they share, and also by the knowledge of the deep respect and love which so many people had for the Queen, not only here in the UK, but also all around the world. Throughout her long reign, she has provided continuity and stability to our country, and comfort and hope to our peoples, despite times of international unrest and internal political turmoil.

But the Queen would no doubt have been the first to say that the Monarchy itself is more important than the individual Monarchs who have made up the line of succession for over a thousand years. And so, while we reflect on a long life well lived and a reign of record-breaking length, we also this month welcome in our new King, Charles III, whose own life as our longest-serving Prince of Wales has already demonstrated many of his mother's qualities of service and dedication to duty. May God watch over him and protect him.

God save the King.

Minister: Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah **Tel:** 020 8890 2783 or 07931 528165

Sunday Services: 10:30am

Junior Church: 10:30am

From the Minister

Dear Church Family.



Warmest welcome to the month of October, our month of Harvest Thanksgiving.

What happens when we give God thanks?

When we give God thanks, we harvest his presence (Psalm 103:1-5)

When we give God thanks, we received the harvest of supplies (John 6:11-12)

When we give God thanks, we receive the harvest of health (Luke 17:11-17) When we give God thanks, we receive the harvest of life (Luke 17:11-19, Psalm 150:6)

Don't get tired of doing what is good

'Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up' (Galatians 6:9 NLT).

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9

DailyVerses.net



Don't give up, don't get tired of doing good – your Harvest of goodness is on its way

'You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you' John Bunyan

Why does God require us to plant a seed of goodness? Because planting is an act of faith.



You take what you've got, and you give it away. That takes an act of faith! And it brings glory to God and blessing to those who plant goodness.

'Give and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.' (Luke 6:38)

Plants take time to grow. There's no such thing as instant maturity. No farmer goes out, plants the seed in the ground, comes back an hour later, and expects to reap a harvest. You've just got to let it be and let God grow it in his time.

Galatians 6:9 says: 'Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.'

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

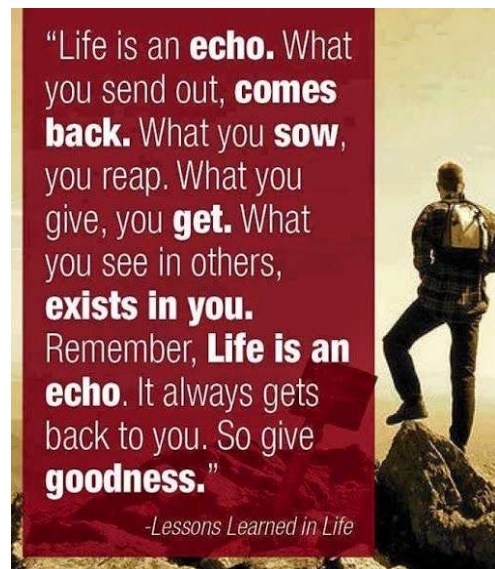
— John Wesley,

Letters of John Wesley

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**, and to **goodness**, knowledge. (2 Peter 1:5)

Prayer: Father God, In the name of

Jesus Christ, I ask for the grace to please you in all I do. Cause me to sow the right seed, the seed of goodness in people's lives and let my life be a reflection of Your goodness Lord, in Jesus' mighty Name. Amen



May this month usher you and me into our glorious season of harvesting God's goodness. Blessings,

Kofi

PS: Family: I would like to establish a 'WhatsApp' platform for our church to help with easy communication. You will be kindly asked to join if you wish beginning this Sunday. Thank you.

Building Work completes on time

Phases 1 and 2 are finished

The Building Improvement Group (Blmp) is delighted to announce that the new platform lift is fully installed and functional, shown here being tried out by David Newman who for health reasons had been unable to climb the stairs to the first floor of our building for many years. The lift fits so well into the foyer that several people have not actually noticed it and have had to be shown where it is!



The lift is actually here, tucked into the corner of the foyer, with the former pair of double doors to the Sanctuary replaced by one single door. This historic photo was taken at 7am on Monday 12th September as Roz formally accepted the building back on behalf of Blmp, in the 'handover' meeting.

Left to right: Patrick Corrigan, Rob Weare (Prestige Builders), Roz, Rob Nursey (Architect, Robert Davies John West)

Upstairs the works have made a tremendous difference to the space in Room 1. The Little Burrows Nursery immediately began to return their equipment to the building and were up and running in the new improved spaces within hours. The new kitchen is proving a great help to all our 'upstairs' hirers, and the lift is already greatly helping group members who previously had to struggle up the stairs. Everyone who has seen upstairs so far has been hugely impressed. We now look towards Phase 3, which will involve some reconfiguring of the downstairs spaces. More news of this next month, but meanwhile congratulations and huge thanks to Prestige on a job well done...



Church Family News

Many congratulations, Sheila



Huge congratulations to Sheila Hassan who has just passed her MSc with flying colours. Taking a part-time degree while working full time is a very major undertaking, and as the picture shows, she even managed to fit in coming on our pilgrimage to Oberammergau in her spare time. Sheila is a radiographer based at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, working with brain cancer patients - an extremely specialist field at the cutting edge of technology - and this has been the subject of her research. She is also, of course, one of our Local Preachers, and we are all delighted to hear of her success.

Happy Silver Wedding, Karen and Jamie



Many congratulations to Karen and Jamie Hanley who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 27th September. Here they are celebrating the day with family



and friends, cutting a delicious chocolate cake at a party shared with Ray and Helen Noble (Karen's mum and dad) whose Diamond Wedding will be coming up later this year. Quite a year for family celebrations!

