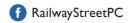


www.railwaystreet.org



October 2022



Jesus said: 'Do not worry...see how the flowers of the field grow.'

Matthew 6 v 25, 28

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Dear Friends,

What more can be said that hasn't already been said about the life and reign of our late Queen Elizabeth II? So many eloquent and fitting tributes have been paid by so many in the media, in our Parliaments and Devolved Assemblies, in council chambers and churches all across the UK and indeed throughout the world.

I can add no more except to say, as a student of history, of all the kings and queens that have occupied the British throne she was, without a doubt, not just the longest reigning but one of the greatest. Her greatness did not come from the power she wielded because as a constitutional monarch that power was strictly limited. Her greatness rested in the fact that she genuinely understood her calling to be divinely given and she faithfully fulfilled that call

to serve her people and her God for over seventy years.

I am sure, like the Manse family, you sat transfixed in front of your television screen watching her funeral service. I was relieved and thankful that in an age of religious relativism she had ensured that her funeral was a thoroughly Christian funeral which bore witness to her Christian faith. There were none of the confused and mixed messages that come from so called multi-faith services involving what are contradictory religions. On this occasion it was the Christian message of hope through faith in Jesus Christ which was proclaimed in both word and song.

I was especially struck by the choice of music which her late Majesty had chosen for the occasion both in Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor. They bore witness first and foremost to her personal faith. They showed a deep awareness of the temporary nature and passing power of earthly kingdoms when compared to the everlasting kingdom of God as expressed in the final verse of, 'The day thou gavest Lord has ended.'

'Thy throne shall never, Like earth's proud empires, pass away: Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever, Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.'

They also spoke of her awareness of her human mortality and also the hope of the resurrection:

'Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.'

Aren't those some of the important lessons we have learned from our studies in the book of Daniel? He was carried away as a young exile to the distant city of Babylon where he lived as a servant of the Babylonian kings. But he and the kings he served were reminded time and time again of the temporary nature of earthly kingdoms and empires. Daniel lived to see the Babylonian kingdom give way to the Persian kingdom. God revealed to him in visions that

the Persian kingdom would give way to the Greeks and then to the Romans and so it would continue until the coming of that kingdom that will never pass away – God's Kingdom.

In this Daniel found his hope and confidence - that God's purposes and God's people would prevail no matter how difficult the circumstances they had to live through. Daniel's primary identity was that he was a citizen of God's coming kingdom. Let us beware of placing our hope and confidence in our national identity or any earthly kingdom which we know will ultimately fade away.

Again, the Queen's choice of hymns speaks to us of where we need to find our security and hope:

'All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew, me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.'

Our hope and our identity must be found through faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord for only that hope and identity cannot be shaken.

As the Psalmist said,
'Find rest O my soul, find rest in God alone, my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honour depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.' Psalm 62:7

In Jesus Christ we also find our hope for resurrection in that coming Kingdom. God's final words to Daniel are, "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance." (Daniel 12:13)

These are words that could also be applied to Queen Elizabeth II. She continued in that way of faithful service till the end and now she knows rest and she believed in that resurrection to eternal life. My prayer is that all of you reading this will also have that same hope and that same faith.

Yours in his service, Michael Davidson



Following Christ, Serving the Community

Services for October

2nd October

10:30am Daniel 12 'Enduring Till The End' - Michael Davidson

9th October

10:30am Hebrews 12 'Running the Race' - Charlie Hadjiev

6:30pm Invitation to Legacurry Presbyterian Church.

Preacher: Rev Dr John Kilpatrick. Moderator of the General Assembly

16th October

10:30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service



23rd October

10:30am Boys' Brigade - Service of Enrolment

6:30pm Stephen Johnston



30th October

10:30am Psalm 11 'What Can the Righteous Do?' Michael Davidson

Watch online at www.railwaystreet.org

Telephone Line Service – 028 92448979





Moderator's Tour 2 nd - 9th October 2022

The Moderator of the General Assembly during his year of office generally undertakes tours of two or three of the nineteen presbyteries that make up the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This year the first of those tours is to the Dromore Presbytery, of which Railway Street Congregation is a part.

Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick begins his tour on Sunday 2nd October. During the course of the week, he will be involved in many different visits and events. This will include a visit to HMP Maghaberry, the Ulster Aviation Society, Thiepval Barracks, the Boys' Brigade Headquarters in Culcavy and he will also be visiting Dromore High School and Wallace High School.

