

To: All members via Branch Leaders/contacts, Deanery Chairs and other Diocesan contacts

Dear friends,

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Many of you may have shed a tear yesterday hearing the sad news that our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen has died and like me your hearts may still be aching as we all come to terms with this deep and personal sense of loss.

We knew that this day would come but the Queen has always been a *constant* throughout all of our lives and to many she was much more than a steadfast figurehead and we will surely miss her.

As we reflect, there is also so much for us to give thanks for. The Queen, our longest-serving monarch passed away peacefully at Balmoral Castle often referred to as her favourite place with close family members by her side.

The Queen's faith in Jesus Christ was of central importance to her and her example will continue to inspire us as we treasure the many personal memories that will live long within our hearts. Indeed, the strength the Queen found in Christ helped to hold the people of this country together in a surprisingly humble way. The Queen, also a visionary, dutifully prepared Charles for his role as successor in her determination that he continues her lifelong work of duty and service.

Therefore, let us give thanks to the Lord for Queen Elizabeth II and her exceptional reign. For her steadfast loyalty and sense of duty. May God's loving presence bring comfort and strength to her son Charles, now King and to members of the Royal Family, as they mourn the loss of a mother and grandmother as well as a friend and monarch. Amen

I note that our WWP Sheran Harper has made a statement via the Mothers' Union website and you can click on this link to read it.

https://www.mothersunion.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwyOuYBhCGARIsAIdGQRMnKWOFihuP8N5CeXj_ypaa9KLS3NqYFxCZgqOk6EwWmZTSK141BMAAtR1EALw_wcB

I also wanted to share a post that I received via the MU Diocesan President's WhatsApp group:

'It is with deep shock and sadness that we have had the news of our dear Patron, HM the Queen, passing peacefully this afternoon at Balmoral - her long life and service of dedication to our Country and the Commonwealth is a legacy which we will never forget. Her Majesty's long marriage is an inspiration to us too. Her faith in Jesus was the sure and certain foundation of her life, service, love and

commitment to her family and her subjects that she shared publicly in her Christmas broadcasts and demonstrated in her faithfulness to her royal duties. We hold the Royal Family in our prayers and trust that they will know the comfort and peace of our Lord Jesus especially in the days, weeks and months ahead along with our new Prime Minister and the Government, particularly in all the State arrangements, which will be taking place.

May the Queen rest in peace and rise in glory.

Romans 8 v 38-9: 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'. (NIV)'

I do prayerfully hope that reading Sheran's words will provide much comfort and a sense of togetherness.

Please remember that not all our members have access to the Internet so I would be grateful if you could please print Sheran's statement to display on your Mothers' Union noticeboards.

With all my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Karen