In Memoriam



We send our deepest sympathies to Barbara Bagg on the loss of her sister Christina (known as Chrissie by most who knew and loved her), who passed away on Monday 26th September (UK time) at her home in Australia after a long period of illness. May she now rest in peace, saved from further suffering, and safe in the arms of our loving God.

Please keep Barbara and Michael and the family in your prayers.

Guess what!

You may remember that last October I told you it would be my last year of baking Christmas Cakes, but guess what! Yes you're right, I **have** made some. In the summer I just felt I could make a few, so I started. Rather to my surprise I've actually baked 26: 15 square ones and 11 round ones. This isn't as many as last year so it will be a case of first come, first served. Once they're gone, they're gone!



I will leave a list in the church foyer for you to sign or if you prefer you can phone my landline. If I'm out, please leave a message on the answer machine. If you don't know my number, you can always get in touch with me via Roz (whose contact details are on the back page). Make sure you give your surname as well as your Christian name and say whether you want a round or a square cake. I'm afraid I've had to put the price up to £8 per cake as the cost of the ingredients has gone up like most things and even cooking them was more costly, but as usual, the entire amount will be given to Christian Aid.

from Barbara Lownsbrough

QUEEN ELIZABETH II (1926-2022)

Some Personal Tributes Shared

When I asked 2 weeks ago if anyone would like to contribute their personal memories of the Queen for publication in this Newsletter, I was overwhelmed by the response, and by the variety of experiences which people shared. Her loss has touched the whole country very deeply, and even the most fleeting glimpse of her clearly remains a treasured memory in so many people's minds. Many thanks to all our contributors. A copy of this Newsletter will be sent to our new King - Charles III.

Portrait of the Queen

At the ages of 97 and 95, Reg and Lynn Marsh are two of our oldest members at Staines Methodist. Reg has long been an amateur artist in his spare time. Moved by the loss of the Queen, they sent in for inclusion in our Newsletter this picture of a beautiful portrait done by Reg:



Reg painted this picture of the Queen at the Trooping of the Colour back in 1954, not too long after her Coronation. The Queen was 27, her husband Philip 32.

Reg and I too were married, Reg was 28 and I was 26. Our lives were so different to the royal couple in many ways and yet in other ways the same. We were two young married couples who had served our country during the dark days of the war, who had witnessed the ugliness of war but who now lived in hope of a much brighter future.

from Reg and Lynn Marsh

The Queen in my Lifetime

I know I must be in the oldest group in our church family. Some of us are unique in the fact no one for many years to come will live through a reign of 70 years, but we will actually have had 5 monarchs in our lifetime - George V, Edward VIII (the uncrowned King), George VI, Elizabeth II, and now Charles III - a record which would be hard to beat!

The things that remain in my memory are watching the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, a joyful occasion after living as a child through the bombing of London in WW2. It cheered up the nation. Then the sudden death of King George giving us a very young Queen. The people were stunned but thrilled.

The Coronation was spectacular and exciting because television had appeared and families and friends gathered to watch on tiny screens if they could not go to London.

The next thing I remember is being in London for a special event with young friends from our MAYC group. We were standing in front of Buckingham Palace where the news of the birth of our new Prince Charles was posted... I have a photo of us all at that event! It was so exciting. Over the following years news of our beloved Queen and her growing and extended family was followed by her people with great interest. Pictures were treasured.

I greatly admire her example of Christian belief and values over all the years she was in the background of my life. The fact that she made known her strong Christian faith was wonderful.

May she rest in peace after a long life fully lived.

Thank you, Queen Elizabeth, for all the years you reigned over us. You will live in our memories for ever.

from Dorothy Moore

Memories of the Queen

Queen Elizabeth, George VI's wife, was the same age as my mother. I was born when Princess Elizabeth was seven and a half, almost exactly the same age as my sister. Princess Margaret Rose was older than I but our family often identified with the royal one which in age mirrored our own.

I remember I very much wanted a skirt that would sit snugly round my waist without braces or an attached bodice to detract from its sophistication. As I have never had much of a waist and even today have trouble keeping skirts and trousers up my mother and sister decided to convince me otherwise.



My sister found a photograph of the princesses and carefully pencilled braces on to their skirts. Needless to say, I was not taken in and was extremely mortified by this subterfuge.

When Elizabeth was crowned, I was allotted a small piece of pavement near Westminster Abbey by MAYC because I knew Peter Wright, a leading light in the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs, who also worked for the Queen. This was a very exciting opportunity and despite a rather wet day it was an unforgettable experience.

When I came to teach in Windsor, the Queen seemed much more accessible. Windsor County Girls' School then resided in three houses near the Long Walk and we would all throng to watch her going to Ascot. My senior in the English department often played the organ in the Royal Chapel in the park. Many of our pupils had parents who worked in the Great Park or the Castle. I once stood next to her when she was watching Prince Philip in a driving competition. I was amazed at how small she was.

When Windsor Methodist Church was re-opened after massive renovations, she and Prince Philip came to re-open it and they chatted to many of us.

As a mother of four I have often felt very sorry for her. She was forced to watch her family suffer for their mistakes so publicly, just as they were forced to grieve publicly when she died. It must be incredibly difficult.

However, she has managed to steer her public life through all her troubles, without losing her dignity, her graciousness or her humanity.

No wonder she has been mourned by so many of her subjects with such genuine love.

from Cynthia Greenwood

A memory from an RAF Airman

Here is one of my memories of our much loved, wonderful Queen: I had already seen Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at Colnbrook when I was a schoolboy but was looking forward to seeing her when I was serving in the Royal Air Force at RAF Kinross in North East Scotland. She was to present number 120 squadron with its standard.