In addition, he will be making time to meet personally with ministers, deaconesses, youth workers and other employed church workers.

On **Wednesday 5**th **October** there will be an evening at which the Moderator will specifically speak to and encourage elders within our presbytery. Leadership is always challenging, and particularly so these past few years. It is intended that this will be an uplifting evening of praise, stories and biblical refreshment. Refreshments will be served at the end to allow some time to interact with one another and the Moderator. It will take place in **Drumbo Presbyterian Church Hall at 7:30pm**. Railway Street Elders will already have received an invitation to this.

On Sunday evening 9^{th} October the Moderator will complete his tour as he preaches in Legacurry Presbytery Church at their Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 6:30pm. Members of other congregations in the Dromore Presbytery are warmly invited to come along that evening. As a result, there will be no evening service in Railway Street on the evening of 9^{th} October and we would encourage our members to attend the service in Legacurry.

INVITATION:

We have received the followig invitation from Legacurry in regards to one of our former Youth Workers, Stephen Kerr.



Presbytery of Dromore
Legacurry Presbyterian Church
invites the members of your congregation to attend the
Licensing Service of
Stephen Kerr
as a Probationer for the Ministry
on Sunday 30th October 2022 at 6.30pm
and afterwards to supper

RSVP to: office@legacurry.church by Thursday 20th October 2022



Important News Concerning the Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland

You may have recently read or heard this headline from the BBC – 'Boys' Brigade in NI decides to split from UK and Irish body.' You are maybe curious or confused as to

what exactly is going on. Here is a summary of the issues and what has actually been decided.

The relationship between the national organisation and The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland has been strained for decades and despite numerous attempts to reach consensus there are three main issues of concern:

1. Faith

The Northern Ireland District is very clear that the Christian mission of The Boys' Brigade – **the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys,** always has been and always will be its primary object. However, there is serious concern that the BB in the rest of the UK & RoI is drifting from this primary aim.

2. Finance

Two thirds of the capitation fee paid by Companies in Northern Ireland is retained by the national organisation but with the Northern Ireland district providing most assistance to them, there are many concerns about value for money and accountability for that fee.

3. Future

The Boys' Brigade is much stronger in Northern Ireland than elsewhere in the UK, but they have never had less influence in the national organisation than they do so at the present; and so the Northern Ireland district feels it must

take control of its own destiny if they are to shape their future under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Northern Ireland District at its Annual General meeting on Monday 26th September demonstrated its commitment to the BB's central aim and voted by a clear majority (88.5% to 11.5%) to enter negotiations with the stated aim of becoming a separate autonomous body by mutual agreement.

The resolution that was agreed states:

The members of NID attending the AGM reaffirm the mission of The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland and instruct their President to:

- 1) Take such steps necessary to establish a new relationship with BB UK & Rol, in which the Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland will be a separate autonomous body
- 2) Negotiate mutually acceptable terms for the Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland to access Intellectual Property and other services, where it is considered efficient to do so.
- 3) Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding on future co-operation between the Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland and BB UK & Rol, to include meetings between trustees and senior staff.
- 4) Report to a Northern Ireland EGM not later than 1st February 2023 at which members will vote on a future relationship with BB UK & RoI from September 2023

As a result of the overwhelming mandate given to the BB Northern Ireland Executive, formal negotiations will now begin with the BB UK & Rol to try and find mutually acceptable terms.

We would ask you to pray for the successful outcome of these negotiations and to pray for the ongoing work of our own 1stLisburn company under its captain David Cleland and his officers, as they continue to seek the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys.



DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mrs Patricia Annabel Beggs who died on 12th September.

HARVEST DECORATIONS

This year some of the organisations will provide harvest displays which will incorporate gifts for the food bank. However the usual gifts of greenery, flowers, fruit, vegetables and monetary donations will be most welcome and should be left in the Main Hall on Thursday 13th or Friday 14th October.



Donated items can be brought to Railway Street Meeting House on any Sunday during October. Please leave items in the Lisburn Foodbank Collection baskets in the porch.

HARVEST OFFERING

The offering on Harvest Sunday will once again be shared between Tearfund and Christian Aid. Please place your offering in the Harvest Envelopes which can be found on the vestibule table. Write your name or FWO number on the envelope to enable the doantion to be Gift aided. Or transfer your gift to the church bank account including the word 'Harvest' in the reference. Thank you.

BIBLE DISCOVERY

Thursdays 6th and 20th October 11am-12noon in No 31.

Tea and coffee available from 10.30am.

