

The Queen's Faith

Queen Elizabeth II describes her faith



Geoffrey Waugh



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**Queen Elizabeth II
Describes Her Faith**



Edited by Geoffrey Waugh



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**Queen Elizabeth II Describes Her Faith
2022, Platinum Jubilee, 70 years reign**

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See also

***The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages: Queen Elizabeth II describes the
Significance of Christmas & Easter. The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages has a
double page for each year of The Queen's reign and includes excerpts also included
in this book. The excerpts in this book are arranged in themes.***

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**Cover photo: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in the first colour television broadcast
of her Christmas Message, 1967.**

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The Royal Family: Christmas Broadcasts, 1952-2021. Excerpts.

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*Logo: scribe's lamp & parchment and servant's basin & towel
in the light of the cross*



A tribute to Her Majesty

Queen Elizabeth II

with appreciation



The Queen's Faith

**Queen Elizabeth II
Describes Her Faith
in Her Majesty's own words
with excerpts drawn from her annual
Christmas broadcasts.**

**Christians and others of all races, nations,
and denominations welcome the
angels' announcement at Jesus' birth:**

**"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward all."**



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Historic Easter Message

Excerpt from The Queen's historic Easter message on Easter Saturday 2020 when churches were closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Many religions have festivals which celebrate light overcoming darkness. Such occasions are often accompanied by the lighting of candles. They seem to speak to every culture, and appeal to people of all faiths, and of none. They are lit on birthday cakes and to mark family anniversaries, when we gather happily around a source of light. It unites us.

As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on from the first Easter by every generation until now. ...

The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be – particularly for those suffering with grief – light and life are greater.

May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future.

I wish everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter.



Introduction

Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh (10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021) who died peacefully two months before his 100th birthday, the admired and longest serving royal consort in British history, encouraged The Queen to talk about her Christian faith in her Christmas broadcasts.

Rev Prof Ian Bradley, the author of *God Save the Queen*, spoke to Premier Christian News about his memories of the Duke:

He was the person really who encouraged the queen to talk about her own faith in her Christmas broadcasts. You know, in the old days, they really used to be more like travelogues, and they would just say where the royal family had been.

But in 2000, the Queen's spoke very movingly and powerfully about her own Christian faith and the impact it had on her. And there was a very positive response from viewers. And Philip, it was Philip who really persuaded the queen to make more of her own Christian faith and he said, 'You should be talking about this.'

Prof Bradley preached for the Queen and for the Duke of Edinburgh as a visiting preacher at the Parish of Braemar and Crathie where The Queen visits the church for Sunday services when staying at Balmoral. He said that Prince Philip liked to take notes during sermons and he was extremely interested in theology:

He would note down all the details of the sermon. He was extremely interested in theology, he had a wonderful knowledge of the Bible, and then he would sort of quiz you at lunchtime, ask you about your sermon and really put you on your mettle. And I was amazed at his biblical knowledge. I mean, we sat up one evening, talking almost far into the night about biblical references to the environment, his great interest, of course. He was he was very well steeped in the Bible, but he was particularly interested in what the Bible had to say about creation and our relationship with creation.

[From Premier Christian News article by Chantalle Edmunds, Saturday 10 April 2021. <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/prince-philip-persuaded-the-queen-to-talk-for-the-first-time-about-her-own-faith-in-christmas-broadcast>.]

An article in The Guardian by Catherine Pepinster, published on Sunday 24 December 2017, described how The Queen has spoken more fully about her Christian faith.

[<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/24/queens-christmas-message-article-of-christian-faith>]

To the royal household, it is known as the QXB – the Queen’s Christmas broadcast. To millions of people, it is still an essential feature of Christmas Day. To the Queen, her annual broadcast is the time when she speaks to the nation without the government scripting it. But in recent years, it has also become something else: a declaration of her Christian faith. As Britain has become more secular, the Queen’s messages have followed the opposite trajectory.

A survey of the broadcasts made during her 65-year reign reveals that for most of the time the Queen has spoken only in passing of the religious significance of Christmas. ...

But for the past 17 years, her messages have taken on a different tone, with the Queen explaining her own personal faith – “the anchor in my life”, as she described it in 2014.

Last year she said: “Billions of people now follow Christ’s teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ’s example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe.”

The turning point in the content of the broadcasts was the millennium. Her broadcast in 2000 was devoted to an account of Christ’s life and teaching which, she said, “provide a framework in which I try to lead my life”.

This personal commentary has continued ever since. According to Ian Bradley, professor of cultural and spiritual history at the University of St Andrews and the author of *God Save the Queen – The Spiritual Heart of the Monarchy*, “this truly makes her Defender of the Faith” – a reference to the title that all monarchs have used since it was first bestowed on Henry VIII in 1521 by Pope Leo X before he broke with Rome. Indeed, Elizabeth II’s faith impresses the papacy today, so much that one senior Vatican official described her to me as “the last Christian monarch”.

Explanations for these overtly Christian messages vary. Some royal watchers suggest that it was the Queen’s decision to use the 2,000th

anniversary of Christ's birth as an opportunity to speak openly about Christianity. Others saw the hand of George Carey, then archbishop of Canterbury. Bradley sees the influence of Prince Philip at work. "After her very personal account in 2000, she was encouraged to continue because I'm told she received 25 times more letters than usual from the public in response to that Christmas message than others, and she had huge support from the Duke of Edinburgh." ...

Before 2000, the Queen's most explicit commitments of faith were made during a 1947 radio broadcast, when she spoke of dedicating her life to service, and ended it by saying, "God help me to make good my vow" and at her coronation service.

Accession to the throne also meant she became supreme governor of the Church of England, the established church, and since then her public life has been inextricably shaped by religious occasions: being seen by TV audiences at church at Christmas and Easter, distributing Maundy money on Maundy Thursday and attending the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph.

But it is the Christmas broadcast where the personal, as well as public, is evident. No government official is involved. Instead, those who cast an eye in advance over what she has written will be her private secretary, now Edward Young, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh. Lord Chartres, the recently retired bishop of London, has long been the go-to theological adviser to the royal family and is believed to proffer advice as well. Regular themes include forgiveness, reconciliation, compassion and, most often, service.

Lord Williams of Oystermouth, who, as Dr Rowan Williams, served as archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012, said that at times Lambeth Palace was consulted. "We were occasionally asked for any thoughts we might want to throw in."

Last week, the BBC admitted that it has been reflecting a secular version of Britain and needs to do more to hold up a mirror to faith in Britain. According to Williams, the Queen has been bridging the divide. "I think that as there has been less overt Christian 'messaging' in the general cultural environment, the Queen has deliberately decided to fill the gap," he said.

The recent messages always refer to Britons of other faiths, too. Williams also sees a link between the recent Christmas messages and a landmark speech the Queen made in 2012 at Lambeth Palace at the start

of her diamond jubilee year, when she described the Church of England as, in effect, an umbrella under which other faiths could shelter.

“I think it is related to her position as supreme governor and in line with her speech at Lambeth in 2012 about the Church of England’s responsibility to be a positive gatekeeper for faith at large in the nation, without sacrificing its particularity,” he said.

The tradition of the royal Christmas message was begun in 1932 by the Queen’s grandfather, George V, and continued under her father, George VI. ... They began as radio broadcasts but became televised in 1957 and have been recorded at Buckingham Palace – once, famously, by David Attenborough in 1986 in a stable at the Royal Mews – Windsor Castle and Sandringham in Norfolk.

This anthology shows how Her Majesty The Queen often spoke about her faith throughout her reign including during the half-century before 2000.

This book includes excerpts from the Queen’s Christmas broadcasts throughout her long reign, as well as from her Easter broadcast in 2020. Her Majesty’s statements about the Christian faith are compiled here into themes which were often expressed in the broadcasts. Those themes include Jesus Christ, service & support, peace & goodwill, faith & hope, light & life, truth & courage, love & kindness, compassion & care, forgiveness & reconciliation, respect & tolerance.

I have fuller versions of these excerpts from each of the Queen’s annual Christmas broadcasts in my companion book ***The Queen’s Christmas & Easter Messages***. That book has a double-page entry for each year of The Queen’s reign, updated annually, available on Amazon. It is also available in a gift edition printed in colour, as is this book.

The Renewal Journal website (www.renewaljournal.com) has links to free PDF copies in colour of both ***The Queen’s Christmas & Easter Messages*** and ***The Queen’s Faith***, as well as to other books.

The Queen’s statements about faith and life are primarily given in the context of celebrating Christmas, the annual global festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas and Easter are public holidays in many countries. The Christmas and Easter stories, first told and written almost 2000 years ago, are now celebrated around the world. The date or year in our calendars and diaries reminds us of the approximate number of years since that historic birth celebrated at Christmas. That birth is unique as our calendars testify.

Millions of people attend churches at Christmas and Easter to hear and sing the Christmas and Easter Messages. The Gospels of Luke and Matthew tell the famous Christmas stories about the unique baby's birth, first written on parchment and now available in the Bible.

I include in this book some of those first accounts of that momentous event, the birth of a baby in Bethlehem, a small village eight miles south of the old city of Jerusalem. The Bible contains those original accounts.

The translators of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV), first published in 1989, acknowledged the majesty of the King James Version in their introductory word "to the reader":

In the course of time the King James Version came to be regarded as "the Authorized Version." With good reason it has been termed "the noblest monument of English prose," and it has entered, as no other book has, into the making of the personal character of the public institutions of the English-speaking peoples. We owe to it an incalculable debt.

Many people now prefer the New King James Version (NKJV). Those who prefer more current or modern language may like to meditate on the translation of these timeless stories in the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), now read in many churches and used for personal study and enjoyment. The NRSV uses inclusive language, as does the original Hebrew and Greek, and includes useful section headings. If the passage under a section heading is repeated, or has a similar passage elsewhere in the Bible, the NRSV heading gives the other references. Headings for unique passages, not repeated elsewhere, have no references, as in the unique Christmas stories in Luke and Matthew. Here I reproduce those stories as told in the classic Authorised Version known as the King James Version of 1611.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
(Luke 2:1-14 KJV)

Matthew continues the story this way:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

(Matthew 2:1-12 KJV)

These Christmas stories are Gospel readings used in church lectionaries in the Advent and Christmas seasons in December each year. Millions of people enjoy celebrating Christmas Day in church services where these and similar readings are used. It is also a time when millions enjoy singing Christmas Carols, such as those included in the Appendix of this book, in Carols by Candlelight, and at other concerts. Many Carols tell these Christmas stories in beautiful, poetic lyrics.

Another valued Christmas tradition for millions of us has been listening to the Royal Christmas Message which is broadcast around the world on Christmas Day.

The Queen's first Christmas Message (1952), broadcast to millions of listeners, reminded us that "Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men" is the eternal message of Christmas, and the desire of us all.

The formal name of her Christmas Broadcast is 'Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech.'

King George V, The Queen's grandfather, gave the first Royal Christmas Message in 1932. King George VI commenced the custom of an annual Royal Christmas Message in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War (1939-1945), just 21 years after the end of the First World War (1914-1918). King George VI ended his first Christmas broadcast with encouragement from the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins titled *God Knows*:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

The poem continues:

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.¹*

The King's quotation of "The Gate of the Year" brought it to public attention and it became an inspiration to millions throughout the world. Widely reproduced and quoted, including on the following Sunday, New Year's Eve, December 31, 1939, the poem has continued to comfort and inspire many generations.

The book ***The Servant Queen and the King She Serves***, published for Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday, with a Foreword by the Queen, tells how the young Princess Elizabeth, aged 13, handed the poem to her father. At the end of the king's life Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother had it engraved on the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle, where the King's body was interred in 1952, as was hers in 2002, having lived to 101.

The annual Queen's Christmas Broadcasts continue to inspire a worldwide audience. For millions, as for my family, it has been an eagerly anticipated

¹ *God Knows*, privately published by the author in the collection, *The Desert*, 1912.

part of Christmas Day, often following celebrations including the joyful carols of the morning church service, sharing family gifts, and enjoying the Christmas family lunch or dinner together. Our family, in Australia's summer, would sprawl around the floor and lounge chairs to relax and listen to the broadcast of the Royal Christmas Message on radio and, later on, on television. This was a welcome break amid the family's festive games such as trying out new toys or sports gear. When I was a boy that often involved playing cricket together. Then later, on Boxing Day, some of us would be back watching English and Australian cricketers compete in The Ashes series.

As technology developed, The Queen's Christmas Broadcast came to us with increasing and impressive sophistication. The early years of the crackling wireless from 1952 gave way to the magic of sight with black and white television from 1957, then to the splendours of colour TV from 1967. From 1959 the pre-recorded broadcasts gave increasing opportunity for relevant film footage to be interspersed with The Queen speaking. Millions appreciate her compassionate observations about events of the past year and about the significance of Christmas.

Jon Kuhrt wrote a blog about The Queen's Christmas messages. He was impressed by comments in the 2014 broadcast while he worked at the West London Mission with people affected by homelessness, offending and addictions. Jon wrote: "I have not been a committed viewer (apart from when I am at my Mum's when it is compulsory viewing). So I went back and read her previous Christmas messages over the last 5 years."

Here, I have adapted his former Resistance and Renewal blog in which he wrote that the Queen's Christmas messages are a model of how to talk about faith in the public sphere.

That faith embraces all people of all races and beliefs with God's inclusive love while staying true to its own beliefs, as demonstrated in these excerpts.

1) The Queen speaks personally

"It is my prayer this Christmas Day that Jesus' example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others." (2012)

"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." (2014)

Personal testimony is significant and convincing, causing respect in those listening. The Queen is *personal* in the way she speaks, using words like 'for me'; 'my life' and 'my prayer'.

2) The Queen speaks compassionately

“Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ’s unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another.” (2015)

“Christ’s example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe.” (2016)

Consistently, The Queen and the Royal Family show deep concern for the bereaved and suffering, both in personal contact and in correspondence. The heart of Christmas is about God’s love for everyone, especially the hurting and fallen.

3) The Queen speaks inclusively

“The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.” (2013)

“Christ’s example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none.” (2014)

God’s love is for *all people* and believing in this love leads us to respect and value everyone. Jon adds, “It resonated with my own experience of meeting The Queen in 1997, when she came to open a new hostel for young homeless people that I was managing. I showed her round and introduced her to all the residents. I had expected it to be quite formal and awkward but I remember how adept she was at talking to such a diverse range of people.”