Unfortunately we, the ordinary serving airmen of Kinloss, were deemed to be too much Coastal Command and not sufficiently Ceremonial, so the official drill squadron was brought up from RAF Uxbridge for the big occasion on the 14th of August 1961 to do all of the marching about and looking pretty. The problem now was what to do with us. We were ordered to become invisible.

It turned out well for us, though. We had a storeroom in the hangar which overlooked the parade. We removed the spare radio equipment from the shelves next to the window, climbed onto the shelves and watched the entire ceremony in complete comfort, Queen and Prince and all.

God bless her.

from Ted Wragg

Barbara Remembers the Queen

I was born just five years after Her Majesty, so I grew up at the same time as she did. I remember listening to the radio when she and Princess



Margaret spoke to the children being evacuated during the war. I also remember when she made that solemn promise at 21 to serve us for the whole of her life. I was fifteen years old when she got married and I travelled up to London with a friend to join in the celebrations there.

I was on my final school teaching practice when the headmistress came into my room and whispered to me that the King, George VI, had died. I travelled up to London with my future fiancé and a German friend on the eve of the coronation and camped overnight in order to get a good vantage point for the coronation procession. I recall very clearly the news passed round the gathered crowd that Hillary and Tenzing had conquered Everest. One of the outstanding memories was of the Queen of Tonga sitting so proudly in an open carriage waving to the crowd as she passed by in the pouring rain.

In 1984 the Queen attended a celebration in the Albert Hall to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of Cruse -- a charity formed to support people who had been bereaved. I had been a Cruse counsellor for the local branch for several years and was asked if I would attend to represent our branch. After the formal celebration all branch representatives gathered in a side room and the Queen joined us there. I did not have the honour of speaking to her but remember her really lovely smile as she passed quite close by me. She also attended the service in St Paul's to mark the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion. I was in the Methodist choir formed at the time specifically to sing an anthem in that service, a very special and memorable occasion

for me.

I had the greatest respect and admiration for Her Majesty. I retired from my job as a teacher over 30 years ago, but she fulfilled her promise given when she was only 21 years old to devote her **entire** life to serve us. Her Christian example of sacrificial giving is an inspiration to us all.

from Barbara Lownsborough

Seeing the Queen

I have vivid memories of watching the Queen's Coronation. I was 7 years old and we had to go to my aunt's house in Watford to watch it as we did not have a television then.

I also remember seeing the Queen in her car with the Duke of Edinburgh when she opened the Elmsleigh Centre in Staines in 1980. I stood with my mother and daughter at the top of Station Path as she came through the town.

I have never met the Queen personally, but when I retired, I was able to join my cousin every year in June in Windsor Park where we watched the Queen transfer from a car into an open carriage on her way to the Ascot races. We always stood in the same place and were only a few feet from her. We were convinced she smiled directly at us several times. We liked to think she remembered us as being there each year! We were able to get some good close-up photos of her.

from Cynthia Hatton

Royal Memories – and Memorabilia

I was brought up in a Christian, Royalist family. My Grandmother loved and admired King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. She was brought up in Lambeth and because of the war time experiences they shared she would talk of the bombs that fell on Buckingham Palace and how the Queen Mother had said that she would now be able to look the East End in the face following the destruction they had witnessed first hand. My Mother who was five years older than Queen Elizabeth II would talk to us of her experiences watching the Queen grow up, enter military service and of her broadcasts etc.

My Grandmother went to Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation and slept on the pavement and had marvellous memories and stories to tell similar to those being expressed by people who witnessed the late Queen's funeral. She took my younger sister to Princess Margaret's Wedding to Anthony Armstrong Jones and they both slept out for that. I would have loved to have been there but was not prepared to sleep on the pavement.

I have been an admirer of the late Queen since childhood and was very thrilled to be in the Brownies at the time of her Coronation. We were given a special badge to wear on our uniform breast pocket and I

remember Brown Owl saying you will be the only children to receive this as it is a one off. It is on a blue background with a central golden crown with 1953 on it. Here is a photo I have taken of my memorabilia. It includes my Brownie Badge, (I was a Pixie), a Medal I was



given at school to commemorate the Coronation, (and I still have the little red box it came in) plus a small golden crown charm, encrusted in coloured jewels, a gift from my Mother to remember Coronation day. I wore the medal at our recent Platinum Jubilee Street Party and my

neighbours were fascinated by it as none of them had been born in 1953; that makes me feel old.

I have been to the Trooping the Colour many times, and followed all the Jubilees. I was present at the Queen's Silver Jubilee when the Queen lit



the first beacon in Windsor Great Park. My memory of the Golden Jubilee was the fly past that included Concorde, and I also attended 'All The Queen's Horses' in Home Park Windsor. Some friends from The United Church and I were on Waterloo Bridge as the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant passed by on

the Thames and her Platinum Jubilee was memorable as we had a wonderful Street Party here in Egham and who could forget the Paddington Bear Sketch?

I had seen the Queen when she changed over from car to carriage in Windsor Great Park en route to Royal Ascot and also saw her at Ascot Race Course. It always amazed me that she was able to walk through the crowds there with ease and that we were lucky enough to see her at such close proximity. I also was in London for the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday and have a lovely photo of her with Prince Charles as they left via the road from St. James's Palace

I was sorry that I did not feel able to go and stand to see the Queen's lying in state as I had been to the Queen Mother's, but I have been to Windsor Castle to look at the flowers left in memory of the Queen, and as others have said, the scent was wonderful. It was quite a spectacle and lovely to be amongst people who loved the Royal Family as much as I do.