Open to anyone, we will be seeking together to answer the question "Why read the Bible?" Come and find out!



HELPING There will be a meeting of Helping Hands on Thursday 6th October at 2.30pm in No 31. Anyone interested is very welcome.

Thursday 20th October at 3pm in No 31 - Special visit of Colin Jenkins SCFS. The Helping Hands group has supplied numerous knitted hats, scarves, etc over many years for Colin to distribute to seafarers.

Everyone welcome to join us on this special occasion as we welcome back our former Railway Street member.

The next CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE meeting will be held on Monday 10th October at 8pm in No 31.



Luke 11:1 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

We thank God for the summer activities and the opportunity for rest and relaxation. Let us now come together to pray for guidance for this new church year. Let us seek God's will as we

look forward to the opening of our new Link facilities and the opportunities of reaching out to the local community. Please do join us for PRAYER FOCUS in

No 31 on **Monday 17th October** from 8-9pm. We commit this time to God as we seek His will and follow His leading.

Heidi will be off for a week's annual leave from Monday 24th to Sunday 30th October inclusive.

meeting on **Monday 24**th **October** at 8.00pm.

The meeting is entitled "Build up One Another." We hope to welcome Steve and Rosie Kennedy, who will be home for a short break from their work in Cluj in Romania. We have been keeping in touch with them and look forward to an update.

Railway Street PW invites all ladies of the congregation to their

422 will be meeting back at our Church and hopefully in our new Link on **Thursday 27**th **October** at 2.30pm (please note the time). We will have our AGM and some celebratory "goodies". All are

welcome to join us.



28TH OCT | 6:00 PM - 7:30PM FOR CHILDREN AGES 6-11

RAILWAY STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALLS

Join us for an evening of big games, craft and a short Bible talk. No need to dress up but you might like to wear something sparkly or bright!

For more information or to confirm your child's attendence please contact Hannah (Youth & Children's Ministry Coordinator) at hannah@railwaystreet.org or 07875161472





JOIN US FOR A FUN AND FOOD

YOUTH NIGHT

22ND OCT, 2022 | 7:30 P.M.

For teenagers school years 8-14

Contact Hannah for more information hannah@railwaystreet.org 07875161472





Link progress update

As many folks will have noticed, the pace of work on the Link has continued to be rapid with progress nearly going more quickly than our photographer can manage to keep up with. The new facilities are really taking shape with both the new Link and refurbished Minor Hall, emerging out of the dust and scaffolding, as premises we can really look forward to using.

The second fix work inside is coming towards its conclusion and painters have been hard at work with their part of the process. Outside we will soon see



the builders' compound dismantled and the retarmacing of the car park areas completed. It will not be too much longer before the final snagging work is completed and the premises handed over to allow us to install the furniture and start to use it. We look forward to light shining from our new Link out to the

streets beyond our railings to show we are here to follow Christ and serve our community.





The final financial picture is starting to emerge, and we will share this as soon as we can. We are not immune from the economic troubles around us but your generous support for this project so far has helped to put us in a better position than we had originally anticipated we would be in at this stage, so we are very grateful for this. We thank you for your continued financial support as we move from the part of the project that focuses primarily on construction to the less exciting part that focuses primarily on payment.

Obituary: Queen Elizabeth II, Beacon of Grace By Mark Greene

The first time I ever thought seriously about the Queen was when God told me to.

It was 2015. And Elizabeth was 89. I had asked God a specific question: please show me someone in the public eye who is an outstanding whole-life disciple of Jesus, someone whose faith shapes all they do



and say. 'Elizabeth' was God's answer. Swift, clear, weighty. And to be shared. Since that day it has become ever clearer to me that Elizabeth was a gift from God to nation, Commonwealth, and indeed the global community, a beacon of humility, grace, astuteness, good humour, generosity, and deep faith – God's woman, God's follower, God's Queen.

Like many I suppose, I had never been a 'royal-watcher'. I admired the Queen, appreciated the clarity and warmth with which she spoke, almost every Christmas, of her trust in Christ and the difference he made to her life, but I hadn't thought deeply about her particular vision or how God might be working in and through her. Yes, she was a remarkable woman, and a remarkable monarch, but what I came to see, and had confirmed by others who knew her better, was that she was first and foremost a remarkable disciple of Christ. As such, she offered us an extraordinary example of consistent godliness in one of the longest and most public global ministries in the history of the world.

Since her death, our screens and papers have been filled with eulogies from family and friends, from former Prime Ministers, commonwealth leaders, world leaders, religious leaders from every major faith, royal correspondents, celebrities, honourees, former staff...

