

Notes for Talk

Commemorative Service for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We are in a time of great change – a new Prime Minister and a new King within a week. The death of Queen Elizabeth and the ascension of King Charles to the throne is certainly an historic moment which we will remember all of our lives. I expect we will all remember where we were when we heard the news.

But then the world is always changing, we have all lived through incredible changes. Perhaps no-one more so than her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

When she was born in 1926, hardly anyone had a telephone in their home – in fact the very first red public telephone boxes were put up that year.

No-one had televisions – the BBC only started broadcasting when the Queen was 10 years old and most people watched television for the first time ever on her coronation in 1953.

Only the very rich had a car. Most ordinary people didn't have an inside toilet and almost no-one had central heating or even a fridge.

No-one thought there would be another world war. No-one dreamt when Princess Elizabeth was born that when she was 43 a man would walk on the moon. There were no computers, no planes that could fly as far as America even. It was a very very different world.

When I was a Brownie, a very long time ago in the 1960's I am pretty sure that the Brownie Guide promise was: I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God, to serve the Queen, to do a good deed every day and to keep the brownie guide law. And I know that that has changed.

The Queen promised to serve God, this country and the commonwealth and it was a promise that she kept faithfully through all the changes we have seen, through all the good times and the bad times. King Charles has promised to serve with loyalty, respect and love.

The Queen often spoke of how her faith in Jesus helped her to keep the promises that she made. And there is a reason that like the Queen, we can always depend on Him. The bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. It doesn't matter what changes happen in the world, what changes happen in our lives, whether we are going through great difficulties,

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or experiencing great joys – Jesus is always the same. That's why we can always depend on Him. He has promised that if we want Him to, He will never leave us and the bible says, as we read at the beginning of the service, that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus. Queen Elizabeth knew that love and gained strength and hope from it. And now she is fully in His presence and enveloped in His love forever.