Along with hundreds of others I will never forget the Queen meeting James Bond for the 2012 Olympics and her parachuting into the Arena - or did she?! Such lovely memories.

from Janet Figgins

A Girl from Hull shares Royal Memories

My first attempt at seeing the Queen was in June 1953. My Grandad who lived in the house next-door had bought a television for the coronation and I joined him with the rest of the family and some neighbours at the beginning of the broadcast, but I found it too boring and decided to go out for a ride, in the rain, on my first two-wheeler bicycle, a birthday present from a few months earlier. By the time I got back, the actual crowning was over!

Fast forward to 1957 and a Royal Visit to Kingston-upon-Hull by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. They were opening something at the University but also looked at some trawlers and a new council estate, and for some reason were going to ride in an open car through a large public park on the Saturday afternoon. Uniformed organisations, including the Brownies, were to line the pathway, but I had been ill and off school that week and my mother was adamant that I was not well enough to go with them. However, I was so devastated, it seems, that she eventually agreed to take me herself to stand at the side to watch the royal couple pass by.

I've just heard from my brother in Paris about one of my classmate's encounters with the Queen, and I'm afraid I won't ever be able to rival this. He watched, on and off, the BBC coverage of all the recent events and happened to turn on one time when the actress Maureen Lipman was being interviewed, and said that she had met the Queen 6 times. To quote my brother's account, "The interviewer was impressed and repeated '6 times?!' to which Maureen responded: 'Yes, not bad, (pause...) for a girl from Hull' ".

This girl from Hull only managed to see her, from a distance, for those couple of minutes in 1957, but I have proof of this in the shape of a tiny photo in the family album of the royal couple waving as they were driven past!

from Linda Marshall

The Order of the Garter Ceremony

Every June a grand procession of the Knights takes place at Windsor Castle accompanied by a marching band and Officers of the Order. Knights are selected by the Sovereign from those who have held public office or served the Monarch personally.

On 13th June 2005 Suzanne and I were able to attend such a ceremony where we saw Queen Elizabeth II and other dignitaries process to the Throne Room of the Castle, all in their grand ceremonial dress, to invest new members to the Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Anne, the Duke of Kent, John Major and Margaret Thatcher were amongst the dignitaries attending on this occasion.

Whilst there was a police presence (after an airport style security check), the atmosphere was fairly relaxed and we were able to stand quite close to members of the Royal family.



It was a spectacular event on a beautiful sunny day.

from Graham Clarke

Memories of the Queen in Scotland

I distinctly remember (as an almost 75 year old) the whole Accession /Coronation event. Standing with my mother in the local baker's (we were living near Dundee at the time) I can remember a lady approaching Mum to ask if she knew that the old King (George VI) had passed away.

Then there was the Coronation – we queued (sitting in the school corridor) to get our mug and box of chocolate. We were taken to stand in a great row in a road near Dundee as the Queen (who had come up on Britannia) was driven past. I felt she was waving at me personally!

We had no TV, but Mum and Dad took my brother and me to a colour film of the Coronation. I remember being very taken by the magnificent gold uniforms of the trumpeters (they're still wearing them).

Next - many years later - my wife and I were up close to the Queen when she came with the Duke to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the consecration of St Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street (near Harrods) where my father had been the Minister for many years. Here is a picture of that wonderful occasion.



Her Majesty was a great lady. She will be very much missed.

from Andrew McLusky

Garden Encounters

While many of us, living in Staines and therefore being close to Windsor, have seen the Queen close to, very few of us have actually spoken to her. The exception is Peter Hassan, trained as a Royal Gardener, and working for an employer who clearly loved her gardens...

The year was 1976 and I was a student gardener in the Royal gardens at Windsor. My first encounter with the Queen and royal family was a Saturday afternoon when I was sole charge of a range of glass houses. On arrival to do the watering I noticed people at the far end of the glass houses. My Head Gardener has explicitly informed me that no one else should be in the glass houses.

On seeing these people, I began to quickly move from glass house to glass house to challenge why they were there only to find it was the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the family. So, I did a quick about turn and went back to the first glass house and continued watering and slowly worked towards them. To my relief by the time, I reached the last glass house they had moved away.

On Monday morning the Head Gardener spoke to me and said “you had visitors at the weekend!”, with a wry smile - he had obviously been informed that I had been seen.

Over my time at Windsor, I had several encounters when they were in the private grounds when they engaged me in conversation, where they showed interest in how I was getting on.

On one occasion I was on my motorbike (with my long hair which was fashionable at the time) coming up to a horse and rider in front of me, and I slowed down and passed. The rider raised her hand to thank me with a smile, only when I looked round, I realised that it was the Queen.

from Peter Hassan

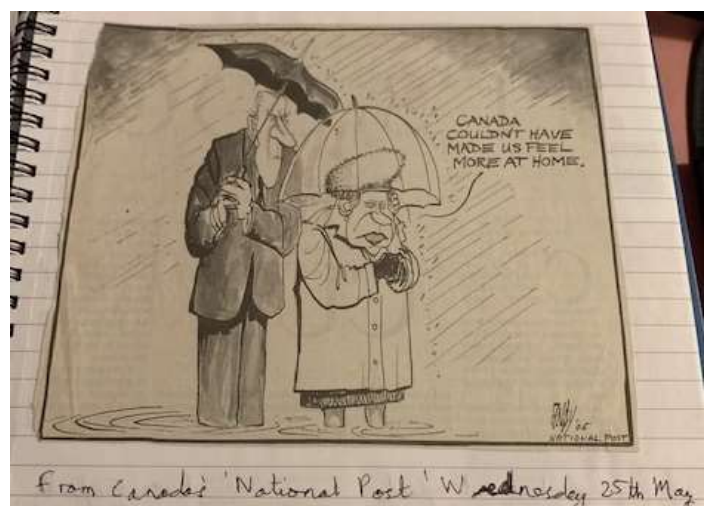
Memories of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Queen has always been an important part of my family's life. She was my Dad's boss when he was in the Royal Air Force from 1958 until 1969.

