

**A SPECIAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE MARKING
THE DEATH OF HER LATE MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**



All Saints' Church, Marlow, 18th September 2022 7.55pm

Welcome

You are most welcome to this unique occasion – a commemoration service of thanksgiving for the life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Since the Queen's death, many hundreds of local people have come to this place of worship to reflect, pray, light a candle and to sign the Book of Condolence. They have also been glad to look at the exhibition of photographs of Her Late Majesty on display in our prayer chapel to the right hand side of the church.

We gather tonight on the eve of her funeral to give thanks for her life and to pay our own respects. We may not have been able to travel to London or Edinburgh for the lying-in-state. We may not be able to attend her funeral in person or to line the route of the funeral procession. But we can gather here in our parish church – the place where for over 1,000 years Marlovians have gathered to pray and to mark together the great moments in our history.

Tonight we will begin by observing – along with the rest of the nation – a minute's silence at 8pm. We will sing some of the Queen's favourite hymns. We will hear our elected leaders reading from the bible and will reflect on the wisdom that sustained the Queen in her life. The leaders of the church in Marlow will lead us in prayer. We will sing the national anthem.

Then – as our service ends – we will begin a vigil of silent waiting and of prayer. You are invited to stay for as long as you want to, but please feel free to leave when the service ends. You may like to light a candle as your own tribute to the Queen. The Book of Condolence will remain open for you to sign.

If you would value a pastoral conversation or a private prayer, our clergy team and other churches leaders are available to talk with you. If you have any other needs, please approach one of the welcomers at the back of the church. This service is being livestreamed on the parish YouTube channel (4U Team Marlow) for those who are unable to get to church in person and will remain online.

I pray you will find this time helpful to you and that God himself will draw near to you as we commemorate the life of His servant Elizabeth. We are praying for you.

On behalf of the Churches Together in Marlow

Rev'd Canon Dave Bull

Order of Service

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11.25,26

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38,39

Welcome & Introduction

The minister says

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

We meet this day to remember before God our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

One minute silence

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant, Elizabeth, that death may be for her the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th'Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
he who follow shall not fall.

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

after Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

Psalm 23 is said together.

**The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Reading

Revelation 21.1-7

Councillor Richard Scott, Mayor of Marlow

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee,

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Welsh traditional
W Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Reading Matthew 7:24-29 *Joy Morrissey, MP for Beaconsfield*

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Sermon *Rev'd Canon Dave Bull*

Music

Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be;
World without end.
Amen.*

Luke 2:25-32

Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2020)

Prayers

led by leaders of Churches Together in Marlow

Canon John Udris, St Peter's RC Church

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

All **And there shall no torment touch them.**

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

All **My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

I will walk before the Lord

All **In the land of the living.**

Rev'd Kate Strange, Marlow Methodist Church

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, for the love she received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Rev'd Kenn Baird, Newfield Community Church

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with your servant Queen Elizabeth and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Anthea Wratten, River Church

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Commendation

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth. Enlighten her with your holy grace and suffer her never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

May God in his mercy grant us, with all the faithful departed, rest and peace.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Attrib. William Croft (1678-1727)
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord King Charles III, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

The Vigil begins

Please depart in silence.

The church will remain open until midnight for those who want to wait and watch and pray. You are welcome to light a candle in memory of the Queen.

If you would like someone to talk to, or to pray with, please ask a member of the clergy or the welcome team.

“For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace ... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ’s example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none”

Queen Elizabeth II, Christmas Address 2014

If you would like to learn more about Jesus Christ, you would be very welcome to visit any of Marlow’s churches, or to come to Alpha – informal evenings featuring food, a film and a discussion. Alpha is free and runs for 6 evenings, starting here at All Saints on Monday 3rd October at 7:30pm. More details at www.4u-team.org/alpha

Churches Together in Marlow

<i>All Saints Bisham, Church Lane, Bisham</i>	<i>4u-team.org/churches/all-saints-bisham</i>
<i>All Saints Marlow, The Causeway</i>	<i>4u-team.org/churches/all-saints-marlow</i>
<i>Christ Church URC, Oxford Road</i>	<i>christchurch-marlow.org.uk</i>
<i>Marlow Baptist Church, Glade Road</i>	<i>marlowbaptistchurch.org.uk</i>
<i>Marlow Methodist Church, Spittal Street</i>	<i>marlowmethodistchurch.org.uk</i>
<i>Newfield Community Church, Foxes Piece</i>	<i>newfieldchurchmarlow.org</i>
<i>River Church, Great Marlow School</i>	<i>riverchurch.org.uk/marlow</i>
<i>St John the Baptist, Little Marlow</i>	<i>4u-team.org/churches/st-john-the-baptist</i>
<i>St Peter’s RC Church, St Peter’s Street</i>	<i>st-peters-marlow.org.uk</i>
<i>The Lantern Church, Marlow Bottom</i>	<i>4u-team.org/churches/lantern</i>