4) The Queen speaks about Jesus

“This is the time of 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.” (2012)

“God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general ... but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.” (2011)

The Queen talks directly about the person at the heart of Christmas, the reason for celebrating. That includes both the example and achievement of Jesus and makes orthodox theology accessible to the widest possible audience.

5) The Queen speaks about faith in action

“Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God’s love.” (2011)

“For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God’s love, as we strive daily to become better people.” (2013)

Reconciliation, service and love flow from Christian commitment. The Queen talks about what faith *does*. It makes a difference to how we live and helps us to be ‘better people’.

This book celebrates the 70 year Platinum Jubilee of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Quotations from The Queen’s annual Christmas broadcasts, the excerpts included in this book, cover many important topics of Christian faith and life. I have compiled them into major themes. The themes, of course, overlap and intertwine. Some quotations could fit into various categories, so I locate them in an obvious one.

The Queen consistently expressed her own faith in statements such as this one:

“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.” (2014).

The excerpts in this book are samples and examples of the many themes and topics covered in over 70 broadcasts during The Queen’s long reign. They are, in every case, part of a longer statement which gives them fuller significance. Nevertheless, the excerpts remain valuable insights and important messages about Christian beliefs and practices.

Queen Elizabeth II became Queen of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand from 1952. She reigned as Queen of 12 countries that became independent since 1952, and as Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, a free association of independent member nations (commonly known as *the Commonwealth*), comprising over 50 sovereign states. The Queen carried the blessings and responsibilities of her reign with grace and dignity. She understood the value of influence, symbols, tradition and innovation.

Elizabeth II (born 21 April 1926) began her reign at the age of 25 when her father King George VI died on February 6, 1952. The Queen heard of her Accession while visiting Kenya.

Her first Christmas message, broadcast from the same desk and chair used by her father and grandfather, continued the tradition of Christmas Broadcasts passed on to her by George V and George VI. The Queen thanked her people for their loyalty and affection in the first months of her reign.

The Queen spoke about her forthcoming Coronation where she would dedicate herself anew to serve her people, concluding:

“I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day - to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life. May God bless and guide you all through the coming year.” (1952).

Although many have commented on the strong Christian messages included in The Queen’s Christmas broadcasts from 2000, this anthology shows that the previous fifty years also contained many references to the significance of Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and his immeasurable influence in history and in billions of lives.

Christians of all nations and races believe the eternal truth of God’s love for all people in the whole world as clearly expressed in one of the most famous passages in the Bible: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16 NRSV).

Angels announced the arrival of that incredible gift, declaring “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward all.” Translations and language have changed through the years but the message remains the same.

These pages give you brief excerpts about the significance and meaning of Christmas and of Christian faith and life drawn from The Queen’s annual Broadcasts commemorating the baby born King, his life, death, and resurrection – the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Wonderfully gracious and noble, Her Majesty The Queen, globally respected and admired, inspires millions to love and serve God and people, as she does.

The Queen’s quotations are reproduced in ***bold italic print*** in this anthology.

Selections from The Queen's Christmas Broadcasts

To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example. (2000)

God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. (2011)

This is the time of 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. (2012)

For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach. (2013)

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. (2014)

Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another. (2015)

Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe. (2016)

We remember the birth of Jesus Christ, whose only sanctuary was a stable in Bethlehem. He knew rejection, hardship and persecution. And, yet, it is Jesus Christ's generous love and example which has inspired me through good times and bad. (2017)

The Christmas story retains its appeal since it doesn't provide theoretical explanations for the puzzles of life. Instead, it's about the birth of a child, and the hope that birth 2,000 years ago brought to the world. Only a few people acknowledged Jesus when he was born; now billions follow him. I believe his message of peace on earth and goodwill to all is never out of date. It can be heeded by everyone. It's needed as much as ever. (2018)

Of course, at the heart of the Christmas story lies the birth of a child, a seemingly small and insignificant step overlooked by many in Bethlehem. But in time, through his teaching and by his example, Jesus Christ would show the world how small steps, taken in faith and in hope, can overcome long-held differences and deep-seated divisions to bring harmony and understanding. (2019)

The teachings of Christ have served as my inner light, as has the sense of purpose we can find in coming together to worship. (2020)

It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus — a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith. (2021)



The Queen's Faith

Queen Elizabeth II describes her faith

*"Peace on earth, Goodwill toward all" ~
the eternal message of Christmas, and the desire of us all*

**The Queen has spoken about the significance of Christmas
to more people than anyone else in history**

**Her Majesty's historic Easter Message in 2020
was broadcast when churches were closed
due to the coronavirus pandemic**

**These Messages point to
light in the darkness
life amidst death
faith dispelling fear
hope for the hopeless
love overcoming all**



Part 1

**Key Statements
on each theme**

Key statements on each theme

Queen Elizabeth II regularly referred to many great themes of the Christian faith. This anthology gathers excerpts of those statements from Her Majesty's annual broadcasts into the themes of Jesus Christ, service and support, peace and goodwill, faith and hope, light and life, truth and courage, love and kindness, compassion and care, forgiveness and reconciliation, and respect and tolerance.

These themes are central to Christian life and faith. Part 1 of this anthology gives a key statement on each theme drawn from Her Majesty's broadcasts. Part 2 compiles all the excerpts from 70 broadcasts arranged in these themes.

The excerpts, of course, mostly relate to Christmas but also give important insights into Christian faith and life.

Jesus Christ stands at the heart of Christian faith. That title, Jesus Christ, is drawn from words meaning Saviour and Messiah. His life, death, and resurrection are unique. Our calendars and diaries date from the time of his birth over 2000 years ago with Christmas the annual celebration of his birth.

Service and support are key elements of living the Christian life, and of life in general. Jesus "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus is our great example of service and support, especially for those in need.

Peace and goodwill toward all on earth were announced by angels at Jesus' birth. Our broken world needs that peace and goodwill. Jesus gives peace and on the eve of his execution he promised his peace even amid opposition and difficulties.

Faith and hope spring eternal in the good news about Jesus Christ. He emphasized the importance of believing in God and of trusting in him for life now and for eternal life.

Light and life shine radiantly in the story of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. He came to give life in its fullness, abundant life. Millions now choose to live in that light and life and love.

Truth and courage characterized Jesus' life and teaching. He confronted and challenged hypocrisy and evil, declaring that he is "the way, the truth, and the life." His courage led him to his brutal death on a cross and his ultimate triumph over death.

Love and kindness flood through the life of Jesus, demonstrated most powerfully in his death and resurrection. Jesus' showed unconditional love and acceptance for all people, including sinners.

Compassion and care fill the story of Jesus and characterize those who follow him faithfully. His compassion for the outcast, the sick, the despised, and the weak is legendary. He cared, and his actions demonstrated his compassion and care.

Forgiveness and reconciliation flood through the life and teaching of Jesus. He did not come to judge but to love and to forgive, and he calls us to live that way also. Then we can enjoy harmony and live in reconciliation with one another.

Respect and tolerance open the door to the harmony of mutual acceptance. We all differ, but our differences can enrich our lives and our understanding of one another. Jesus Christ mixed freely with all kinds of people in all levels of society and demonstrated acceptance, forgiveness, and love.

Those are the themes included in this book.

These excerpts from The Queen's annual broadcasts contain Her Majesty's description of the meaning of Christmas and indicate the importance and influence of Jesus' life and teaching.

Modern democracies are built on Judeo-Christian values such as those expressed in the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Those values also appear in the declaration on American money, 'In God we trust', and that motto is adapted on the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu's coat of arms in their national language Bislama as 'Long God yumi stanup' (In God we stand, derived from the English words along/belong, you-me and stand-up).

The Queen describes the significance of Christmas and of the Christian faith while also acknowledging the importance of respecting people of all faiths and of none.

The ten excerpts in this first section give you key statements about each of the themes in this book. Then Section 2 includes 70 brief excerpts compiled into the ten themes.

All the excerpts from The Queen's broadcasts are reproduced in this section and throughout this book in ***bold italic print***. Language has changed over time but the eternal message remains the same.

1 Jesus Christ



Christmas broadcast 2000

The Queen's speech in 2000 described the significance of the millennium anniversary.

Christmas is the traditional, if not the actual, birthday of a man who was destined to change the course of our history. And today we are celebrating the fact that Jesus Christ was born two thousand years ago; this is the true Millennium anniversary.

The simple facts of Jesus' life give us little clue as to the influence he was to have on the world. As a boy he learnt his father's trade as a carpenter. He then became a preacher, recruiting twelve supporters to help him.

But his ministry only lasted a few years and he himself never wrote anything down. In his early thirties he was arrested, tortured and crucified with two criminals. His death might have been the end of the story, but then came the resurrection and with it the foundation of the Christian faith.

Even in our very material age the impact of Christ's life is all around us. If you want to see an expression of Christian faith you have only to look at our awe-inspiring cathedrals and abbeys, listen to their music, or look at their stained glass windows, their books and their pictures.

But the true measure of Christ's influence is not only in the lives of the saints but also in the good works quietly done by millions of men and women day in and day out throughout the centuries.

Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself - in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose. ...

To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.

I believe that the Christian message, in the words of a familiar blessing, remains profoundly important to us all:

*"Go forth into the world in peace,
be of good courage,
hold fast that which is good,
render to no man evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak,
help the afflicted,
honour all men."*

It is a simple message of compassion... and yet as powerful as ever today, two thousand years after Christ's birth. (2000)

2 Service & Support



Princess Elizabeth's 21st Birthday Speech, 21 April 1947

There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors - a noble motto, "I serve." ...

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it. (1947, Princess Elizabeth at 21)



The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, 20 November 1947

3 Peace & Goodwill



The first Royal Christmas Message televised in colour, 1967

Modern communications make it possible for me to talk to you in your homes and to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. These techniques of radio and television are modern, but the Christmas message is timeless.

You may have heard it very often but in the end, no matter what scientific progress we make, the message will count for nothing unless we can achieve real peace and encourage genuine goodwill between individual people and the nations of the world.

Every Christmas I am sustained and encouraged by the happiness and sense of unity which comes from seeing all the members of my family together.

I hope and pray that, with God's help, this Christmas spirit of family unity will spread and grow among our Commonwealth family of nations.
(1967)

4 Faith & Hope



Golden Jubilee Australian commemorative stamps 2002

Anniversaries are important events in all our lives. Christmas is the anniversary of the birth of Christ over two thousand years ago, but it is much more than that. It is the celebration of the birth of an idea and an ideal. ...

I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.

Like others of you who draw inspiration from your own faith, I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.

Fortified by this and the support you have given throughout the last twelve months which has meant so much to me, I look forward to the New Year, to facing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and to continuing to serve you to the very best of my ability each and every day.
(2002)

5 Light & Life



Easter Message, 2020

The Queen's historic Easter message of 2020, when churches were closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, included these reflections.

As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on from the first Easter by every generation until now.

This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be — particularly for those suffering with grief — light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future.

I wish everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter.
(2020)

6 Truth & Courage



The first televised Royal Christmas Message, 1957

Twenty-five years ago my grandfather broadcast the first of these Christmas messages. Today is another landmark because television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes on Christmas Day.

I very much hope that this new medium will make my Christmas message more personal and direct.

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.

I would like to read you a few lines from 'Pilgrim's Progress', because I am sure we can say with Mr Valiant for Truth, these words:

"Though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles who now will be my rewarder."
(1957)

7 Love & Kindness



The Queen read part of her Christmas speech in 1989 at the Royal Albert Hall, recorded at a special Save the Children Fund charity concert.

You've all seen pictures of the earth taken from space. Unlike all the other planets in the solar system, earth shimmers green and blue in the sunlight and looks a very pleasant place to live.

The Queen said that **technical skills are not enough by themselves. They can only come to the rescue of the planet if we also learn to live by the golden rule which Jesus Christ taught us - "love thy neighbour as thyself".**

Many of you will have heard the story of the Good Samaritan, and of how Christ answered the question (from a clever lawyer who was trying to catch him out) "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus told of the traveller who was mugged and left injured on the roadside where several important people saw him, and passed by without stopping to help.

His neighbour was the man who did stop, cared for him, and made sure he was being well looked after before he resumed his own journey. ...

You children have something to give us which is priceless. You can still look at the world with a sense of wonder and remind us grown-ups that life is wonderful and precious. Often a child's helplessness and vulnerability bring out the best in us.

Part of that 'best in us' could be a particular tenderness towards this earth which we share as human beings, all of us, and, together, as the nations of the world, will leave to our children and our children's children. We must be kind to it for their sake. (1989)

8 Compassion and Care



Diamond Wedding Anniversary 2007

Now today, of course, marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Among other things, it is a reminder that it is the story of a family; but of a family in very distressed circumstances. Mary and Joseph found no room at the inn; they had to make do in a stable, and the new-born Jesus had to be laid in a manger. This was a family which had been shut out.

Perhaps it was because of this early experience that, throughout his ministry, Jesus of Nazareth reached out and made friends with people whom others ignored or despised. It was in this way that he proclaimed his belief that, in the end, we are all brothers and sisters in one human family.

The Christmas story also draws attention to all those people who are on the edge of society - people who feel cut off and disadvantaged; people who, for one reason or another, are not able to enjoy the full benefits of living in a civilised and law-abiding community. For these people the modern world can seem a distant and hostile place. (2007)

9 Forgiveness & Reconciliation



The Queen at the United States of America Bicentennial, 1976

Christmas is a time for reconciliation. A time not only for families and friends to come together but also for differences to be forgotten. ...

Reconciliation, like the one that followed the American War of Independence, is the product of reason, tolerance and love, and I think that Christmas is a good time to reflect on it. ...

The gift I would most value next year is that reconciliation should be found wherever it is needed. A reconciliation which would bring peace and security to families and neighbours at present suffering and torn apart.

Remember that good spreads outwards and every little does help. Mighty things from small beginnings grow as indeed they grew from the small child of Bethlehem. ...

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring reconciliation between all people. (1976)

10 Respect & Tolerance



Royal Visit to Nigeria, 1956

Once again messages of Christmas greeting have been exchanged around the world.