I remember whenever we went to Windsor, I'd always look to see if the Royal Standard was flying. On a good day you could see Windsor Castle from my parent's bedroom, when we lived at Burrows Hill, now known as Terminal 5.

My brother, Dad and I were going to the Little Chef, it was a few days before my brother's wedding in June 2001 and my Mum was busy cleaning the house. I asked her if she was expecting the Queen, but she ignored me. So we got into the car and just as we got to the Crooked Billet, who should drive past, but the Queen!

I happened to be in Canada in 2005 when the Queen visited. It poured with rain most of the time, and the papers obviously thought that the Queen had brought British weather with her. I cut this cartoon out of the 'National Post' newspaper and stuck it in my scrapbook of my visit. The Queen is standing in the rain saying, 'Canada couldn't have made us feel more at home'. I bet it made her laugh if she saw it.



I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of our beloved Queen's death and after watching a lot of the coverage, I felt I should pay my respects and go to London to see the Queen lying in state. I decided that Saturday was the best day for me, so at 5.37am I caught the train into London with Terry Lewis. We went to Tower Bridge station and walked to see the Queue. It was very long and not moving. The wait was too long, I couldn't leave Dad alone for that amount of time.

We decided to abandon the idea and we walked over Tower Bridge. We

then went to Parliament Square and saw the end of the Queue. We then walked to Buckingham Palace and then to Green Park to see the floral tributes, which was very moving, then we headed home. I was very disappointed to have missed it but I realised that when driving the Queen back to Windsor, she might past the Crooked Billet again. I had one more chance. So after the funeral I rushed to the Crooked Billet and waited. Finally I saw the car and then she was gone.

It has been a huge honour and privilege to have the Queen as our Head of State, and it is strange to think of life without her, but she is now with our Lord Jesus. Who could ask for more?

from Gisela Wragg

Our Queen

I have many recollections of seeing The Queen. My Father, Gordon Franklin, worked for her and we lived in Marlborough House Mews, which backs on to The Mall. We had a garden view of Royal Processions, including the annual Trooping the Colour.

My proudest memory is when we were invited to The Royal Chapel in the Great Park. Dad, as local preacher in the Thames Valley Circuit, took Matins on Trinity Sunday in 2003, when The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were present. This was a first for a Methodist local preacher and also marked the tercentenary of John Wesley's birth, as well as Father's Day.

One of my sisters and I decided to join The Lying in State queue, as this was our final connection with our Dad. We joined at 10.30pm on Thursday and arrived in Westminster Hall at 9.15am Friday. The queuing was a feat of endurance through the night, with many stops along the way and moments of shuffling. The atmosphere at The Lying in State was poignant and serene and worth every second of the queue.

from Rachel Morris

Meeting the Queen

Few people can say they have had the honour of an intimate meeting with her late Majesty but living near Windsor and London quite a few people will have seen the Queen at various occasions over the years. In 1955/6 I was working on the North Side of what was then called London Airport (now Heathrow) when Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh were making a number of visits overseas, so when we were told that they were coming down the Bath Road to board their plane, we would go outside and wave to them.

Later there was an opportunity for me to go inside the grounds of Windsor Castle to watch the Garter Procession walk down to St. George's Chapel for the Inauguration Service for a new Knight of the Garter.

When Royal Ascot was on, any member of the public could walk into the Great Park to watch the change-over from cars to carriages by the Royal Family for the procession to the racecourse, which Brian and I did one year on our Wedding Anniversary. As Age Concern we would write for a permit at the beginning of each year to take some of our members into the park to watch, taking chairs and a picnic for them to have while they waited for Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the family and guests.

In 1993 my brother-in-law was invested by Her Majesty the Queen as Commander of the British Empire, at Buckingham Palace, with Brian and me as his guests. At the time the IRA were very active and as we had to arrive at the Palace by a certain time and the trains were likely to be disrupted Trevor had arranged for a taxi to take us from Staines to the palace. As the army were searching for bombs underneath the cars going into the grounds of the Palace we were able to walk through a pedestrian gate and were lucky enough to be in the front row for the Investiture.

But the big event for the residents of Staines was, of course, the Opening of the Elmsleigh Shopping Centre in 1980. Some older people of Staines were chosen to sit in the sunken cafe (now long gone, sadly) and Hilary

Stockins and I, as staff of Age Concern, were asked to co-ordinate the arrangements for looking after them. The oldest person to be taken was a lady of 103 (Mrs. Pendry) who was doing the family's ironing when Hilary visited her to make the arrangements! She was determined to stand up when presented to the Queen and the Duke although they had all been told to stay seated so that everybody could see. I am sitting to the right of Mrs. Pendry facing the Duke of Edinburgh with Hilary to the left of me, as Her Majesty the Queen greeted those on the other side.



I have admired the Queen since she dedicated her life to the service of this country and the Commonwealth as a young woman of 21. Her Christian faith and that of her parents guided her life until she became Queen and God has guided her (supported by the Duke of Edinburgh) for so many years coping with the ups and downs of her own life and ours with understanding, affection and good humour. Thank you.

from Stephanie Cliffe

Ode for Elizabeth

Philip came to me today and said, 'It's time to go'.
I looked at him and smiled as I whispered back, 'I know'.

I turned and looked behind me and saw I was asleep.
My family were around me and I could hear them weep.
I gently touched each shoulder with Philip at my side
then I turned away and walked on with my angel guide.

