

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.”

(Princess Elizabeth, 21 April 1947)

It has now been over a week since the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. For many, especially members of the royal family, this is a moment of deep sorrow as we come to terms with the loss of a much loved and respected monarch who has been such a fixed feature in our lives for over 7 decades. The dedication she showed to the role that had been given her was a great example of loyalty and service.

Yet, as we remember her passing and the uncertainty it may bring us, we also remember the even more solid and constant presence of our God. He too is a God of loyalty and service.

Perhaps the strongest thread through the Bible is God’s loyalty to his promises and the people he has made those promises to. Although, they often turn away from him and ignore his will for their lives he never totally abandons them, but always brings about salvation.

Service too is an important theme in the Bible. Jesus sees his sacrifice on the cross as the ultimate act of service. It is the most profound moment of self-giving in order to rescue us from our sin and death.

The queen may have passed, but the values of love and service that drove her are eternally rooted in the character of our God!

Paul Worledge

Commemorating Queen Elizabeth this weekend

As our nation continues through this period of mourning for our late Queen, we will be offering further opportunities to acknowledge her passing.

There will be a **Special Commemoration Service on Sunday 18th 6:00pm at St. George's** for those who wish to gather together to mark the queen's passing.

We will be showing **the funeral live at St. Luke's church on Monday 19th from 11:00am**, for those who want to gather together in church to mark this important event. If you would like to stay behind afterwards, there will be a 'Bring and Share' finger buffet for lunch. Please bring food like sandwiches, crisps, cakes, sausage roles etc.

See Paul if you would like to help welcoming before this event or to offer teas and coffee afterwards.

This Sunday's Services on livestream:

[Sunday 11th September – Who is my neighbour? \(Luke 10:25-37\)](#)

Click the above link to access the livestream for this week's service. You can also use the link to watch the service at a later time.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 18th September

Family Communion (St. Luke's Church), Luke 12:13-21 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Special Commemoration Service for Queen (St. George's Church) - 6:00pm

Monday 19th

Live Screening of Queen's Funeral (St Luke's Church) – 11:00am

Tuesday 20th

Daily Prayer (St. George's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Wednesday 21st

Thursday 22nd

Daily Prayer (St. Luke's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Cafe4All (St. Luke's Church), Coffee and Chat for all - 10:00-11:30am.

Friday 23rd

Play and Praise (St. Luke's Church Hall) – 10:00-11:30am

Gather, Women's Drop-In (St. Luke's Church) - 12:30-2:30am

Saturday 24th

Daily Prayer (St. George's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

Sunday 25th

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Luke 12:13-21 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Prayer Requests

Be assured I will do my best to check that people are happy for the requests to be shared before including them. Please pray for...

- Give thanks for the Queen's long rein and many year's service.
- The royal family as they mourn the queen's death and for the funeral service on Monday.
- King Charles III as he takes on his new role.
- Alison's daughter Bethan recovering from an operation and a bad reaction to the anaesthetic.
- Alison's sister, Angela, who has ovarian cancer and has surgery for it next week.
- Mitch Styles struggling with anxiety.
- Collette Judge, Kate Page, Michelle (Terry De Vere's wife) and Emma (friend of Kelly) undergoing treatment for cancer.

Please also continue to pray for: Flo Baldock, Jean Hann, Shirley Crabb, Joy Smithers, Nathan Court, Pauline Emptage, Barb (Gloria's daughter's friend).

Sunday Club at St. Luke's

Sunday Club and Pathfinders will be starting back this Sunday. Those who are now three years old and would previously have attended Sparklers will now be encouraged to attend Sunday Club. Those who have started Secondary School this year will now be encouraged to attend Pathfinders. Sparklers will not restart for a few weeks, if you have child under three then do talk to Paul about what provision you may need.

Growing Faith: Vision for Children and Youth, Monday 26th September, 7:30pm, St. Luke's

How do we encourage our children and young people to have a growing faith that will stay with them and support them throughout their lives? This is the challenge for us as a church and as parents and grandparents. Join us for this important meeting with Ben Hatfield, Canterbury Diocese's, Children and Young People's Ministry Adviser as we consider together how we can develop our vision for growing faith in children and young people at St. Luke's and St. George's.

Colin Gale to be given permission to act as Reader

On Sunday 25th September, in Canterbury Cathedral, Colin Gale will receive an official permission to operate as reader at St. Luke's and St. George's. The Readers Admission Service starts at 5:30pm and is open to the public. It can also be viewed on the Cathedral YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CanterburyCathedralOfficial>

Confirmation Service: Sunday 6th November, 11am, St. Luke's

For those who are new to faith and are ready to publicly say they are a follower of Jesus, in baptism and / or confirmation. Please see Paul asap, if you are interested in being baptised and / or confirmed.

Job Advert: Regeneration Officer, St. George's

Leading up to its 200th anniversary, St. George's is developing a five-year plan to redevelop its buildings to be a better resource for the local community. To help us achieve this, we are looking to appoint a Regeneration Officer, to explore the possibilities, help develop the vision and plan and apply for the funding. This is a part-time post £20,000 pa for 20 hours per week (FTE £36,000 pa). If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested then please see the [St. George's website](#).

The closing date for applications is 23rd September, with interviews on 6th October.

Book to see the vicar:

If you would like to arrange to see Paul the vicar about anything, then please use this following link to book an appointment: <https://calendly.com/worledge/meet-with-paul>

Links to Share:

Video: The Queen in her own words

Check out this video from All Souls, Langham Place: [Watch the video](#).

Video: Tears and Celebration

Check out Katherine Jenkins singing this hymn, with words written to commemorate the Queen: [Watch Video](#).

Finally, let's seek to follow the Queen's example to be people of loyalty and service.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Worledge
(Vicar, St. Luke's Ramsgate)