From all parts of the Commonwealth, and from the remote and lonely spaces of Antarctica, words and thoughts, taking their inspiration from the birth of the child in Bethlehem long ago, have been carried between us upon the invisible wings of twentieth-century science.

Neither the long and troubled centuries that have passed since that child was born, nor the complex scientific developments of our age, have done anything to dim the simple joy and bright hope we all feel when we celebrate his birthday. ...

Particularly on this day of the family festival let us remember those who - like the Holy Family before them - have been driven from their homes by war or violence. We call them 'refugees': let us give them a true refuge: let us see that for them and their children there is room at the Inn. ...

The Queen said that the healing power of tolerance, comradeship and love must be allowed to play its part. ...

That each one of us should give this power a chance to do its work is my heartfelt message to you all upon this Christmas Day. I can think of no better resolve to make, nor any better day on which to make it. Let us remember this during our festivities, for it is part of the Christmas message - "Goodwill toward men." (1956)



Part 2

The Statements on each theme

The Statements on each theme

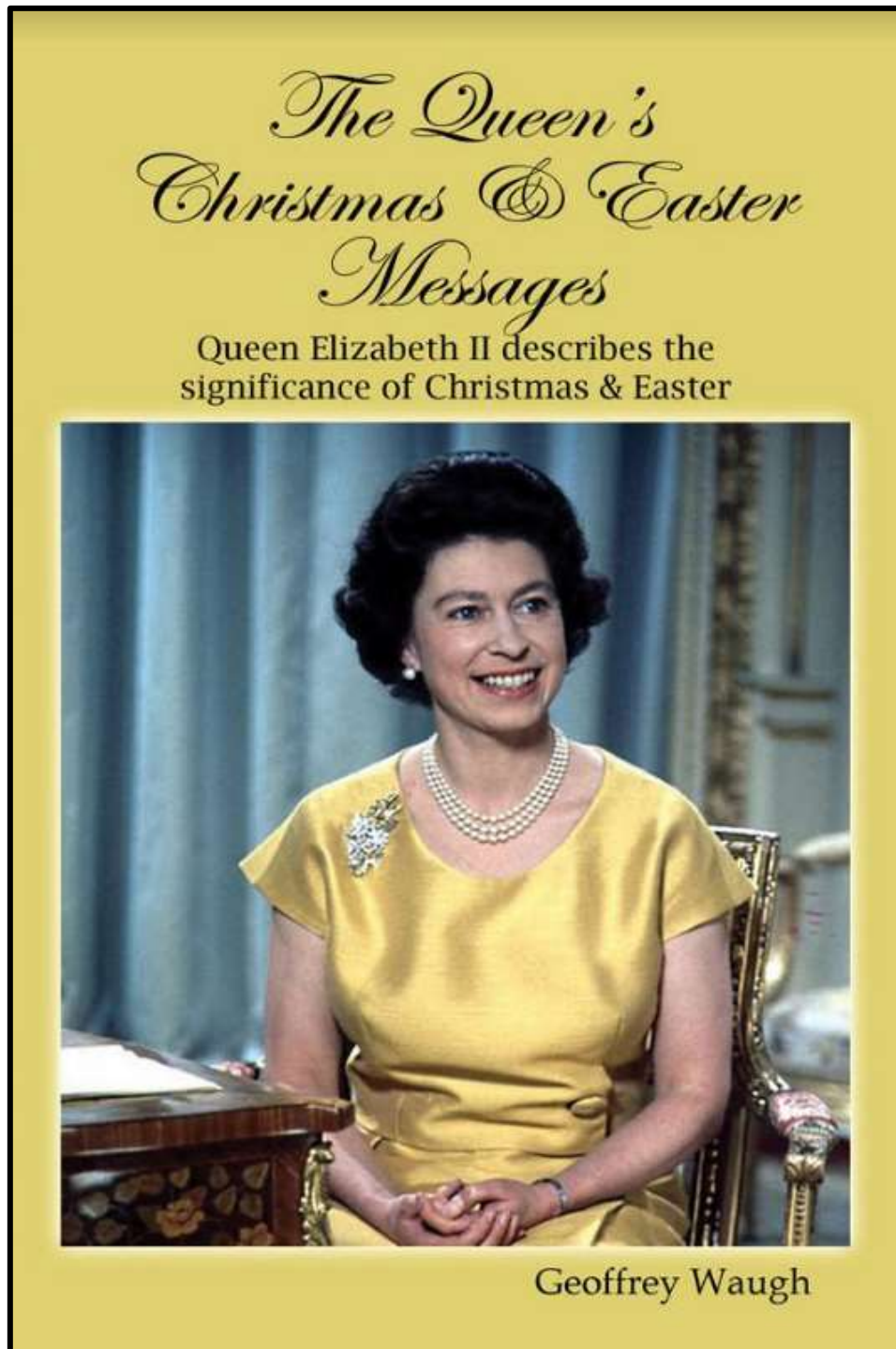
Part 2: The Statements on each theme, compiles quotes and excerpts from The Queen's Christmas and Easter broadcasts throughout Her Majesty's long reign.

They include quotations on these themes:

- 1 Jesus Christ***
- 2 Service & Support***
- 3 Peace & Goodwill***
- 4 Faith & Hope***
- 5 Light & Life***
- 6 Truth & Courage***
- 7 Love & Kindness***
- 8 Compassion & Care***
- 9 Forgiveness & Reconciliation***
- 10 Respect & Tolerance***

Many quotations could fit into more than one of these categories so each is included in this anthology within a main theme expressed in the excerpt.

Quotations



Quotations in this book, in ***bold italic print***, and photos are reproduced from my book *The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages*, and from broadcast scripts in the Royal Family website (<https://www.royal.uk>) with the excerpts used by permission.

1 Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ stands at the heart of Christian faith. That title, Jesus Christ, is drawn from words meaning Saviour and Messiah. His life, death, and resurrection are unique. Our calendars and diaries date from the time of his birth over 2000 years ago and Christmas is the annual celebration of his birth.

Christians believe that God walked among us in the person of his only Son, with God his true Father. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one."

He showed and taught us about God's love and justice, making people whole physically and spiritually. He promised eternal life to all who in trust him, and publicly died a sacrificial death in our place, as our Saviour and Lord. Millions now trust him and follow his teaching and example.

His short life and even shorter three years of public ministry and service demonstrated God's love, acceptance, forgiveness and grace. He welcomed all who came to him.

Dr James Allan Francis paints a vivid picture, often quoted and adapted, in 'One Solitary Life' [*The Real Jesus and Other Sermons*, Judson Press, 1926, pp 123-124.]

A child is born in an obscure village. He is brought up in another obscure village. He works in a carpenter shop until he is thirty, and then for three brief years is an itinerant preacher, proclaiming a message and living a life. He never writes a book. He never holds an office. He never raises an army. He never has a family of his own. He never owns a home. He never goes to college. He never travels two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He gathers a little group of friends about him and teaches them his way of life. While still a young man, the tide of popular feeling turns against him. One denies him; another betrays him. He is turned over to his enemies. He goes through the mockery of a trial; he is nailed to a cross between two thieves, and when dead is laid in a borrowed grave by the kindness of a friend.

Those are the facts of his human life. He rises from the dead. Today we look back across nineteen hundred years and ask, What kind of trail has he left across the centuries? When we try to sum up his influence, all the armies that ever marched, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned are absolutely picayune in their influence on mankind compared with that of this one solitary life.

Synonyms for picayune are trivial or insignificant.

Lyle C. Rollings III described Jesus this way in his prose poem (2007). "The Greatest Man in History... Jesus: had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He did not live in a castle, yet they called Him Lord, He ruled no nations, yet they called Him King, committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. I feel honoured to serve such a Leader who loves us!"

The Bible tells the story of Jesus, translated into over 700 languages with selections translated into over 3,500 more languages, the most read and translated book in the world. Its famous statement in John 3:16 says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus revealed and demonstrated God's love. He freely accepted all who came to him and he appreciated their hospitality. A former despised tax collector wrote that Jesus came eating and drinking and his opponents said, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" (Matthew 11:19). He mixed with all kinds of people and enjoyed their company. His first recorded miracle was at a wedding breakfast, or dinner, where he provided the best wine.

Queen Elizabeth II often spoke about Jesus Christ in her broadcasts including these brief quotations.

Christ not only revealed to us the truth in his teachings. He lived by what he believed and gave us the strength to try to do the same - and, finally, on the cross, he showed the supreme example of physical and moral courage. (1981)

Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself - in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose. (2000)

Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe. (2016)

Statements on Jesus Christ



The Queen Mother at 100 in 2000 with The Queen and Princess Margaret

The Queen's speech in 2000 reflected on the significance of celebrating two millennia since the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas is the traditional, if not the actual, birthday of a man who was destined to change the course of our history. And today we are celebrating the fact that Jesus Christ was born two thousand years ago; this is the true Millennium anniversary.

The simple facts of Jesus' life give us little clue as to the influence he was to have on the world. As a boy he learnt his father's trade as a carpenter. He then became a preacher, recruiting twelve supporters to help him.

But his ministry only lasted a few years and he himself never wrote anything down. In his early thirties he was arrested, tortured and crucified with two criminals. His death might have been the end of the story, but then came the resurrection and with it the foundation of the Christian faith.

Even in our very material age the impact of Christ's life is all around us. If you want to see an expression of Christian faith you have only to look

at our awe-inspiring cathedrals and abbeys, listen to their music, or look at their stained glass windows, their books and their pictures.

But the true measure of Christ's influence is not only in the lives of the saints but also in the good works quietly done by millions of men and women day in and day out throughout the centuries.

Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself - in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose. ...

To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.

I believe that the Christian message, in the words of a familiar blessing, remains profoundly important to us all:

*"Go forth into the world in peace,
be of good courage,
hold fast that which is good,
render to no man evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak,
help the afflicted,
honour all men."*

It is a simple message of compassion... and yet as powerful as ever today, two thousand years after Christ's birth. (2000)

Christ revealed truth and lived by what he believed.

As human beings we generally know what is right and how we should act and speak. But we are also very aware of how difficult it is to have the courage of our convictions.

Our Christian faith helps us to sustain those convictions. Christ not only revealed to us the truth in his teachings. He lived by what he believed and gave us the strength to try to do the same - and, finally, on the cross, he showed the supreme example of physical and moral courage.

That sacrifice was the dawn of Christianity and this is why at Christmas time we are inspired by the example of Christ as we celebrate his birth.
(1981)



Christmas stamps 1986

In 1986 The Queen gave a longer reflection on the significance of Christmas.

Christmas is a festival for all Christians, but it is particularly a festival for children. As we all know, it commemorates the birth of a child, who was born to ordinary people, and who grew up very simply in his own small home town and was trained to be a carpenter.

His life thus began in humble surroundings, in fact in a stable, but he was to have a profound influence on the course of history, and on the lives of generations of his followers. You don't have to be rich or powerful in order to change things for the better and each of us in our own way can make a contribution.

The infant Jesus was fortunate in one very important respect. His parents were loving and considerate. They did their utmost to protect him from harm. They left their own home and became refugees, to save him from King Herod, and they brought him up according to the traditions of their faith.

It is no easy task to care for and bring up children, whatever your circumstances - whether you are famous or quite unknown. But we could all help by letting the spirit of Christmas fill our homes with love and care and by heeding Our Lord's injunction to treat others as you would like them to treat you.

When, as the Bible says, Christ grew in wisdom and understanding, he began his task of explaining and teaching just what it is that God wants from us.

The two lessons that he had for us, which he underlined in everything he said and did, are the messages of God's love and how essential it is that we, too, should love other people.

There are many serious and threatening problems in this country and in the world but they will never be solved until there is peace in our homes and love in our hearts.

The message which God sent us by Christ's life and example is a very simple one, even though it seems so difficult to put into practice.

To all of you, of every faith and race, I send you my best wishes for a time of peace and tranquillity with your families at this Festival of Christmas. A very Happy Christmas to you all. (1986)

The 1988 Christmas Speech commented on the 'Book of Hours', full of prayers and devotional readings, with detailed illustrations such as this collage of the Christmas story.



Book of Hours segment from the TV broadcast 1988

*Recalling anniversaries, The Queen said that **we surely should draw inspiration from one other anniversary - the one we celebrate every year at this time, the birth of Christ.***

There are many grand and splendid pictures in the Royal Collection that illustrate this event, but one which gives me particular pleasure is this precious, almost jewel-like book.

It is a 'Book of Hours', full of prayers and devotional readings. It's in Latin, but it contains the most exquisite illuminations and it is these that speak to us most movingly. The anonymous person who drew the pictures nearly five hundred years ago has included all the familiar elements of the Christmas story which we hear with such pleasure every year.

Here are the angels, bringing the glad tidings to the shepherds, who listen attentively. Down here, where baby Jesus lies in the stall, you can see Mary and Joseph, watching over him, quite unmoved, it seems, by the man playing the bagpipes overhead.

The star over the stable has lit the way for all of us ever since, and there should be no one who feels shut out from that welcoming and guiding light. The legends of Christmas about the ox and the ass suggest that even the animals are not outside that loving care. ...

May the Christmas story encourage you, for it is a message of hope every year, not for a few, but for all. (1988)

I am always moved by those words in St. John's Gospel which we hear on Christmas Day - "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not".

We have only to listen to the news to know the truth of that. But the Gospel goes on - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God".

For all the inhumanity around us, let us be grateful for those who have received him and who go about quietly doing their work and His will without thought of reward or recognition. (1993)

At Christmas our attention is drawn to the birth of a baby some two thousand years ago. It was the humblest of beginnings, and his parents, Joseph and Mary, did not think they were important.

Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe.

The message of Christmas reminds us that inspiration is a gift to be given as well as received, and that love begins small but always grows. (2016)



United Kingdom commemorative stamps 2016

It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus — a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith. His birth marked a new beginning. As the carol says, “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight”. (2021)

2 Service & Support

Service and support are key elements of living a compassionate life. Jesus Christ “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus is our great example of service and support, especially for everyone in need.