Philip held my hand as he led me on the way
to a world where Kings and Queens are monarchs every day.
I was given a crown to wear, or a halo known by some;
the difference is up here they are worn by everyone.

I felt a sense of peace; my reign had seen its end.
Seventy years I'd served my country as the people's friend.
Thank you for the years, for all your time and love.
Now I'm one of two again, in our palace up above.

Author unknown. ***Contributed by Michael Bagg***

In Tribute to the Queen

Being one of the earliest Elizabethans, I have always had a special respect and affection for the Queen. She had been on the throne for exactly 13 weeks the day I was born in May 1952, so her milestones have been my milestones too (not that she would have realised!) – 50, 60 and this year 70 years - of life for me, of duty and service for her. During my 22 years as a Windsor Headteacher, I had the real honour and privilege of seeing the Queen at very close quarters because I was able each June to take groups of children into the Windsor Castle grounds to watch the Queen walking down to St George's Chapel on Garter Day. We also joined in various special Windsor events such as on Monday 3rd June 2002 when the Queen celebrated her Golden Jubilee by watching a parade put on by local organisations, followed by a short walkabout. Matt was there to video Oakfield First School's Yellow Submarine float, but also caught shots of Her Majesty collecting flowers from well-wishers after it had passed.

As I have heard many others say in the past three weeks, the loss of the Queen has affected me more deeply than I could have imagined. From the early days of following her travels around the Commonwealth in

primary school geography lessons, to taking my mum up to London to experience the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977, to watching her message at exactly 3pm every Christmas Day, throughout my life she has simply always been there. To have a Head of State who stands above the hurly burly of day-to-day politics, yet remains a leader on the World Stage, is an amazing thing, and maybe only now are we fully appreciating what a gem we have lost. The thousands of tributes which have poured in from every corner of the globe speak volumes of the 'soft power' which she was able to exercise thanks to her deep understanding of world politics, and impeccable handling of complex situations. As President Macron said: *'To you, she was your Queen. To us, she was THE Queen.'*

And so thousands of us gathered along the route of her final journey from London to Windsor on the afternoon of September 19th. The sun broke through as she left Westminster Abbey, which seemed a fitting tribute, and it became really warm as we waited by Shortwood Common. It was a fleeting glimpse as the cortege passed, but worth it for the chance to say our last farewells to a wonderful person who had set such a fine example of Christianity in practice throughout her whole life and given us so much.

from Roz Sendorek with pictures from Matt Sendorek



Mon
3rd
June
2002



Royal Funeral

The colours, the movement, the sounds, the silence, the sheer magnitude of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II was breath taking. Each moment meticulously planned and carried out. Somehow amidst this great pageantry the Archbishop of Canterbury needed to hold people's attention and capture the essence of the Queen in his sermon. He was, in my opinion, formidable. Front and centre of his sermon was her devout faith and how, through this, she led her life. This was just one of his striking sentences:

'People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases, those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.'

I have many questions about our heredity system but these past few years, when our nation has felt so divided, when it would seem we cannot rely on those who are meant to lead, the Queen's dignified example has shone through. Her words and poignant actions during the dark days of Covid paralleled her words and actions during the dark days of the war. From her young age, when she was a lone woman in a man's world, to her old age speaking from her years of experience and wisdom, she kept her promise to devote her life to the service of us all. For this, even with my many questions, I am truly grateful.

from Avril Pye



19.09.22 The Queen passes Shortwood Common en route to Windsor

Watching from Runnymede

On the day of the Queen's funeral my neighbours and I decided that we would like to go Runnymede to see the cortege go by. I wanted to do this as I can remember standing in a field in Egham in Brownie uniform when Winston Churchill's train came past which was the last state funeral. This experience turned out to be a much more moving event than we envisioned.

As we left our road, we witnessed many other people in the houses around us doing the same thing. It felt like we were all going on a pilgrimage and was very moving. We decided that we would walk along the river to Runnymede, and were joined by many others doing the same thing. When we reached the Runnymede Hotel, we had a very pleasant surprise as the Royal Barge was moored there.

We found a good place to stand near the boatyard and saw the crowds coming across the meads, there was a lovely atmosphere and what was really nice was that everyone we met had come from some part of Runnymede and it was as if everyone had come to welcome our Queen home.

While we were waiting, we watched an increasing number of police arrive, as the time got closer for the arrival of the cortege. Our family members were keeping us up to date as to when to expect it and there was an air of expectation all around us. The cortege went past very quickly but we did get a few photos. My grandchildren were hoping to see me on television, but that bit was not shown.

It was not until afterwards that we realised how many people were there as we had to queue to go across Runnymede back into Egham, and Egham town was totally gridlocked. It was a very moving experience to be with so many local people on this unique occasion.

from Sheila Hassan

My experience of being on the Long Walk on the day of the Queen's funeral

I have lived in Windsor for over 30 years during which time I have witnessed several important occasions including the rededication of the Windsor Methodist Church by the Queen in 1993. So with the Queen being laid to rest in Windsor I thought I would like to see the end of her final journey home.

My original plan was to pop up to town after watching the ceremony on television, in time for the procession up the Long Walk. However, it became increasingly apparent that I wouldn't get anywhere near if I left it until then! And I also became increasingly certain that I really wanted to be there.

So, come the day, I left home at 7:15 and already there was a steady stream of people carry chairs and rucksacks heading into town from the outskirts. I cycled to our church and walked in from there, when I arrived at 8:00 both sides of the barriers extending the length of the Long Walk were taken up by people who had already set up camp. Being on my own (and fairly slim!) I managed to squeeze in next to a couple who had come from Chepstow and who had been there since 2:00am! I settled in for the duration, envious of those enjoying a nice coffee from one of the many kiosks, I couldn't go myself or I would lose my place and I didn't want to have to visit the portaloo either for the same reason!



