



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving



To mark the Life of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Sunday 18 September 2022
6.30pm

Welcome to St John's for this Special Service.

It is with heavy yet thankful hearts that we come before God this evening to give thanks for the life and witness of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II. For over 70 years our Nation and Commonwealth has been blessed by her glorious reign of duty and faithfulness. She has been a constant in our common life when all other things have changed. Her pledge to serve her people—made on her 21st birthday—has been accomplished. Now she can rest, with her beloved Philip, late Duke of Edinburgh, in the halls of heaven.

Tonight, in preparation for her funeral tomorrow, we offer to God our praise and thanksgiving. We pray for all the Royal Family as they grieve in the public eye, and especially we pray for His Majesty King Charles III as he begins his reign as our Sovereign Lord.

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. We hope you will be able to join in with everything that is in **bold** type. There will be a retiring collection for the work of the Church; if you are a UK tax payers please complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of your gift. If it is easier, we have a card-reader located near the entrance to church.

The service is conducted by The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar

The Choir is conducted by Keith Beniston, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Nicholas King.

Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The Service will be recorded and uploaded to our website.

Music before the service:

Adagio in E

Frank Bridge (1879–1941)

Chorale Prelude on “Rockingham”

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

All sing

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 give us ever cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

The Voluntary

Psalm Prelude, op. 32 no. 1

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

All stand to sing

The Hymn

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.	O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
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All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore. Amen.

Nun danket 413 NEH

Prayer for the King

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 upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

All remain seated as the choir sings

The Introit:

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict;
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

William Harris (1883–1973)

From the West End, the Vicar reads

The Sentences

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.'

St 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

All stand to sing

The Processional Hymn:

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended, the darkness falls at thy behest; to thee our morning hymns ascended, thy praise shall sanctify our rest.	As o'er each continent and island the dawn leads on another day, the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away.
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We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping, while earth rolls onward into light, through all the world her watch is keeping, and rests not now by day or night.	The sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren 'neath the western sky, and hour by hour fresh lips are making thy wondrous doings heard on high.
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So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

St Clement 252i NEH

The Bidding

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 give thanks for her life,
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.

O God, make speed to save us.

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. **Amen.**

All sit. The Choir sings

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:
from this time forth for evermore.
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.**

Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)

Guide O Lord, we pray,
all those to whom is committed the government of this nation;
and grant to them at this time
special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength;
that they may consider all questions calmly in their deliberations,
and act wisely and promptly -
upholding that which is right, abhorring that which is wrong,
and performing that which is just,
so that in all things your will may be done;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Amen.

The choir sings

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.

*George Dyson (1883–1964)
Evening Service in D*

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.

Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, **Father of all mercies,**
we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and for all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost
be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Collects

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;
for all that was good in her life,
especially her steadfast faith, active service, and devotion to duty.
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, when we shall see you face to face,
in the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort,
deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn:
our new King and all 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.
Amen.

All remain seated. Councilor Alan Johnson, Deputy Mayor of Dacorum, gives

The Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

So ends the first reading.

Isaiah 61

All stand to sing

The 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.

St Anne 417 NEH

All sit. Marian Davies, Churchwarden, gives

The Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to St John.

Jesus said to his disciples: '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.'

So ends the second reading.

St John 14: 1–6

All stand to sing

The Hymn

Now is eternal life,
if ris'n with Christ we stand,
in him to life reborn,
and holden in his hand;
no more we fear death's ancient dread,
in Christ arisen from the dead.

For God, the living God,
stooped down to man's estate;
by death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate:
he lives, who died; he reigns on high;
who lives in him shall never die.

Unfathomed love divine,
reign thou within my heart;
from thee nor depth nor height,
nor life nor death can part;
our life is hid with God in thee,
now and through all eternity.

Christchurch 114 NEH

All sit . The Vicar gives

The Sermon

The Choir sings

The Anthem

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling,
and lift itself above all earthly thought.
For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God,
cometh forth to be our oblation, and to be given for food to the faithful.
Before him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power,
the cherubim with many eyes, and winged seraphim,
who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn: Alleluia!

*Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)
From The Liturgy of St James*

All kneel or remain seated for

The Prayers

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
And there shall no torment touch them.

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord
In the land of the living.