Jesus lived a life of service and sacrifice. He challenged his followers to do the same. When his disciples argued about who was greatest he reminded them that the greatest was the servant of all. Even during his last meal with them on the night before he was arrested and executed, his close friends argued about who was greatest. Jesus laid aside his garments, wrapped a towel around himself and washed their dusty feet, dressed as a lowly servant, to their astonishment and objection. He reminded them that as their Lord and Master he had served them, and that they must serve one another. The next morning he was scourged, mocked and crucified, his ultimate sacrificial loving service, laying down his life for his friends and for us all.

He had grown up in the green hills of Nazareth working as a carpenter and the son of a carpenter in the family business. That work involved building and repairing houses and furniture including working with the limestone used in buildings and felling needed timber. Jesus grew in strength and in favour with God and people. As the eldest with four brothers and his sisters he also grew in family responsibilities and service.

Then, following his baptism at around thirty years of age, he began his public ministry and service, meeting the needs of people every day. Large crowds came for healing and help and his teaching astonished many people. He emphasized that the greatest must be the servant of all, that the first would be last and the last first.

He continually taught about serving and supporting others, loving others, helping others, and accepting and forgiving others. His famous teaching included powerful stories such as The Good Samaritan (a despised people) helping the wounded traveller, and The Prodigal Son fully forgiven and restored by his loving father who reached out in compassion to both of his sons.

He was popular with ordinary people who even tried to make him their king by force, but he slipped away from them to the hills to pray and obey. Many people expected him to be their Messiah who would free them from the Roman occupation, but he lived a life of service and sacrifice. His popularity threatened many people in authority but when he was on trial he explained that his kingdom was not of this world. His kingdom is eternal.

Paul's beautiful song about Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11 challenges us to have the same attitude that Jesus had. As a man he became a servant, humbled himself, and was obedient all the way to his death, even death on a cross. Now he is exalted with a name above every name for "Jesus Christ is Lord." No wonder our calendars and diaries count the years from his birth.

Mahatma Gandhi, the revered Hindu leader in India, is reported to have said, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Similar to Christ's teaching, he said, "Hate the sin, love the sinner" and "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

It's true that we can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

The Queen spoke often about service as in these quotes:

This is the time of 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.

It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others.

The carol, In The Bleak Midwinter, ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service: 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part'. The carol gives the answer 'Yet what I can I give him - give my heart'. (2012)

Statements on Service and Support



Princess Elizabeth's 21st Birthday Speech 21 Apr 1947

There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors - a noble motto, "I serve". ...

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it. (1947, Princess Elizabeth at 21)

Each person's service is real and important.

Although the contribution which any one person can make is small, it is real and important.

Whether you live in one of the rapidly developing countries of the Commonwealth or whether you find yourself in one of the older countries, the work of mutual help and the increase of mutual understanding cannot fail to be personally satisfying and of real service to the future.

May the months ahead bring you joy and the peace and happiness which we so much desire. (1960)

Telstar in 1962 made instant global communication possible.

The wise men of old followed a star: modern man has built one. But unless the message of this new star is the same as theirs our wisdom will count for nought. Now we can all say the world is my neighbour and it is only in serving one another that we can reach for the stars. (1962)

Those true and permanent values are seen in sacrificial service to others.

Curiously enough, it was a sad event which did as much as anything in 1992 to help me put my own worries into perspective. Just before he died, Leonard Cheshire came to see us with his fellow members of the Order of Merit. ...

One of his Cheshire Homes for people with disabilities is not far from this house. I have visited others all over the Commonwealth and I have seen at first hand the remarkable results of his, and his wife's, determination to put Christ's teaching to practical effect. ...

There is no magic formula that will transform sorrow into happiness, intolerance into compassion or war into peace, but inspiration can change human behaviour.

Those, like Leonard Cheshire, who devote their lives to others, have that inspiration and they know, and we know, where to look for help in finding it. That help can be readily given if we only have the faith to ask.

I and my family, as we approach a new year, will draw strength from this faith in our commitment to your service in the coming years. (1992)

The Queen often commented on the quiet service of millions of people.

My work, and the work of my family, takes us every week into that quiet sort of 'public life', where millions of people give their time, unpaid and usually unsung, to the community, and indeed to those most at risk of exclusion from it. ...

It is they that help define our sense of duty. It is they that can make us strong as individuals, and keep the nation's heartbeat strong and steady

too. Christmas is a good time for us to recognise all that they do for us and to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of them. (1998)

Jesus demonstrated sacrificial service and taught it.

In this country and throughout the Commonwealth there are groups of people who are giving their time generously to make a difference to the lives of others.

As we think of them, and of our Servicemen and women far from home at this Christmas time, I hope we all, whatever our faith, can draw inspiration from the words of the familiar prayer:

*"Teach us good Lord
To serve thee as thou deservest;
To give, and not to count the cost;
To fight, and not to heed the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest;
To labour, and not to ask for any reward;
Save that of knowing that we do thy will."
(2003)*



First Christmas Broadcast in 3D, 2012

God sent his only son to serve, not to be served.

At Christmas I am always struck by how the spirit of togetherness lies also at the heart of the Christmas story. A young mother and a dutiful father with their baby were joined by poor shepherds and visitors from

afar. They came with their gifts to worship the Christ child. From that day on he has inspired people to commit themselves to the best interests of others.

This is the time of 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.

It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others.

The carol, In The Bleak Midwinter, ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service: 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part'. The carol gives the answer 'Yet what I can I give him - give my heart'. (2012)

3 Peace & Goodwill

Peace and goodwill toward all on earth were announced by angels at Jesus' birth. Our broken world needs that peace and goodwill. Jesus gives peace and on the eve of his execution he promised his peace even amid opposition and difficulties.

Angels announced the good news to shepherds at the time of Jesus' birth in a message for all people:

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

That angelic declaration resounded and echoed through the centuries and around the world as in the Christmas hymn 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night' which concludes with the angels' praise:

All glory be to God on high,
And to the Earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease!

Jesus Christ's birth announced peace and goodwill to all.

The famous prayer poem, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), asks to be an instrument of the Lord's peace:

*Lord make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen*

Among his many titles Jesus is known as the Prince of Peace.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)

The young Queen in her first Christmas broadcast in 1952 declared that "Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men" is the eternal message of Christmas, and the desire of us all. Language has changed over time but the message remains the same. Her Majesty's broadcasts often reminded us of this key theme of Christmas, such as these:

The message of Christmas remains the same; but humanity can only progress if we are all truly ambitious for what is good and honourable. We know the reward is peace on earth, goodwill toward men, but we cannot win it without determination and concerted effort. (1963)

At Christmas we are also reminded that it is the time of peace on earth and goodwill towards men. Yet we are all only too well aware of the tragic fighting, hatred and ill-will in so many parts of the world. (1966)

Christmas is the festival of peace. It is God's will that it should be our constant endeavour to establish 'Peace on earth, goodwill towards men'. (1968)

Statements on Peace and Goodwill



The Queen's first Christmas Broadcast 1952

The eternal message of Christmas and the desire of us all.

Each Christmas, at this time, my beloved father broadcast a message to his people in all parts of the world. Today I am doing this to you, who are now my people.

As he used to do, I am speaking to you from my own home, where I am spending Christmas with my family; and let me say at once how I hope that your children are enjoying themselves as much as mine are on a day which is especially the children's festival, kept in honour of the Child born at Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago. ...

Above all, we must keep alive that courageous spirit of adventure that is the finest quality of youth; and by youth I do not just mean those who are young in years; I mean too all those who are young in heart, no matter how old they may be. That spirit still flourishes in this old country and in all the younger countries of our Commonwealth.

On this broad foundation let us set out to build a truer knowledge of ourselves and our fellowmen, to work for tolerance and understanding among the nations and to use the tremendous forces of science and learning for the betterment of man's lot upon this earth. If we can do these three things with courage, with generosity and with humility, then surely we shall achieve that "Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men" which is the eternal message of Christmas, and the desire of us all. (1952)



The first Royal Christmas Message televised in colour (1967)

We can achieve real peace and encourage genuine goodwill between individuals and nations.

Modern communications make it possible for me to talk to you in your homes and to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. These techniques of radio and television are modern, but the Christmas message is timeless.

You may have heard it very often but in the end, no matter what scientific progress we make, the message will count for nothing unless we can achieve real peace and encourage genuine goodwill between individual people and the nations of the world.

Every Christmas I am sustained and encouraged by the happiness and sense of unity which comes from seeing all the members of my family together.

I hope and pray that, with God's help, this Christmas spirit of family unity will spread and grow among our Commonwealth family of nations.
(1967)

Peace and goodwill remain the great themes of Christmas. Friendship and good will are desires common to us all.

To many of my people Christmas doesn't have the same religious significance, but friendship and good will are common to us all. So it's a good time to remember those around us who are far from home, feeling perhaps strange and lonely. ...

I am sure that many of you have thought about these things before, but it seems to me that Christmas is just the time to be grateful to those who add fullness to our lives.

Even so we need something more. We all need the kind of security that one gets from a happy and united family. Before I return to mine let me once again wish every one of you a very happy Christmas from all of us here at Sandringham, and may God's blessing be with you in the coming year. (1958)

As the old year passes, let us celebrate Christmas with thanksgiving and carry its message of peace and good will into the year ahead. (1959)

We need determination and effort to pursue peace and goodwill.

The message of Christmas remains the same; but humanity can only progress if we are all truly ambitious for what is good and honourable. We know the reward is peace on earth, goodwill toward men, but we cannot win it without determination and concerted effort. (1963)

We can strive for peace and goodwill to overcome adversity.

Every year the familiar pattern of Christmas unfolds. The sights and the customs and festivities may seem very much the same from one year to another, and yet to families and individuals each Christmas is slightly different.

Children grow and presents for them change. It may be the first Christmas for many as husband and wife, or the first Christmas with grandchildren. Some may be far from home, and others lonely or sick, yet Christmas always remains as the great family festival.

A festival which we owe to that family long ago which spent this time in extreme adversity and discomfort. ...

At Christmas we are also reminded that it is the time of peace on earth and goodwill towards men. Yet we are all only too well aware of the tragic fighting, hatred and ill-will in so many parts of the world. ...

"Peace on Earth" - we may not have it at the moment, we may never have it completely, but we will certainly achieve nothing unless we go on trying to remove the causes of conflict between peoples and nations.

"Goodwill towards men" is not a hollow phrase. Goodwill exists, and when there is an opportunity to show it in practical form we know what wonderful things it can achieve. (1965)

People of goodwill are working together to build a world that will be happier and more peaceful.

I am sure the custom of giving presents at Christmas will never die out, but I hope it will never overshadow the far more important presents we can give for the benefit of the future of the world.

People of goodwill everywhere are working to build a world that will be a happier and more peaceful place in which to live. Let our prayers be for a personal strength and conviction to play our own small part to bring that day nearer. (1966)

The festival of peace is an annual reminder that God's will is for peace on earth and goodwill.

Many ideas are being questioned today, but these great truths will continue to shine out as the light of hope in the darkness of intolerance and inhumanity. ...

Christmas is the festival of peace. It is God's will that it should be our constant endeavour to establish 'Peace on earth, goodwill towards men'. (1968)

The message of peace is for all seasons.

The Christmas message is really one for all seasons and not just for one day of the year. If we can show this by our lives and by our example, then our contribution as parents will be just as important as any made by scientists and engineers.

Perhaps we can then look for the real peace on earth, and the powers which men have harnessed will be used for the benefit of our fellow men.

I hope this Christmas Day is bringing to many of you peace and happiness, and for everyone the hope of this to come. (1971)

We celebrate a time of new life and a time to look hopefully ahead to a time of peace and goodwill.

Christmas is above all a time of new life. A time to look hopefully ahead to a future when the problems which face the world today will be seen in their true perspective.

I leave with you the old message, "On earth peace; goodwill toward men". No one has ever offered a better formula and I hope that its simple truth may yet take hold of the imagination of all mankind. (1972)

By communicating as friends in tolerance and understanding we enable peace and goodwill to flourish.

I hope that Christmas will remind us all that it is not how we communicate but what we communicate with each other that really matters.

We in the Commonwealth are fortunate enough to belong to a world wide comradeship. Let us make the most of it; let us all resolve to communicate as friends in tolerance and understanding. Only then can we make the message of the angels come true: 'Peace on earth, goodwill towards men'. (1983)

The birth and life of the Prince of Peace is a constant reminder that we can work to heal old wounds.

It is particularly at Christmas, which marks the birth of the Prince of Peace, that we should work to heal old wounds and to abandon prejudice and suspicion.

What better way of making a start than by remembering what Christ said - "Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven". (1984)



*The Queen, The Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret
50th Anniversary, end of World War II, 1995*

In 1995 The Queen led national celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Christmas Broadcast reflected on the role of ordinary men and women in bringing peace to troubled places.

It is the ordinary men and women who, so often, have done more than anyone else to bring peace to troubled lands. ...

During my visit to South Africa last March, I was able to see, in a township, how the energy and inspiration of one person could benefit thousands of others. And that one person would lay no claim to be anything other than ordinary - whatever you or I might think of her!

I have of course used the Christmas story before in this context. But I cannot think of any Christmas of my reign when the message of the angels has been more apt.

Think, for instance, of all the children round the world suffering from the effects of war and the unscrupulous use of power. Some of them are growing up in countries of the Commonwealth, an organisation which is proud of its devotion to the principle of good government. ...

"Blessed be the peacemakers," Christ said, "for they shall be called the children of God." It is especially to those of you, often peacemakers without knowing it, who are fearful of a troubled and uncertain future, that I bid a Happy Christmas. (1995)

4 Faith & Hope

Faith and hope spring eternal in the good news about Jesus Christ. He emphasized the importance of believing in God and of trusting in him for life now and for eternal life.

Jesus encouraged us to have faith in God and also in him. Even during his last meal with his followers on the night before he died he challenged them, "Believe in God, believe also in me."

That simple, profound faith gives a believer hope now and hope for the future including for our eternal destiny. Millions of people, including huge numbers in communities without Bibles, hear about Jesus and have faith in him. They say, "I believe in the living Jesus. I trust in him."

Jesus often said, "Your faith has made you whole." He was especially impressed with anyone who had strong faith in him such as a Roman centurion who sent a message to Jesus affirming, "Just say the word and my servant will be healed." That sick servant was healed and Jesus praised the Roman soldier for his faith.

Many times Jesus challenged his followers to have the uncomplicated faith of a child. That's like the boy who went to a meeting to pray for rain but only the boy brought an umbrella.