We have heard of her extraordinary dedication to duty, of her dignity, of her diligence, of her capacity to change with the times, of her astute leadership of the Royal Family, of her curiosity and intelligence and her ability to make almost anyone feel comfortable and, more importantly, valued...

We have heard of her contribution to international relations, to trade deals, to tourism, to the Commonwealth, to public morale.

We have heard of her emotional resilience as she dealt with bereavement, and fires, and the divorces of three of her children, and many a scandal along the way, not least around Prince Andrew.

We have heard of her capacity to forgive, not just to shake the hands of people responsible for killing her soldiers and her husband's mentor Lord Mountbatten but do so with great grace and a warm smile, like someone who rejoices in peace and reconciliation. But there has not been much about what made her the woman she was. There has been little attempt in the mainstream media to look at her and her life through the lens of what she said made the difference to her — her faith in Christ.

Indeed, about that, she was crystal clear, and repeatedly so. In her 2014 Christmas broadcast she put it this way:

'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.'

Brilliantly, in an age that is on the one hand increasingly secular, and on the other, fraught by religious conflicts, her approach was winsomely inclusive. She pointed to Jesus and how he expanded her capacity to love people with different beliefs. Her approach was testimonial, not argumentative. She told the world the inspiration that Jesus had been in her own life and left the world to decide if they were interested in being inspired themselves:

'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. Countless millions of people around the world continue to celebrate his birthday at Christmas, inspired by his teaching. He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served. We can surely be grateful that, two thousand years after the birth of Jesus, so many of us are able to draw inspiration from his life and message, and to find in him a source of strength and courage.'

More broadly, we can see the influence of Christ on her understanding of her job and how she did it. At the heart of this is the extraordinary impact of one particular moment in the Coronation. It was not when the solid gold St Edward's Crown was laid on her head and she officially became Queen, but the moment that was not televised because it was deemed to be too holy for mass broadcast. It was the moment when, stripped of all her flowing robes, she knelt in a simple white dress and was anointed with holy oil. It was the moment when she dedicated herself to God to serve him by serving her people.

At one level, her Queenship was an accident of birth, an inevitable consequence of her uncle's abdication, but she saw it as God's will, as God's calling, and therefore as something that she would need his help to do. And it was a calling she embraced. Wholly. Royal biographer, William Shawcross, wrote, 'She found, like her mother before her... an almost sacrificial quality at the heart of the service.'

Of course, sacrifice is at the heart of the gospel – Jesus giving his life for ours. And it is at the heart of our own discipleship – taking up our cross daily to follow him. But sacrifice is intertwined with service. We no longer live for ourselves but for God and others. And that is what characterized Elizabeth's approach not only to her own work, but to her understanding of citizenship. So, for example, at Christmas 2012 she said:

'This is the time of the year when we remember that God sent his only Son "to serve, not to be served." He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.'

We are meant to be there for one another. Indeed, her broadcasts – Christmas and occasional – tended to highlight the particular qualities she valued – resilience, kindness, neighbourliness – qualities she'd seen in the wartime generation. When she spoke to the nation during the COVID pandemic she focused on those qualities, summoning us to live up to our heritage:

'I hope in the years to come, everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, quiet, good-humoured resolve and of fellow feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are in not a part of our past. It defines our present and our future.'

Intrinsic to that understanding of 'fellow-feeling' was her understanding of what it meant to be a good neighbour. Indeed, time and again, in her Christmas addresses, she referred to the parable of the Good Samaritan, summoning us to serve our neighbours and our countries in whatever role we found ourselves. Indeed, in 1980 she offered a comprehensive picture of neighbourly citizenship that is unmatched in contemporary public rhetoric. Even Barack Obama was never so far-reaching in his communication of good citizenship. That address highlighted unselfish service as the key to citizenship... and she cited examples from every sphere. From health care to the armed forces, from central government to voluntary organisations, from

hospital staff to neighbours caring for neighbours in need. And then she closed that section of her address with these words:

'To all of you on this Christmas Day, whatever your conditions of work and life, easy or difficult; whether you feel that you are achieving something or whether you feel frustrated; I want to say a word of thanks.

'And I include all those who do not realise that they deserve thanks and are content that what they do is unseen and unrewarded. The very act of living a decent and upright life is in itself a positive factor in maintaining civilised standards.'

It is as if the Queen had internalised the truth of Colossians 3:17. Yes, we can... 'do whatever we do for God.'

