



Many of you will already have heard the very sad news that Queen Elizabeth II died yesterday afternoon. For 70 years she has been not only the Head of State, but the Head of the Church of England, Head of the Commonwealth of 56 countries and Sovereign of 14 Commonwealth realms. And now her responsibilities pass to her eldest son, Charles.

Four years before she took the throne as Queen Elizabeth II, she made a pledge. "I declare before you that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service..." She fulfilled this pledge.

Queen Elizabeth had a clear vision: to better the human condition – in other words, to make our world a better place. She served selflessly, driven by her duty to her people and sustained by her faith in God.

King Charles III said, "The death of my beloved mother HM the Queen is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family." Others have described Queen Elizabeth as the grandmother of the nation, a bright and shining light, the spirit of the nation and the constant / the rock, in times of change and difficulty. Her many qualities included dignity, humility, commitment and love.

Had Queen Elizabeth been a member of our school community, she would have been a perfect ambassador of our vision and values. She truly wanted everyone to flourish. She showed great curiosity, always wanting to learn more about the world, herself and others. She showed great courage, supporting and inspiring leaders across the world. She demonstrated true compassion for those in need. Those who were lucky enough to meet Queen Elizabeth often talk of the respect that she showed them; she treated everyone equally, irrespective of difference. There can be no doubt that she took her many responsibilities seriously. She took time to reflect, finding strength in her faith and her family, making many changes in the 70 years of her reign. Lastly, she showed enormous resilience - working hard to serve us to very end of her life.

The Church of England's Official Prayer

Gracious God,

We give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty.

Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.