Faith and hope in God are simple and profound. Billions believe that God exists and that his Son Jesus was incarnate on earth and died on our behalf for the forgiveness of our sin. Vast numbers of people worldwide of all faiths, or of none, have prayed the prayer in the popular hymn by Charlotte Elliot, 'Just as I am' which includes these verses:

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Your blood was shed for me
And that You bid me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

God welcomes us and we can all pray that prayer. A title for Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The Good News is a message of faith and hope for everyone, good and bad, as Jesus demonstrated. Some religious leaders severely criticized him for accepting and welcoming and forgiving all kinds of people and eating and celebrating with them. He showed us God's love and grace and forgiveness.

We can respond to God's grace and presence as Victorian Poet Laureate Tennyson reminds us:

The sun, the moon, the stars, the seas, the hills and the plains,-
Are not these, O Soul, the Vision of Him who reigns? ...

Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and Spirit with Spirit can meet-
Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.

A great theme of Christmas is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth as The Queen continually reminded us in her annual broadcasts. That miraculous birth gives us hope as we have faith in the goodness and grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Here are some of Her Majesty's statements.

Christ's birth in Bethlehem so long ago remains a powerful symbol of hope for a better future. After all the tribulations of this year, this is surely more relevant than ever. (2001)

I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.

Like others of you who draw inspiration from your own faith, I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel. (2002)

Of course, at the heart of the Christmas story lies the birth of a child, a seemingly small and insignificant step overlooked by many in Bethlehem. But in time, through his teaching and by his example, Jesus Christ would show the world how small steps, taken in faith and in hope, can overcome long-held differences and deep-seated divisions to bring harmony and understanding. (2019)

Statements on Faith and Hope



Australian commemorative stamps, 2 June 2003

In her coronation year, at Christmas on tour in New Zealand, The Queen observed that the Commonwealth is an entirely new conception, built on the highest qualities of friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace, a lasting hope and prayer.

To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life.

I wished to speak of it from New Zealand this Christmas Day because we are celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace, who preached the brotherhood of man.

May that brotherhood be furthered by all our thoughts and deeds from year to year. In pursuit of that supreme ideal the Commonwealth is moving steadily towards greater harmony between its many creeds, colours and races despite the imperfections by which, like every human institution, it is beset.

Already, indeed, in the last half-century it has proved itself the most effective and progressive association of peoples which history has yet seen; and its ideal of brotherhood embraces the whole world. To all my peoples throughout the Commonwealth I commend that Christmas hope and prayer. (1953)

Every year at this time the whole Christian world celebrates the birth of the founder of our faith. It is traditionally the time for family reunions, present-giving and children's parties.

A welcome escape, in fact, from the harsh realities of this troubled world and it is just in times like these, times of tension and anxieties, that the simple story and message of Christmas is most relevant.

The story is of a poor man and his wife who took refuge at night in a stable, where a child was born and laid in the manger. Nothing very spectacular, and yet the event was greeted with that triumphant song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men."

For that child was to show that there is nothing in heaven and earth that cannot be achieved by faith and by love and service to one's neighbour. Christmas may be a Christian festival, but its message goes out to all men and it is echoed by all men of understanding and goodwill everywhere. ...

"Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing." The words of this old carol mean even more today than when they were first written.
(1961)

New hope and new confidence arise from the coming of Jesus.

At Christmas, we look back nearly 2000 years to an event which was to bring new hope and new confidence to all subsequent generations.

The birth of Christ gave us faith in the future and as I read through some earlier Christmas Broadcasts, I was struck by the way that this same idea - faith in the future - kept recurring. ...

The optimism of that Christmas message is timeless. When it first fell to me to carry on the tradition that my grandfather and father had developed, I reaffirmed what I knew had been their deeply held beliefs in the future, beliefs which I myself share. ...

Christians have the compelling example of the life and teaching of Christ and, for myself, I would like nothing more than that my grandchildren should hold dear his ideals which have helped and inspired so many previous generations. (1978)

We celebrate the birth of a child who transformed history and gave us a great faith.

At Christmas we give presents to each other. Let us also stop to think whether we are making enough effort to pass on our experience of life to our children. Today we celebrate the birth of the child who transformed history and gave us a great faith. Jesus said:

"Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God". (1979)

Following the 11 September (9/11) attack in 2001 The Queen referred to the importance of faith to guide us and to have hope for a better future.

It is to the Church that we turn to give meaning to these moments of intense human experience through prayer, symbol and ceremony.

In these circumstances so many of us, whatever our religion, need our faith more than ever to sustain and guide us. Every one of us needs to believe in the value of all that is good and honest; we need to let this belief drive and influence our actions. ...

This is an important lesson for us all during this festive season. For Christmas marks a moment to pause, to reflect and believe in the possibilities of rebirth and renewal.

Christ's birth in Bethlehem so long ago remains a powerful symbol of hope for a better future. After all the tribulations of this year, this is surely more relevant than ever. (2001)

Jesus brought hope to the world.

The Christmas story retains its appeal since it doesn't provide theoretical explanations for the puzzles of life. Instead, it's about the birth of a child, and the hope that birth 2,000 years ago brought to the world.

Only a few people acknowledged Jesus when he was born; now billions follow him. I believe his message of peace on earth and goodwill to all is never out of date. It can be heeded by everyone. It's needed as much as ever. (2018)



Golden Jubilee Australian commemorative stamps 2002

Faith gives us the strength of hope in the future.

Anniversaries are important events in all our lives. Christmas is the anniversary of the birth of Christ over two thousand years ago, but it is much more than that. It is the celebration of the birth of an idea and an ideal. ...

I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.

Like others of you who draw inspiration from your own faith, I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.

Fortified by this and the support you have given throughout the last twelve months which has meant so much to me, I look forward to the New Year, to facing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and to continuing to serve you to the very best of my ability each and every day.

(2002, the Golden Jubilee of The Queen's reign)

In 2005 The Queen reflected on tragedies such as the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the floods in New Orleans, the earthquake in Kashmir which killed over 70,000 people and left millions homeless, and the July bombings in London killing underground commuters. Footage showed ordinary people helping the suffering in practical and financial ways in the remarkable humanitarian responses from people of all faiths.

This Christmas my thoughts are especially with those everywhere who are grieving the loss of loved ones during what for so many has been such a terrible year. ...

There may be an instinct in all of us to help those in distress, but in many cases I believe this has been inspired by religious faith. Christianity is not the only religion to teach its followers to help others and to treat your neighbour as you would want to be treated yourself.

It has been clear that in the course of this year relief workers and financial support have come from members of every faith and from every corner of the world. ...

This last year has reminded us that this world is not always an easy or a safe place to live in, but it is the only place we have. I believe also that it has shown us all how our faith - whatever our religion - can inspire us to work together in friendship and peace for the sake of our own and future generations.

For Christians this festival of Christmas is the time to remember the birth of the one we call "the Prince of Peace" and our source of "light and life" in both good times and bad. It is not always easy to accept his teaching, but I have no doubt that the New Year will be all the better if we do but try.

I hope you will all have a very happy Christmas this year and that you go into the New Year with renewed hope and confidence. (2005)

No one is beyond the reach of God's love.

For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.

On the first Christmas, in the fields above Bethlehem, as they sat in the cold of night watching their resting sheep, the local shepherds must have had no shortage of time for reflection. Suddenly all this was to change. These humble shepherds were the first to hear and ponder the wondrous news of the birth of Christ – the first noel – the joy of which we celebrate today. (2013)

Small steps taken in faith and hope can bring harmony.

Of course, at the heart of the Christmas story lies the birth of a child, a seemingly small and insignificant step overlooked by many in Bethlehem. But in time, through his teaching and by his example, Jesus Christ would show the world how small steps, taken in faith and in hope, can overcome long-held differences and deep-seated divisions to bring harmony and understanding.

Many of us try to follow in his footsteps. The path, of course, is not always smooth, and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy. But small steps can make a world of difference.

As Christmas dawned, church congregations around the world joined in singing 'It Came upon the Midnight Clear'. Like many timeless carols, it speaks not just of the coming of Jesus Christ into a divided world many years ago, but also of the relevance even today of the angels' message of peace and goodwill.

It's a timely reminder of what positive things can be achieved when people set aside past differences and come together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation. And as we all look forward to the start of a new decade, it's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change. (2019)

5 Light & Life

Light and life shine radiantly in the story of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. He came to give life in its fullness, abundant life. Millions now choose to live in that light and life and love.

Jesus also added, “You are the light of the world. ... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14, 16).

Scripture reminds us that Jesus Christ brought light and life into the world for “in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:4-5).

Light dispels darkness and we are invited to live in the light of God’s love and goodness and reflect his light and love. We can live in that light and love amid the darkness and evil around us.

Many people who have near death experiences report that they were drawn into the wonderful presence of a great being of love and light. Christians affirm that God is love and that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

There’s great comfort in knowing that at death we find ourselves first of all enveloped in the amazing presence of God’s perfect light and love. If we trust in him that must be quite a blessing. No fear. No condemnation. No regrets.

There is darkness in the world as most news bulletins remind us. However, many homes and communities have been changed and enriched by a strong, consistent choice to live in light and love, not in darkness and hate.

Jesus taught his followers to pray and work for God’s kingdom to come and for God’s will to be done on earth, as in the well-known Lord’s Prayer that some of us recited in school, now prayed in many churches in current English, such as with these words:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Language has changed over time but the eternal truths of God's light and love remain the same.

The Queen often referred to the original Christmas story of a unique baby who brought us light and life, as in these excerpts.

Life in such a place might have been uneventful. But the Light, kindled in Bethlehem and then streaming from the cottage window in Nazareth, has illumined the world for two thousand years. It is in the glow of that bright beam that I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. (1954)

The first Christmas came at a time that was dark and threatening, but from it came the light of the world. (1974)

I am reminded this year of some lines from a Christmas hymn which many of you will know: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." (1993)

Light brings hope and life even during the Coronavirus pandemic.

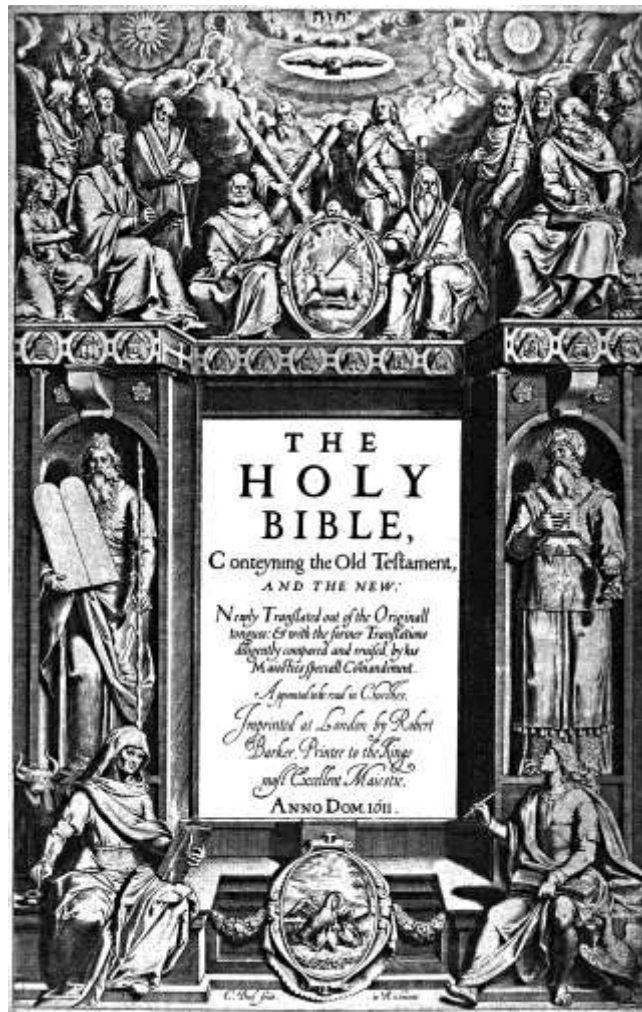
Every year, we herald the coming of Christmas by turning on the lights. And light does more than create a festive mood. Light brings hope.

For Christians Jesus is "the light of the world" but we can't celebrate his birth today in quite the usual way. ...

The teachings of Christ have served as my inner light, as has the sense of purpose we can find in coming together to worship. ...

Let the light of Christmas, the spirit of selflessness, love, and above all hope, guide us in the times ahead. It is in that spirit I wish you a very happy Christmas. (2020)

Statements on Light and Life



The title page to the 1611 first edition of the Authorized Version of the Bible shows the Apostles Peter and Paul seated centrally above the central text, which is flanked by Moses and Aaron. In the four corners sit Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, authors of the four gospels, with their symbolic animals. The rest of the Apostles (with Judas facing away) stand around Peter and Paul. At the very top is the Tetragrammaton "יהוה" [YHWH] Hebrew for Yahweh. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Over four hundred years ago, King James the Sixth of Scotland inherited the throne of England at a time when the Christian Church was deeply divided. Here at Hampton Court in 1604, he convened a conference of churchmen of all shades of opinion to discuss the future of Christianity in this country. The King agreed to commission a new translation of the Bible that was acceptable to all parties. This was to become the King James or Authorized Bible, which next year will be exactly four centuries old.

Acknowledged as a masterpiece of English prose and the most vivid translation of the scriptures, the glorious language of this Bible has survived the turbulence of history and given many of us the most widely-recognised and beautiful descriptions of the birth of Jesus Christ which we celebrate today. ...

People are capable of belonging to many communities, including a religious faith. King James may not have anticipated quite how important sport and games were to become in promoting harmony and common interests. But from the scriptures in the Bible which bears his name, we know that nothing is more satisfying than the feeling of belonging to a group who are dedicated to helping each other:

‘Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them’. (2010)

Light kindled in Bethlehem has illuminated the world.

I have referred to Christmas as the Children's Festival. But this lovely day is not only a time for family reunions, for paper decorations, for roast turkey and plum pudding.

It has, before all, its origin in the homage we pay to a very special Family, who lived long ago in a very ordinary home, in a very unimportant village in the uplands of a small Roman province.