How refreshing to find a global leader who recognised so clearly the value and beauty of a life lived kindly.

Indeed, Elizabeth's understanding of her role and our nation's role in the world were, it seems, similarly shaped by a robust biblical framework. So back in 1957 she said:

'I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the people of our brotherhood of nations. I believe in our qualities and in our strength. I believe that together we can set an example to the world which will encourage upright people everywhere...'

In the context of Britain's imperial past this is a remarkable vision. It is not a vision of military superiority, economic dominance, ideological hegemony, creative brilliance, or sporting excellence but of moral example, a vision that would not inspire envy or fear but encourage generosity, justice, kindness, 'uprightness'. It is similar to God's original hope for the people of Israel in the Bible, that they would be 'a light to the nations. Britain's military power had diminished but for her size really didn't matter — even as the granddaughter of a king who had ruled over a quarter of the planet. What mattered was the quality of our example.

We see a similarly robust vision in her commitment to the development of the Commonwealth, arguably one of her greatest achievements. When she became Queen, it consisted of eight nations, primarily ruled by white men. Today, it consists of 54 nations and territories.

How do you turn nations you have conquered, ruled and exploited for decades into friends?

How has it happened that, in our deeply fractured world, 54 nations should choose to meet regularly, not out of military expediency or vital economic

self-interest but out of a commitment to a common vision for a different kind of world?

The short answer is through the determination, the warmth, and relational skills of the Queen. When she took the throne, she said:

'The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty, and the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life.'

It was another promise she would keep. At the Silver Jubilee, she said that she had witnessed:

'From a unique position ... the last great phase of the Empire into Commonwealth and the transformation of the Crown from an emblem of dominion into a symbol of free and voluntary association. In all history, this has no precedent.'

Where did the Queen get such a vision?

It was an idea that belonged to neither the left nor the right. In reality, it comes straight out of the biblical promise of a day when the tanks will be turned into tractors, or as Isaiah 2:4 puts it, 'swords into ploughshares'. A day when nation will not fight against nation, when peace will reign across the globe. Elizabeth knew that it would only be fully realised when Christ returned and creation is renewed but that did not stop her working to create a context in which understanding could grow, cooperation flourish, and inequalities be addressed.

And if all that were not enough, she seemed to enjoy life — riding and horses and dogs and family and nice clothes and mimicking people and the occasional gin before lunch. But even here in the way she chose to spend her leisure time we saw her Christian devotion expressing itself. She didn't have to invite a different pastor every weekend of her six-week Balmoral holiday to spend time with her family, but she did. She didn't have to drive herself to the Sunday service in the church on the Sandringham estate when she was there, but she often did. She didn't have to find out the names of the Sunday School prize winners and choose and present their prizes, but she did.

There is certainly no doubt about the identity of the King our Queen served. Nor is there any doubt that the prayer that her people have so often prayed (perhaps without realising that it was a prayer) was answered. God saved our Queen. Our Queen was 'gracious' and 'noble' and 'victorious' in the things

that really matter – hope and faith in Christ, love of God and of the people she has been empowered to serve.

Indeed, there can be few greater indications of God's mercy and grace to our nation, despite our idolatrous turning away from him, than to have given us a Queen who loved us so faithfully and pointed us to him so clearly.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of his servant Elizabeth.

And may God grace our King in his reign as he graced his mother's in hers.



Mark Greene is co-author of <u>The Servant</u>
Queen, and author of <u>The Queen's Way</u> and new release <u>A Life of Grace</u>, a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. He is Mission Champion at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

SUNDAYS AT RAILWAY STREET MORNING SERVICE 10.30am

BEGINNERS CHURCH - No. 31
KIDS CHURCH - MAIN HALL
YOUTH CHURCH - Brownlee Room

Service will be live streamed.

BOYS' BRIGADE - (Sept to April)
Monday - Company Section 7.30-9.00pm
Tuesday - Anchor Section 6.30-7.30pm &
Junior Section 7.00-8.15pm

GIRLS' BRIGADE (Sept to April)

Thursdays

Tiny Tots & Explorers - 6.00-7.00pm

Juniors, Seniors & Brigaders - 7.30-9.00pm

PRAYER FOCUS

3rd Monday of each Month 8.00-9.00pm

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (Sept - June)
Fourth Monday of each month
Main Hall at 8.00pm

422 (Sept - June)
4th Thursday of each month at 2.30pm

BIBLE DISCOVERY

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 11am