There was a great atmosphere in the crowd as we exchanged stories and experiences of the royal family. All of us had the greatest respect and affection for the Queen and the minor inconvenience of waiting for hours for the procession paled into insignificance as we considered her

years of service to the country. One of the high points for me was being interviewed for Channel 5 news but unfortunately my bit ended up on the cutting room floor! It was also a privilege to see and hear the bands as

they processed down the Long Walk in readiness for the procession back up again a bit later.

I was able to see one of the large screens and watched with interest as the cortege came along Runnymede, a road I have travelled many times, and through Old Windsor. Eventually they arrived at the turning into the Long Walk from the road, but it seemed to take ages for them to come up to where I was near the castle end. It was very moving to be so close as the hearse came past and our Queen neared the end of her journey to be laid to rest within the castle walls.



There was a sense that people didn't really want to leave at the end, such had been the shared experience of the day, and the feeling that we had each been a very small part of a truly historic occasion. We couldn't leave in a hurry anyway due to the sheer amount of people who had continued to arrive throughout the day. As I cycled home tired and thirsty, I was so glad I had made this small pilgrimage, just one of many millions of people who have felt the need to respond in some way to the passing of our beloved Queen, who stood for all we hold dear, not least our faith. May she rest in peace.

from Richard Cracknell

My Queen – a personal tribute

Queen Elizabeth the second. "My Queen" - the only one I've known in my lifetime. The woman who I didn't exactly take for granted but was just always there, a constant picture in our news. Her facial expressions were always correct for the occasion but mostly with that special smile of hers. Impeccably dressed even in wellies, I always wanted to see what colour she was wearing. I don't follow horse racing but always watched the carriage procession into Ascot on TV for the outfit choice of the afternoon.

Did I ever see her in person? Just a glimpse at the opening of the Elmsleigh Centre but that might be an exaggeration as I'm far too short in crowds to get a view! I'm sure I'm not alone in saying over the past two weeks my eyes are square from being glued to the television and I've shed more tears than usual. Death is the inevitable part of life but somehow I thought she would always be here. The tears, the emotions have been for all my loved ones who have been called to rest, and my heart went out to her grieving children trying to remain dignified in front of all of us, especially her daughter. I've been in those shoes like those - most of us have, so sad.

I was determined to see the Queen's final journey to Windsor pass by our town. My 5 year old granddaughter was slightly bemused; she's too young to understand that as a child I watched Winston Churchill pass through Staines railway station, his coffin draped with the Union Jack, and I have never forgotten that sight. I hope she will have that sad but beautiful sight on Monday imprinted in her memory like I have.

Goodnight your Majesty, I will miss you just being around but will never forget your smile!

from Linda Ketterick

'To live in the hearts of those you love is not to die' (anon)

Precious memories of our longest-serving Queen will certainly live on and be shared with generations to come – a true tribute to Her Majesty.



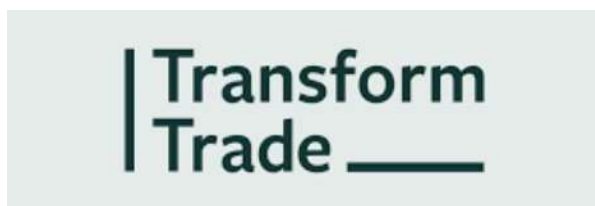
Rev Kofi invites you to Morning Devotion

Share in prayer via Zoom with a group of Christians from around the world (hence the early start!) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from **5:30-6:30am**. Use the same Zoom ID (7860815305) and Passcode (548151) each time.

Traidcraft updates

Stock – Traidcraft is doing its very best to avoid major price increases as a result of the current financial situation and I am well stocked with most of your usual requirements, though our favourite ginger cookies are everyone else's favourite too, so they were already out of stock again when I sent in my recent order. I still have a 500g pack of decaffeinated instant coffee waiting to find a home; using it to refill your jar saves on more glass needing to be recycled, so let me know if you would like to give it a try.

Donations – Customers who tell me to *keep the change* when we can't find the exact amount required will know that it is sent to the charity arm of Traidcraft, Traidcraft Exchange, which has recently rebranded itself as *Transform Trade*, to indicate more clearly its aim and purpose.



Christmas – Along with more tea, coffee and biscuits in my recent order I received ten copies of the *Autumn Gift Guide*, which is this year a much smaller catalogue than in previous years, to save on the cost, but it features all the Christmas specials – cards, Advent calendars, wrapping paper, and socks! So let me know (tel 456474) if you would like a copy to browse.

from Linda Marshall

Prayer Diary for October 2022

[Shirley will be back producing the Prayer Diary next month]

‘Come, Holy Spirit’

Please pray/give thanks for...