Life in such a place might have been uneventful. But the Light, kindled in Bethlehem and then streaming from the cottage window in Nazareth, has illumined the world for two thousand years. It is in the glow of that bright beam that I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. (1954)

From the first Christmas came the light of the world.

Christmas on this side of the equator comes at the darkest time of the year: but we can look forward hopefully to lengthening days and the returning sun.

The first Christmas came at a time that was dark and threatening, but from it came the light of the world. (1974)

The eternal truth is a message of hope.

I am always moved by those words in St. John's Gospel which we hear on Christmas Day - "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not".

We have only to listen to the news to know the truth of that. But the Gospel goes on - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God".

For all the inhumanity around us, let us be grateful for those who have received him and who go about quietly doing their work and His will without thought of reward or recognition.

They know that there is an eternal truth of much greater significance than our own triumphs and tragedies, and it is embodied by the Child in the Manger. That is their message of hope.

We can all try to reflect that message of hope in our own lives, in our actions and in our prayers. If we do, the reflection may light the way for others and help them to read the message too. ...

I am reminded this year of some lines from a Christmas hymn which many of you will know: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." (1993)

Lights on Christmas trees remind us that light shines in the darkness.



At this time of year, few sights evoke more feelings of cheer and goodwill than the twinkling lights of a Christmas tree.

The popularity of a tree at Christmas is due in part to my great-great grandparents, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. After this touching picture was published, many families wanted a Christmas tree of their own, and the custom soon spread. ...

It is true that the world has had to confront moments of darkness this year, but the Gospel of John contains a verse of great hope, often read at Christmas carol services: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

One cause for thankfulness this summer was marking 70 years since the end of the Second World War. ...

At the end of that war, the people of Oslo began sending an annual gift of a Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square.

It has 500 light bulbs and is enjoyed not just by Christians but by people of all faiths, and of none. At the very top sits a bright star, to represent the Star of Bethlehem.

The custom of topping a tree also goes back to Prince Albert's time. For his family's tree, he chose an angel, helping to remind us that the focus of the Christmas story is on one particular family.

For Joseph and Mary, the circumstances of Jesus's birth - in a stable - were far from ideal, but worse was to come as the family was forced to flee the country.

It's no surprise that such a human story still captures our imagination and continues to inspire all of us who are Christians, the world over.

Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another.

Although it is not an easy message to follow, we shouldn't be discouraged; rather, it inspires us to try harder: to be thankful for the people who bring love and happiness into our own lives, and to look for ways of spreading that love to others, whenever and wherever we can.
(2015)



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2020

The Queen's historic Easter message of 2020 included these reflections.

As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on from the first Easter by every generation until now.

This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be — particularly for those suffering with grief — light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future.

I wish everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter.
(2020)

The Queen's Christmas message of 2020 also focused on light.

Every year, we herald the coming of Christmas by turning on the lights. And light does more than create a festive mood. Light brings hope.

For Christians Jesus is "the light of the world" but we can't celebrate his birth today in quite the usual way. ...

This year, we celebrated International Nurses' Day on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. As with other nursing pioneers like Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale shone a lamp of hope across the world. Today, our front-line services still shine that lamp for us, supported by the amazing achievements of modern science, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers, and draw comfort that even on the darkest nights, there is hope in the new dawn.

Jesus touched on this with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The man who is robbed and left at the roadside is saved by someone who did not share his religion or culture.

This wonderful story of kindness is still as relevant today. Good Samaritans have emerged across society, showing care and respect for all, regardless of gender, race, and background, reminding us that each one of us is special and equal in the eyes of God.

The teachings of Christ have served as my inner light, as has the sense of purpose we can find in coming together to worship. ...

Let the light of Christmas, the spirit of selflessness, love, and above all hope, guide us in the times ahead. It is in that spirit I wish you a very happy Christmas. (2020)

6 *Truth & Courage*

Truth and courage characterized Jesus Christ's life and teaching. He confronted and challenged hypocrisy and evil, declaring that he is "the way, the truth, and the life." His courage led him to his brutal death on a cross and his ultimate triumph over death.

Jesus himself is the embodiment of truth and courage. He did not flinch from confronting widespread hypocrisy and hidden thoughts and desires for evil. He famously said, "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." Referring to himself, he went on to say, "If the Son makes you free you will be free indeed" (John 8:32, 36).

One of his famous followers who left a life of indulgence and became a renowned advocate for truth, St Augustine of Hippo, wrote, "The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself."

Clive Staples Lewis, author of the Narnia stories (with Aslan the Christ-like lion), argued in his famous 'trilemma' that Jesus is not just a great moral teacher, but for him to say what he said and do what he did he must be either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.

A memorial floor-stone for C S Lewis at Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey includes a quote from his book *The Weight of Glory*: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else."

An essay in his book *God in the Dock*, adds, "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

Alfred Lord Tennyson's clarion call in his poem *In Memoriam* (Ring out, wild bells) bids farewell to the old year and welcomes the new – ring out the false, ring in the true:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

The Queen quoted from this poem and other writings in noting the value and importance of truth and courage, as in this excerpt:

I wonder whether you remember, during the Thanksgiving Service in St. Paul's, the congregation singing that wonderful hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God only wise".

*"Now give us we pray thee the Spirit of love,
The gift of true wisdom that comes from above,
The spirit of service that has naught of pride,
The gift of true courage, and thee as our guide." ...*

We know that the world can never be free from conflict and pain, but Christmas also draws our attention to all that is hopeful and good in this changing world; it speaks of values and qualities that are true and permanent and it reminds us that the world we would like to see can only come from the goodness of the heart.

When you hear the bells ringing at Christmas, think of the lines written by Tennyson:

*"Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be."*

(1980)

Statements on Truth and Courage



The first televised Royal Christmas Message, 1957

The Queen spoke about truth and courage in her first televised Christmas message.

Today we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest. We need the kind of courage that can withstand the subtle corruption of the cynics so that we can show the world that we are not afraid of the future. ...

I would like to read you a few lines from 'Pilgrim's Progress', because I am sure we can say with Mr Valiant for Truth, these words:

"Though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles who now will be my rewarder."
(1957)

The themes of truth and courage emerged in many other broadcasts including Her Majesty's first Christmas Message of 1952.

Above all, we must keep alive that courageous spirit of adventure that is the finest quality of youth; and by youth I do not just mean those who are young in years; I mean too all those who are young in heart, no matter how old they may be. That spirit still flourishes in this old country and in all the younger countries of our Commonwealth.

On this broad foundation let us set out to build a truer knowledge of ourselves and our fellowmen, to work for tolerance and understanding among the nations and to use the tremendous forces of science and learning for the betterment of man's lot upon this earth. If we can do these three things with courage, with generosity and with humility, then surely we shall achieve that "Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men" which is the eternal message of Christmas, and the desire of us all. (1952)

We can pray for the gift of courage and for the love of truth and right.

I was glad that the celebrations of my mother's 80th birthday last summer gave so much pleasure. I wonder whether you remember, during the Thanksgiving Service in St. Paul's, the congregation singing that wonderful hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God only wise".

*"Now give us we pray thee the Spirit of love,
The gift of true wisdom that comes from above,
The spirit of service that has naught of pride,
The gift of true courage, and thee as our guide."*

In difficult times we may be tempted to find excuses for self-indulgence and to wash our hands of responsibility. Christmas stands for the opposite. The Wise Men and the Shepherds remind us that it is not enough simply to do our jobs; we need to go out and look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than ourselves, even if that service demands sacrifice.

It was their belief and confidence in God which inspired them to visit the stable and it is this unselfish will to serve that will see us through the difficulties we face.

We know that the world can never be free from conflict and pain, but Christmas also draws our attention to all that is hopeful and good in this changing world; it speaks of values and qualities that are true and

permanent and it reminds us that the world we would like to see can only come from the goodness of the heart.

When you hear the bells ringing at Christmas, think of the lines written by Tennyson:

*"Ring out false pride in place and blood,
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*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand,
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be."*

(1980)

Jesus revealed truth and showed physical and moral courage.

As human beings we generally know what is right and how we should act and speak. But we are also very aware of how difficult it is to have the courage of our convictions.

Our Christian faith helps us to sustain those convictions. Christ not only revealed to us the truth in his teachings. He lived by what he believed and gave us the strength to try to do the same - and, finally, on the cross, he showed the supreme example of physical and moral courage.

That sacrifice was the dawn of Christianity and this is why at Christmas time we are inspired by the example of Christ as we celebrate his birth.
(1981)

The courageous appreciate life's blessings and seek a better future.

Over the years, those who have seemed to me to be the most happy, contented and fulfilled have always been the people who have lived the most outgoing and unselfish lives; the kind of people who are generous with their talents or their time. ...

They tend to have some sense that life itself is full of blessings, and is a precious gift for which we should be thankful. When life seems hard,

the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future. (2008)

A blessing from the Book of Common Prayer.

I believe that the Christian message, in the words of a familiar blessing, remains profoundly important to us all:

***"Go forth into the world in peace,
be of good courage,
hold fast that which is good,
render to no man evil for evil,
strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak,
help the afflicted,
honour all men."***

It is a simple message of compassion... and yet as powerful as ever today, two thousand years after Christ's birth. (2000)

Here is a current modified full version of that blessing:

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.
Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
[Source: *Book of Common Prayer*, 1892, 1928, modified.]

7 Love & Kindness

Love and kindness flood through the life of Jesus Christ, demonstrated most powerfully in his death and resurrection. He showed unconditional love and acceptance for all people.

Some critical religious leaders and scholars persistently criticized Jesus for his love and kindness to everyone including prostitutes, a woman caught in adultery, and despised traitors like tax collectors who worked for the oppressive Roman overlords. He even praised a Roman centurion for his strong faith in Jesus' authority. Jesus ate often in the homes of all kinds of people and was known as a friend of outcasts and sinners.

He didn't allow traditional religious rules to stop him from helping people in need including healing many people at any time, even on sacred Sabbath days and in places of worship. That drew strong criticism from many religious leaders, making many of them so furious that they wanted him killed.

His love for all people and his acceptance and forgiveness amazed even his followers and many others. He told stories of how those who are forgiven much love much, and those forgiven the most are often those who love the most (as noted in Luke 7:36-50).

Many writers discuss the popular five love languages – affirmation, service, gifts, time and touch. We use all these and receive them in different ways. Jesus constantly demonstrated these love languages in various ways.

He affirmed and admired faith, especially faith in him for healing and help. He served daily and showed it dramatically by washing his disciples' feet. He gave food when needed and ultimately gives eternal life to all believers. His three years of quality time with his followers prepared them to serve. His touch brought physical and spiritual healing and wholeness to many.

He sought out people in need and changed their life as with the despised tax collector Zacchaeus, transformed to live generously. He helped the abandoned man at the pool of Bethesda near the temple in Jerusalem, a cripple for 38 years, made whole by Jesus and able to carry his mat even on that Sabbath day.

Jesus showed his great love in his death. Cecil Frances Alexander's hymn 'There is a green hill far away' declares, "There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin. He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in."

Love conquers hate, as Nelson Mandela of South Africa demonstrated and wrote, "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

The Queen often referred to the love and kindness seen in Jesus Christ, including these statements.

Christ taught love and charity and that we should show humanity and compassion at all times and in all situations. (1973)

I recall, especially, a dazzling spring day in Norwich when I attended the Maundy Service, the Cathedral providing a spectacular setting.

The lovely service is always a reminder of Christ's words to his disciples: "Love one another; as I have loved you". It sounds so simple yet it proves so hard to obey. ...

If only we can live up to the example of the child who was born at Christmas with a love that came to embrace the whole world. (1996)

Christmas reassures us that God is with us today. But, as I have discovered afresh for myself this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and the love of our friends and family. (1997)

No one is beyond the reach of God's love.

For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach. (2013)

It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord. (2011)

Statements on Love and Kindness



Royal Mail Castle Stamps, 1955

The greatest power of all is the power of love.

The Christmas message to each of us is indivisible; there can be no "Peace on earth" without "Goodwill toward men". Scientists talk of 'chain reaction' - of power releasing yet more power. This principle must be most true when it is applied to the greatest power of all: the power of love. (1955)

Christ taught love and charity.

I believe that Christmas should remind us that the qualities of the human spirit are more important than material gain. Christ taught love and charity and that we should show humanity and compassion at all times and in all situations.

A lack of humanity and compassion can be very destructive - how easily this causes diversions within nations and between nations. We should remember instead how much we have in common and resolve to give expression to the best of our human qualities, not only at Christmas, but right through the year. (1973)

Jesus Christ emphasized love for all people and demonstrated it.

Christ attached supreme importance to the individual and he amazed the world in which he lived by making it clear that the unfortunate and the underprivileged had an equal place in the Kingdom of Heaven with the rich and powerful. But he also taught that man must do his best to live in harmony with man and to love his neighbours. (1982)



Royal Albert Hall, 1989

In 1989 The Queen read part of her Christmas speech from a podium on the stage at the Royal Albert Hall, recorded at a special Save the Children Fund charity carol concert with 2,000 attending. So, for the first time, an audience heard the speech prior to its international broadcast. Her unexpected speech at the event surprised everyone. She also spoke to children at the end of the broadcast. Her message urged children to preserve and protect their world:

The surprise Christmas Speech to the children at the charity carol concert encouraged them to be thoughtful and kind.

The Queen said that ***technical skills are not enough by themselves. They can only come to the rescue of the planet if we also learn to live by the golden rule which Jesus Christ taught us - "love thy neighbour as thyself".***

Many of you will have heard the story of the Good Samaritan, and of how Christ answered the question (from a clever lawyer who was trying to catch him out) "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus told of the traveller who was mugged and left injured on the roadside where several important people saw him, and passed by without stopping to help.

His neighbour was the man who did stop, cared for him, and made sure he was being well looked after before he resumed his own journey. ...

You children have something to give us which is priceless. You can still look at the world with a sense of wonder and remind us grown-ups that life is wonderful and precious. Often a child's helplessness and vulnerability bring out the best in us.

Part of that 'best in us' could be a particular tenderness towards this earth which we share as human beings, all of us, and, together, as the nations of the world, will leave to our children and our children's children. We must be kind to it for their sake.

