

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 11th September 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.' (John 14: 6))

It is with great sadness that we arrive at a time we always knew would occur and yet each prayed would never come, as our Sovereign Queen has died and returned home to the Lord she loved and served so impeccably throughout the 96 years of her faithful life. I pray we will all come together as one nation, leaving aside everything which divides us as we give thanks to God for Her Majesty's long reign, her wise counsel and her steadfast leadership of the Church of England.

As I write, it is thought Queen Elizabeth's funeral will be taking place in Westminster Abbey on Monday, 19th September. Tonight, there will be a televised Service of Remembrance from St Paul's Cathedral at 6pm and so local churches are encouraging parishioners to join in with this gathering of hearts and minds as our nation gives thanks for Her Majesty's good and true life.

This Sunday at 10am, I will be taking a service of **Holy Communion at St Catherine's Church, Littleton** and Andrew Kent will be taking a service of **Morning Prayer at St Peter and Holy Cross, Wherwell**. Both services will be dedicated to the memory of the Queen and with her successor, King Charles III, as he takes on the responsibility of State whilst also grieving the death of his beloved mother. Our hearts and prayers are with our new King and his family as we give thanks for Lilibet being reunited with her Philip in the joy and felicity of heaven. God bless them both.



Below is a letter from the Diocese of Winchester. It sets out clearly the mechanisms by which Books of Remembrance and online condolences may be offered. Her Majesty did not want individual books of remembrance to be made in each parish church: even here, she is spearheading a new way of moving into the electronic era.

This comes with my love and prayers for you all as we journey together in faith, each of us blessed, as the Prayer Book says, by the presence our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Long live the King!



In the words of Paddington Bear, *'Thank you, Ma'am for everything!'*

Jax
Revd Jax Machin,
Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect Prayers for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles

God of love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may find comfort and hope in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Hello again Lilibet ♥

M. J. P. S. S. S.

John 14.1-6 - Jesus Comforts His Disciples

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Prayer Resources collated by Sally Wesley

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY A PRAYER FOR THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN, OR
FOR THE NEW KING, YOU MAY WISH TO USE ONE OF THESE;

Gracious God,
we give thanks for the life of Your servant Queen Elisabeth,
for her faith and her dedication to duty.
Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of Love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation, and for her faith in You.
Be close to all of us who mourn, that we may find comfort and hope in Your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everlasting God,
We pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish
among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For use with young children:
Loving God,
Our Queen has died and people are sad.
Thank you for her long life and her care for her people.
We pray for our new King.
Bless and guide him as his reign begins.
Amen.

A prayer of thanksgiving:
Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless Your holy name for all that You have given
us in and through the life of Your servant Queen Elizabeth. We give You thanks: for
her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her devotion to this nation and the
nations of the Commonwealth; for her grace, dignity and courtesy; and for her
generosity and love of life. We praise You for: the courage that she showed in testing
times; the depth of her Christian faith; and the witness she bore to it in word and deed.
Accept our thanks and praise, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A prayer of commendation:

God our creator and redeemer, by Your power Christ conquered death and returned to You in glory. Confident of His victory and claiming His promises, we entrust Your servant Elizabeth into Your keeping in the name of Jesus our Lord, who, though He died, is now alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

A prayer for those who mourn:

Father of all mercies and God of all consolation, you pursue us with untiring love and dispel the shadow of death with the bright dawn of life. Give courage to the Royal Family in their loss and sorrow. Be their refuge and strength, O Lord; reassure them of Your continuing love and lift them from the depths of grief into the peace and light of Your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Your Holy Spirit, our comforter, speaks for us in groans too deep for words.

Come alongside Your people, remind them of Your eternal presence and give them Your comfort and strength. Amen.

A prayer for the new King:

Lord God, You provide for Your people by Your power, and rule over them in love: Grant to Your servant our King the Spirit of wisdom and discernment, that being devoted to You with his whole heart, he may so wisely govern, that in his time we may live in safety and in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from the Coronation Service in 1953)





DIOCESE of WINCHESTER

Dear friends in Christ,

The whole nation has been saddened by yesterday's news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family as they mourn her death. Queen Elizabeth's unswerving faith and commitment to Christ were the foundation of her life and she was an example to us all. During her reign our nation experienced a period of unprecedented global change and development and through it all she served with grace and dignity. This nation has been blessed to have her as our Queen and, though we mourn alongside her family, we also rejoice in the hope of resurrection through the Lord she served. We give thanks also for the accession of her successor, King Charles.

In all of this we are not separated from, but rather know more deeply, the grace of God. The role of the Christians over the coming days is to make evident in speech and action God's love for this and every nation, that people may be comforted and united in grief and thanksgiving.

Some of you may wish to sign a Book of Condolence. To do this you can visit any of the following churches: Winchester Cathedral, St Mary's Southampton, St Mary's Andover, St Michael's Basingstoke, Christchurch Priory, Romsey Abbey. Alternatively you can submit a message to the Church of England's online book of condolence at [churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen](https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen)

Please pray for the Royal Family in their grief and for King Charles as he is proclaimed as monarch tomorrow. And please pray for us and all who are ministering at this time.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Debbie, Bishop David, Richard Brand, Gary Philbrick, Colin Harbidge, Catherine Ogle, Mark Collinson, Philip Krinks