1 st	our Church Council as they meet this evening
Sun 2 nd	Harvest Sunday, give thanks for all God’s gifts and pray for those who will benefit from our Harvest Gifts via the Manna Foodbank
3 rd	all members of the Royal Family as they mourn the loss of the Queen
4 th	our Minister, Rev Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah, and his wider family, spread around the world
5 th	the successful completion of Phases 1 and 2 of our building project. Pray that funding for Phase 3 may be found
6 th	the people of Ukraine as they continue to suffer under the illegal occupation of their country
7 th	the love of our families and friends
8 th	that the new organisation of Saturday Coffee may work, and that the coffee time may be of benefit to all who come
Sun 9 th	Sheila Hassan as she leads us in worship today, and also that she may be blessed in her work with brain cancer patients
10 th	all those connected with Bronzefield women’s prison – inmates, staff and volunteers – and the families who support them
11 th	friends and family who live overseas. Give thanks for technology which enables us to see them, though we may be miles apart
12 th	health and strength; may we truly appreciate these important God-given gifts
13 th	the return of Thursday Lunches – pray for the Thursday Lunch team and those they serve
14 th	animal companions, and the happiness and comfort which they bring to their owners
15 th	people who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the recent storms in and around Florida
Sun 16 th	Rev Andrew Reed as he leads our worship today, and may he be blessed in his role as Circuit Superintendent

17 th	those in our fellowship who are facing illness or other personal difficulties at this time
18 th	vaccines against illnesses which used to kill and maim, and the doctors and scientists who continue to develop them
19 th	ourselves, our friends and families, and those for whom we pray
20 th	peace in Afghanistan, and freedom for women and girls to resume education and work outside the home
21 st	the work of WaterAid, bringing fresh running water to communities which have never experienced its many joys and benefits
22 nd	those who have been recently bereaved, and especially Barbara Bagg on the recent loss of her sister
Sun 23 rd	Rev Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah as he leads us in Holy Communion today
24 th	that members of the government may better understand, and take account of, the needs and views of the nation
25 th	the United Kingdom and the benefits of the stability brought about by having a monarchy stretching back over 1,000 years
26 th	our church, its congregation and all members of the wider community which it serves
27 th	the rain which has returned, and the amazing effects which it has had on our parched land as plants have burst back into life
28 th	that all those affected by the current financial turmoil may find the resources they need to carry on – both emotional and practical
29 th	King Charles III and Camilla the Queen Consort. May their reign be long and successful
Sun 30 th	Rev Julie Underwood as she leads our service today, her husband Malcolm, and their children and grandchildren
Mon 31 st	those we have loved, and who have loved us, but have now passed

The Church Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain exists for the benefit of anyone in need of prayer. If you have a prayer request, please contact any of the people below:

Michael & Barbara Bagg	01784 244088
Jim Brodie	01784 461003
Barbara Lownsborough	01784 455599#



Church Activities - update

Minnows are back!

We're delighted to announce that Minnows, our Friday morning carer and toddler group is back in action. Come along any time from 10:00 to 11:30am for a lively session with lots of activities for the children, and a chance for parents and carers to share together. Tell your friends who might be interested. At the moment we're quite a small group as the 'bigger children' have moved on to nurseries and schools, but it's great to be back together again, and we look forward to seeing you.



from Julie Underwood and Avril Pye



Saturday Coffee is back!

How we've missed our Saturday Coffee – a unique weekly Outreach event. But now the Events and Outreach Team have been working with Pauline Nicholson to recruit a band of willing volunteers who are willing to give up just 4 Saturday mornings a year (that's just 12 hours in total) to serve coffee and biscuits from

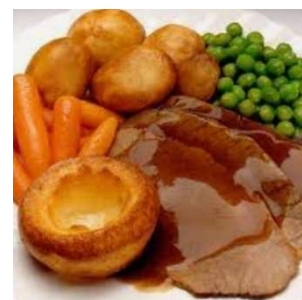
10:00 am-12:00 midday. Barbara Lownsborough has also kindly offered to make the odd cake. **Saturday Coffee resumes on Saturday 1st October, and will be available every Saturday from then onwards.** Many thanks to those who are making this possible.

from Roz Sendorek, Pauline Nicholson and the E&O Team

Thursday Lunches are back on Oct 13th

We're pleased to announce that Thursday lunches will resume on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month starting on 13th October at midday. Enjoy a delicious home cooked roast lunch for just £6.50. Please book in advance by ringing Rachel Morris on 07791 443350.

from Jim Brodie, Malcolm Underwood and the Team



October 2022 Sunday Services

Date	Special Days	Time	How?	Preacher
Sun 2 nd	Harvest	10:30am	In church and Zoom	Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah
Sun 9 th	Homeless/Prisons Sunday	10:30am	In church and Zoom	Sheila Hassan
Sun 16 th	Freedom Sunday	10:30am	In church and Zoom	Rev Andrew Reed
Sun 23 rd	Communion	10:30am	In church and Zoom	Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah
Sun 30 th		10:30am	In church and Zoom	Rev J Underwood
Sun 6 th Nov		10:30am	In church and Zoom	Mr Jonathan

Messy Church Corner

from Avril Pye and the Messy Church Team



So What's happening with Messy Church?

Our Messy Church will recommence **Saturday 12th November 2022**. We have a planning meeting booked in after church on 2nd October to discuss our ideas and chat with Kofi about the way forward. We have been in touch with the Messy Church families to let them know what is happening and really hope to welcome them back in November. We will certainly give you an update on our plans in the November Newsletter.

Do let Avril Pye know if you would like to be on the team, and remember Messy Church is open to all ages.

from Avril and the Messy Church Team

Remembering our Queen's wise words...



"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."

Princess Elizabeth on her 21st Birthday 21st April 1947

**Kofi and the Stewards send blessings to you,
your families and those for whom you pray**

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again. But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all."



Queen Elizabeth's address to the Nation on 5th April 2020 as the Covid Pandemic raged around us, was a source of comfort and hope.

May she rest in peace now, after a life well lived in God's service.

***The Editor always needs contributions to edit!
Please do send in your thoughts and news to share with other members of our community. This is a good way of keeping in touch, and particularly for people who don't have the benefit of e-mail.
Items for the November Newsletter to Roz Sendorek (editor)
by Friday 21st October at the latest, please.
(roz.sendorek@btinternet.com 01784 459984)***