In the hope that we will be kind and loving to one another, not just on Christmas Day, but throughout the year, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas. God bless you. (1989)

Loving one another is central in Christ's teaching and example.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the founder of the Christian faith, an event which took place almost 2000 years ago; every year, at this time, we are asked to look back at that extraordinary story and remind ourselves of the message which inspired Christ's followers then, and which is just as relevant today.

At Christmas I enjoy looking back on some of the events of the year. Many have their roots in history but still have a real point for us today. I recall, especially, a dazzling spring day in Norwich when I attended the Maundy Service, the Cathedral providing a spectacular setting.

The lovely service is always a reminder of Christ's words to his disciples: "Love one another; as I have loved you". It sounds so simple yet it proves so hard to obey. ...

If only we can live up to the example of the child who was born at Christmas with a love that came to embrace the whole world. If only we

can let him recapture for us that time when we faced the future with childhood's unbounded faith.

Armed with that faith, the New Year, with all its challenges and chances, should hold no terrors for us, and we should be able to embark upon it undaunted. (1996)

The kindness of God dawning upon the world.

For most of us this is a happy family day. But I am well aware that there are many of you who are alone, bereaved, or suffering. My heart goes out to you, and I pray that we, the more fortunate ones, can unite to lend a helping hand whenever it is needed, and not 'pass by on the other side'.

St Paul spoke of the first Christmas as the kindness of God dawning upon the world. The world needs that kindness now more than ever - the kindness and consideration for others that disarms malice and allows us to get on with one another with respect and affection.

Christmas reassures us that God is with us today. But, as I have discovered afresh for myself this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and the love of our friends and family. (1997)

Fine room for the love of God through Christ our Lord.

It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord. (2011)

8 Compassion & Care

Compassion and care fill the story of Jesus and those who follow him faithfully. His compassion for the outcast, the sick, the despised, and the weak is legendary. He cared, and his actions demonstrated his compassion and care.

He told the famous story of the Good Samaritan who showed compassion in caring for the robbed and wounded traveller and Jesus challenged his listeners to go and to the same.

Jesus continually demonstrated love and compassion each day in his ministry and service. He was moved with compassion continually and constantly met the needs of people around him as in his acts of healing.

Many of Jesus' well known statements are about loving compassion and care, such as these:

Love one another as I have loved you.

By this shall everyone know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

(John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:7, 44-45)

His true followers have compassion and care like their leader, as do good people the world over. Many of our well known institutions for helping people were founded by Christians and others caring for people in orphanages, hospices, hospitals, soup kitchens, homes for the aged and shelters for people in need.

Through the years, those helping institutions, which often began with concerned individuals taking action to help others, have grown into large

service providers run by churches, community groups, and government agencies. People of good will of all faiths, and of none, show this compassion and care.

Queen Elizabeth II and her family constantly support and encourage people involved in caring services who are meeting a vast range of needs in the community. The Queen often referred to these acts of service in her broadcasts, as in these excerpts.

That, very simply, is the message of Christmas - learning to be concerned about one another; to treat your neighbour as you would like him to treat you; and to care about the future of all life on earth. (1970)

You may be asking what can we do personally to make things better?

I believe the Christmas message provides the best clue. Goodwill is better than resentment, tolerance is better than revenge, compassion is better than anger, above all a lively concern for the interests of others as well as our own. (1974)

This message - love thy neighbour as thyself - may be for Christians 2,000 years old. But it is as relevant today as it ever was. I believe it gives us the guidance and the reassurance we need as we step over the threshold into the twenty-first century. (1999)

It is all too easy to 'turn a blind eye', 'to pass by on the other side', and leave it to experts and professionals. All the great religious teachings of the world press home the message that everyone has a responsibility to care for the vulnerable. (2007)

Statements on Compassion and Care



Christmas Broadcast 1975

We are celebrating a birthday - the birthday of a child born nearly 2,000 years ago, who grew up and lived for only about 30 years.

That one person, by his example and by his revelation of the good which is in us all, has made an enormous difference to the lives of people who have come to understand his teaching. His simple message of love has been turning the world upside down ever since. He showed that what people are and what they do, does matter and does make all the difference.

He commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves, but what exactly is meant by 'loving ourselves'? I believe it means trying to make the most of the abilities we have been given, it means caring for our talents.

It is a matter of making the best of ourselves, not just doing the best for ourselves. (1975)

Some speak today as though the age of adventure and initiative is past. On the contrary, never have the challenges been greater or more urgent. The fight against poverty, malnutrition and ignorance is harder than ever, and we must do all in our power to see that science is directed towards solving these problems. (1964)

It is only natural that we should all be dazzled and impressed by the triumphs of technology, but Christmas is a festival of the spirit. At this

time our concern is particularly for the lonely, the sick and the elderly. I hope they will all feel the warmth and comfort of companionship and that all of you will enjoy a very happy Christmas with your families and friends. (1969)

That, very simply, is the message of Christmas - learning to be concerned about one another; to treat your neighbour as you would like him to treat you; and to care about the future of all life on earth. (1970)

You may be asking what can we do personally to make things better?

I believe the Christmas message provides the best clue. Goodwill is better than resentment, tolerance is better than revenge, compassion is better than anger, above all a lively concern for the interests of others as well as our own.

In times of doubt and anxiety the attitudes people show in their daily lives, in their homes, and in their work, are of supreme importance.

It is by acting in this spirit that every man, woman and child can help and 'make a difference'. (1974)

Goodwill produces good news.

Christmas is a time of good news. I believe it is a time to look at the good things in life and to remember that there are a great many people trying to make the world a better place, even though their efforts may go unrecognised.

There is a lesson in this for us all and we should never forget our obligation to make our own individual contributions, however small, towards the sum of human goodness.

The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us of our duty to our neighbour. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story: "Go and do thou likewise". (1985)

Caring for others.

Listening to the choir from St. George's Chapel, Windsor, reminds me that this season of carols and Christmas trees is a time to take stock; a time to reflect on the events of the past year and to make resolutions for the new year ahead. ...

The future is not only about new gadgets, modern technology or the latest fashion, important as these may be. At the centre of our lives -

today and tomorrow - must be the message of caring for others, the message at the heart of Christianity and of all the great religions.

This message - love thy neighbour as thyself - may be for Christians 2,000 years old. But it is as relevant today as it ever was. I believe it gives us the guidance and the reassurance we need as we step over the threshold into the twenty-first century. (1999)



Diamond Wedding Anniversary 2007

Now today, of course, marks the birth of Jesus Christ. Among other things, it is a reminder that it is the story of a family; but of a family in very distressed circumstances. Mary and Joseph found no room at the inn; they had to make do in a stable, and the new-born Jesus had to be laid in a manger. This was a family which had been shut out.

Perhaps it was because of this early experience that, throughout his ministry, Jesus of Nazareth reached out and made friends with people whom others ignored or despised. It was in this way that he proclaimed his belief that, in the end, we are all brothers and sisters in one human family.

The Christmas story also draws attention to all those people who are on the edge of society - people who feel cut off and disadvantaged; people who, for one reason or another, are not able to enjoy the full benefits of living in a civilised and law-abiding community. For these people the modern world can seem a distant and hostile place.

It is all too easy to 'turn a blind eye', 'to pass by on the other side', and leave it to experts and professionals. All the great religious teachings of the world press home the message that everyone has a responsibility to care for the vulnerable. (2007)

Jesus consistently demonstrated compassion and care.

At Christmas, we feel very fortunate to have our family around us. But for many of you, this Christmas will mean separation from loved ones and perhaps reflection on the memories of those no longer with us.

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. I hope that the Christmas message will encourage and sustain you too, now and in the coming year. (2008)

We're taught to love others, showing compassion and concern.

We know that Christmas is a time for celebration and family reunions; but it is also a time to reflect on what confronts those less fortunate than ourselves, at home and throughout the world.

Christians are taught to love their neighbours, having compassion and concern, and being ready to undertake charity and voluntary work to ease the burden of deprivation and disadvantage. We may ourselves be confronted by a bewildering array of difficulties and challenges, but we must never cease to work for a better future for ourselves and for others. (2009)

9 Forgiveness & Reconciliation

Forgiveness and reconciliation flood through the life and teaching of Jesus. He did not come to judge but to love and to forgive, and he calls us to live that way also. Then we can enjoy harmony and live in reconciliation with one another.

The heart of the Christian message is about God's love and forgiveness and that we can be fully reconciled to God no matter how much we may have failed or fallen short of his goodness.

Jesus lived a perfect life, without sin, and offered himself as the eternal sacrifice for us. He forgives. He reconciles us to God. We are not condemned as we trust in him.

Jesus demonstrated forgiveness as he lived among people. He often said, "Your sins are forgiven." That got him into hot water with some religious people. He forgave and did not condemn. He didn't condemn a woman who committed adultery even though she was being severely condemned by others. He set her free to live a changed life.

Forgiveness and reconciliation with God and with one another are hall marks of Christian faith and life. Jesus expected and commanded his followers to love and forgive one another and others.

We all fail at times and we all need to give and receive forgiveness. Jesus' disciple John wrote, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9).

Where there is injustice and where people do wrong to us it is hard to forgive and be reconciled. But when we choose to forgive and be reconciled then the love of God and his forgiveness can flow through us to bless others, and we too are blessed. Society changes for good when we forgive and are reconciled to one another. This is the tough and challenging Christian way of life, and the way of life of all good people.

Life's storms come but we can learn to dance in the rain.

We can thank God for his amazing grace, his forgiveness, and his gift of life and for the perfect sacrifice made for us in Jesus' death and resurrection. God's love and grace meet his justice and holiness at the cross.

The Queen often referred to the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation in her Christmas messages, as in these examples.

God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love. (2011)

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. (2014)

Statements on Forgiveness and Reconciliation



The Queen at the United States of America Bicentennial, 1976

Christmas is a time for reconciliation. A time not only for families and friends to come together but also for differences to be forgotten. ...

Reconciliation, like the one that followed the American War of Independence, is the product of reason, tolerance and love, and I think that Christmas is a good time to reflect on it. ...

The gift I would most value next year is that reconciliation should be found wherever it is needed. A reconciliation which would bring peace and security to families and neighbours at present suffering and torn apart.

Remember that good spreads outwards and every little does help. Mighty things from small beginnings grow as indeed they grew from the small child of Bethlehem. ...

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring reconciliation between all people. (1976)

The Silver Jubilee celebrated 25 years of The Queen's reign in 1977.

Last Christmas I said that my wish for 1977 was that it should be a year of reconciliation. You have shown by the way in which you have celebrated the Jubilee that this was not an impossible dream. Thank you all for your response. ...

The Jubilee celebrations in London started with a Service of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral. To me this was a thanksgiving for all the good things for which our Commonwealth stands - the comradeship and co-operation it inspires and the friendship and tolerance it encourages. These are the qualities needed by all mankind.

The evening before the Service I lit one small flame at Windsor and a chain of bonfires spread throughout Britain and on across the world to New Zealand and Australia.

My hope this Christmas is that the Christian spirit of reconciliation may burn as strongly in our hearts during the coming year. (1977)

Forgiveness and reconciliation lie at the heart of the Christian faith.

Finding hope in adversity is one of the themes of Christmas. Jesus was born into a world full of fear. The angels came to frightened shepherds with hope in their voices: 'Fear not', they urged, 'we bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.'

Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves - from our recklessness or our greed.

God sent into the world a unique person - neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive. Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.

In the last verse of this beautiful carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem, there's a prayer:

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin
And enter in.
Be born in us today.*

It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord. (2011)



'Reconciliation' by Josefin de Vasconcellos at Coventry Cathedral

Reflection on the centenary of the beginning of World War I.

In the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral is a sculpture of a man and a woman reaching out to embrace each other ... inspired by the story of a woman who crossed Europe on foot after the war to find her husband.

In 1914, many people thought the war would be over by Christmas, but sadly by then the trenches were dug and the future shape of the war in Europe was set.

But, as we know, something remarkable did happen that Christmas, exactly a hundred years ago today.

Without any instruction or command, the shooting stopped and German and British soldiers met in No Man's Land. Photographs were taken and gifts exchanged. It was a Christmas truce. ...

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.

Sometimes it seems that reconciliation stands little chance in the face of war and discord. But, as the Christmas truce a century ago reminds us, peace and goodwill have lasting power in the hearts of men and women.

On that chilly Christmas Eve in 1914 many of the German forces sang Silent Night, its haunting melody inching across the line.

That carol is still much-loved today, a legacy of the Christmas truce, and a reminder to us all that even in the unlikeliest of places hope can still be found. (2014)

Jesus Christ's generous love and example inspire us.

Today, we celebrate Christmas, which, itself, is sometimes described as a festival of the home. Families travel long distances to be together.

Volunteers and charities, as well as many churches, arrange meals for the homeless and those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. We remember the birth of Jesus Christ, whose only sanctuary was a stable in Bethlehem. He knew rejection, hardship and persecution.

And, yet, it is Jesus Christ's generous love and example which has inspired me through good times and bad. Whatever your own experience is this year, wherever and however you are watching, I wish you a peaceful and very happy Christmas. (2017)

10 Respect & Tolerance

Respect and tolerance open the door to the harmony of mutual acceptance. We all differ, but our differences can enrich our lives and our understanding of one another. Jesus Christ mixed freely with all kinds of people in all levels of society and demonstrated acceptance, forgiveness, and love.

Jesus held strong convictions about truth and righteousness and yet he accepted and mixed with of all kinds of people including those who differed in their lifestyle from his own. He freely forgave and he challenged his followers to love one another and even to love their enemies.

We can honour one another with the tolerance of humble conviction that also acknowledges and respects our differences. We have much to learn from one another and in many ways we can help and encourage each other.

Unfortunately history is littered with sectarian and cultural conflicts where hate replaced love and respect. If we can follow the teaching and example of the Prince of Peace we can live together in respect and tolerance while humbly holding our own convictions.

It's like the lifeboat captain offering struggling swimmers a free ride. Some accept. Some don't, although when they weary of their struggles, many do. God offers the free gift of life eternal, already paid in full by Jesus the perfect sacrifice. Billions believe in him and his love for us all.

Throughout Her Majesty's long reign and in her personal broadcasts Her Majesty The Queen has emphasized the values of mutual respect and tolerance, as in these statements.

I am afraid that the Christmas message of goodwill has usually evaporated by the time Boxing Day is over. This year I hope we will continue to remember the many innocent victims of violence and intolerance and the suffering of their families. Christians are taught to love their neighbours, not just at Christmas, but all the year round.
(1987)

This Christmas we can take heart in seeing how, in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where it has endured years of persecution and hardship, the Christian faith is once again thriving and able to spread its message of unselfishness, compassion and tolerance. (1991)

Christ taught us to love our enemies and to do good to them that hate us. It is a hard lesson to learn, but this year we have seen shining examples of that generosity of spirit which alone can banish division and prejudice. (1994)

Religion and culture are much in the news these days, usually as sources of difference and conflict, rather than for bringing people together. But the irony is that every religion has something to say about tolerance and respecting others. (2004)

Statements on Respect and Tolerance



Royal Visit to Nigeria, 1956

Once again messages of Christmas greeting have been exchanged around the world.

From all parts of the Commonwealth, and from the remote and lonely spaces of Antarctica, words and thoughts, taking their inspiration from the birth of the child in Bethlehem long ago, have been carried between us upon the invisible wings of twentieth-century science.

Neither the long and troubled centuries that have passed since that child was born, nor the complex scientific developments of our age, have done anything to dim the simple joy and bright hope we all feel when we celebrate his birthday. ...

Particularly on this day of the family festival let us remember those who - like the Holy Family before them - have been driven from their homes by war or violence. We call them 'refugees': let us give them a true refuge: let us see that for them and their children there is room at the Inn. ...

The Queen said that the healing power of tolerance, comradeship and love must be allowed to play its part. ...

That each one of us should give this power a chance to do its work is my heartfelt message to you all upon this Christmas Day. I can think of no better resolve to make, nor any better day on which to make it. Let us remember this during our festivities, for it is part of the Christmas message - "Goodwill toward men". (1956)

The Queen referred to the Remembrance Day bombing in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, in 1987, and stressed the importance of tolerance and forgiveness.

From time to time we also see some inspiring examples of tolerance. Mr Gordon Wilson, whose daughter Marie lost her life in the horrifying explosion at Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday, impressed the whole world by the depth of his forgiveness.

His strength, and that of his wife, and the courage of their daughter, came from their Christian conviction. All of us will echo their prayer that out of the personal tragedies of Enniskillen may come a reconciliation between the communities. ...

I am afraid that the Christmas message of goodwill has usually evaporated by the time Boxing Day is over. This year I hope we will continue to remember the many innocent victims of violence and intolerance and the suffering of their families. Christians are taught to love their neighbours, not just at Christmas, but all the year round.

I hope we will all help each other to have a happy Christmas and, when the New Year comes, resolve to work for tolerance and understanding between all people. (1987)

The language of reason.

Nowadays there are all too many causes that press their claims with a loud voice and a strong arm rather than with the language of reason. We must not allow ourselves to be too discouraged as we confront them.

Let us remember that Christ did not promise the earth to the powerful. The resolve of those who endure and resist these activities should not be underestimated. ...

I pray also that we may all be blessed with something of their spirit. Then we would find it easier to solve our disputes in peace and justice, wherever they occur, and that inheritance of the earth which Christ promised, not to the strong, but to the meek, would be that much closer. (1990)

Comments referred to changes in Eastern Europe and Russia in the 1990s.

This Christmas we can take heart in seeing how, in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where it has endured years of persecution and hardship, the Christian faith is once again thriving and able to spread its message of unselfishness, compassion and tolerance. (1991)

I never thought it would be possible in my lifetime to join with the Patriarch of Moscow and his congregation in a service in that wonderful cathedral in the heart of the Moscow Kremlin. ...

Christ taught us to love our enemies and to do good to them that hate us. It is a hard lesson to learn, but this year we have seen shining examples of that generosity of spirit which alone can banish division and prejudice. (1994)

Everyone is our neighbour.

Religion and culture are much in the news these days, usually as sources of difference and conflict, rather than for bringing people together. But the irony is that every religion has something to say about tolerance and respecting others.

For me as a Christian one of the most important of these teachings is contained in the parable of the Good Samaritan, when Jesus answers the question "who is my neighbour".

It is a timeless story of a victim of a mugging who was ignored by his own countrymen but helped by a foreigner - and a despised foreigner at that.

The implication drawn by Jesus is clear. Everyone is our neighbour, no matter what race, creed or colour. The need to look after a fellow human being is far more important than any cultural or religious differences. (2004)

Christmas is a shared festival of peace, tolerance and goodwill.

For Christians, Christmas marks the birth of our Saviour, but it is also a wonderful occasion to bring the generations together in a shared festival of peace, tolerance and goodwill. (2006)



Appendix

Poets and songsters give us hymns and carols that help us celebrate Christmas.

Many YouTube recordings of The Queen's Christmas Broadcasts include choirs and bands singing and playing Christmas Carols. A list of these is included in the next pages of this Appendix.

This Appendix includes some well-known Christmas Carols that tell the Christmas Message as found in the hymn books of most denominations. They are popular in Christmas celebrations and concerts such as Carols by Candlelight, and in churches in December.

Also included in the Appendix are some key resources related to The Queen's Christmas Broadcasts and some further information about *Renewal Journal* resources.

Most of this Appendix is reproduced here from my previous companion book *The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages*. That book has a double page for each year of Her Majesty's long reign. The Gift Edition is also available in colour.



Carols and Songs included in The Queen's Christmas Broadcasts

1984

The First Noel by background orchestral music

1986

Away in a Manger by carollers in the royal stable

1998

Ding Dong Merrily on High by background singers

1999

Once in Royal David's City by St George's Chapel Boys Choir

2001

O Come all ye Faithful and **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** by choristers and a cathedral congregation

2004

Surrounded by His Love by Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School Choir

2005

Hark the Herald Angels Sing by Her Majesty's Chapel Royal Boys Choir

2006

Ding Dong Merrily on High by youth choir

2007

O Little Town of Bethlehem by children singing in the background

2010

While Shepherds Watched by Her Majesty's Chapel Royal Boys Choir with children reading from Luke, chapter 2.

2011

O Little Town of Bethlehem by the Royal Guards Band

2012

In the Bleak Midwinter by the Military Wives Choir

2013

The First Noel by the Royal Guards Band

2014

Silent Night by the Royal Band

2015

Away in a Manger by the Children of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal

2016

Gloucestershire Wassail by the Royal Guards Band

2017

It Came upon the Midnight Clear by the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir

2018

Once in Royal David's City by the Kings College Chapel Choir, Cambridge

2019

It Came upon the Midnight Clear by the Choir of St George's Chapel with Her Majesty's Tri-Service Orchestra

2020

Joy to the World by the Lewisham Greenwich National Health Service Choir.

2021

O Little Town of Bethlehem by the Singology Community Choir.

Find these recitals by searching 'YouTube The Queen's Christmas Message' with the year, eg. YouTube The Queen's Christmas Message 2020.

The following pages of this Appendix include many of the well-known carols, songs and hymns used at Christmas celebrations and in church services. They celebrate the Christmas Message with beautiful lyrics set to inspiring music.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles læti triumphantes,	O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.	O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Natum videte	Come and behold him
Regem angelorum:	Born the King of Angels:
Venite adoremus (3×)	O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Dominum.	Christ the Lord.

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine	God of God, light of light,
Gestant puellæ viscera	Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Deum verum, genitum non factum.	Very God, begotten, not created:
Venite adoremus (3×)	O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Dominum.	Christ the Lord.

Cantet nunc io, chorus angelorum;	Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Cantet nunc aula cælestium,	Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,	Glory to God, glory in the highest:
Venite adoremus (3×)	O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Dominum.	Christ the Lord.

Ergo qui natus die hodierna.	Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesu, tibi sit gloria,	Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Patris æterni Verbum caro factum.	Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
Venite adoremus (3×)	O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Dominum.	Christ the Lord

Latin: John Francis Wade, 1751
English: Frederick Oakeley, 1841
Music: Adeste Fideles, 1751



Silent Night

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

German: Joseph Mohr, 1818
English: John Freeman Young, 1859
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of Glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Chorus:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:

Sinners, wrung with true repentance,
Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence,
Mercy calls you—break your chains:

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising,
To th'eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Lyrics: James Montgomery, 1816
Music: "Regent Square," Henry Smart, 1816

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be?
Which inspire your heavenly songs?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Savior's birth.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Lyrics: James Chadwick, 1862

Music: French Carol

Music: "Gloria", Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

Lyrics: Author unknown, 1885.

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

Christians, Awake

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun,
of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard th'angelic herald's voice, "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations of the earth;
this day hath God fulfilled His promised Word;
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."

This may we hope, th'angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed a glad triumphal song.
He that was born upon this joyful day
around us all His glory shall display.
Saved by His love, incessantly we sing
eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

Lyrics: John Byrom, 1741

Music: "Yorkshire," John Wainwright, 1750

Ding dong Merrily on High

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
[Glory. Hosanna in the highest!]

Lyrics: George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1924
Music: Branle de l'Official, 1589

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Lyrics: Christina Rossetti, 1872
Music: "Cranham," Gustav Holst, 1906

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Lyrics: Edmund H. Sears, 1849

Music: "Carol," Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Music: "Noel," English Melody adapted by Arthur Sullivan, 1874

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Lyrics: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: "Antioch" arranged from George Friedrich Handel, 1833

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Lyrics: Phillips Brooks, 1868

Music: "St. Louis," Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Lyrics: Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1848
Music: "Irby," Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

Surrounded by His Love

The Lord is my shepherd
He'll watch over me
Whatever I go through
He's all that I need
Wherever he leads me
I know sure enough
I will live my life
Surrounded by his love

The Lord is my shepherd
He'll stay by my side
When I feel afraid
In the darkest of nights
I'm safe in the hands
Of the Father above
I will live my life
Surrounded by his love

And I will sing his praise

Surely goodness and mercy are following me
All of the days of my life
Now and forever my home will be
Here in the house of the Lord
Surrounded by his love

The Lord is my shepherd
He's gentle and strong
I know in his presence
I'll always belong
The peace that he gives me
Is more than enough
I will live my life
Surrounded by his love

Lyrics: Paul Field, 1997

Music: Daybreak Music/Elevation, 1997

The First Noel

The First Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Chorus:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took it rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Lyrics: William Sandys, Davies Gilbert, 1823
Music: John Stainer, 1871

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

“Fear not!” said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

“The heav’nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God on high,
Who thus addressed their song:

“All glory be to God on high,
And to the Earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heav’n to men
Begin and never cease!”

Lyrics: Nathan Tate, 1700

Music: George Friedrich Handel, 1728

***Messiah* - Selections**

Messiah is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Friedrich Handel, with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible, and from the version of the *Psalms* included with the *Book of Common Prayer*.

In Part I the text begins with prophecies by Isaiah and others, and moves to the annunciation to the shepherds, the only "scene" taken from the Gospels. **In Part II**, Handel concentrates on the Passion and ends with the "Hallelujah" chorus. **In Part III** he covers the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in heaven. It is reported that when King George II attended a royal performance of *Messiah* he stood up for the *Hallelujah Chorus* in honour of the King of kings. When the king stood everyone in his presence had to stand. So it became tradition for the audience to stand up when the *Hallelujah Chorus* is sung, as millions of us have done in honour of the King of kings.

Chorus — Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)

Soprano Recitative — Luke 2:8-11, 13

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Chorus — Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.

Chorus — Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16

Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Hallelujah!

Lyrics: Holy Bible, Authorised Version, 1611, arranged by Charles Jennens, 1741

Music: George Friedrich Handel, 1741

Chronological list of broadcast excerpts

Year	Page	Theme
1947	48, 26	Service & Support
1952	54, 79	Jesus Christ
1953	62	Faith & Hope
1954	71	Light & Life
1955	84	Love & Kindness
1956	102, 34	Love & Kindness
1957	78, 30	Truth & Courage
1958	56	Peace & Goodwill
1959	56	Peace & Goodwill
1960	48	Service & Support
1961	63	Faith & Hope
1962	49	Service & Support
1963	56	Peace & Goodwill
1964	90	Compassion & Care
1965	57	Peace & Goodwill
1966	57	Peace & Goodwill
1967	55, 27	Peace & Goodwill
1968	57, 53	Peace & Goodwill
1969	91	Compassion & Care
1970	91	Compassion & Care
1971	58	Peace & Goodwill
1972	58	Peace & Goodwill
1973	84	Love & Kindness
1974	71, 91	Compassion & Care
1975	90	Compassion & Care
1976	96, 33	Forgiveness & Reconciliation
1977	98	Forgiveness & Reconciliation
1978	78	Faith & Hope
1979	64	Faith & Hope
1980	79	Truth & Courage
1981	42, 80	Jesus Christ
1982	85	Love & Kindness
1983	58	Peace & Goodwill
1984	58	Peace & Goodwill
1985	91	Compassion & Care

Year	Page	Theme
1986	42	Jesus Christ
1987	103	Respect & Tolerance
1988	43	Jesus Christ
1989	86, 31	Love & Kindness
1990	103	Respect & Tolerance
1991	104	Respect & Tolerance
1992	49	Service & Support
1993	44, 72	Light & Life
1994	104	Respect & Tolerance
1995	59	Peace & Goodwill
1996	87	Love & Kindness
1997	84	Love & Kindness
1998	49	Service & Support
1999	92	Compassion & Care
2000	41, 25	Jesus Christ
2001	64	Faith & Hope
2002	61, 28	Faith & Hope
2003	50	Service & Support
2004	104	Respect & Tolerance
2005	88	Faith & Hope
2006	85	Peace & Goodwill
2007	93, 32	Compassion & Care
2008	93, 80	Compassion & Care
2009	93	Compassion & Care
2010	71	Light & Life
2011	99	Forgiveness & Reconciliation
2012	51	Service & Support
2013	77	Faith & Hope
2014	98	Forgiveness & Reconciliation
2015	73	Light & Life
2016	45	Jesus Christ
2017	99	Forgiveness & Reconciliation
2018	64	Peace & Goodwill
2019	67	Faith & Hope
2020	74, 29	Light & Life (Easter)
2020	75	Light & Life
2021	45	Jesus Christ

Resources

Videos and Information

The Royal Family, The Christmas Broadcast

<https://www.royal.uk/christmas-broadcast-2021>

Christmas Broadcast script 2021

<https://www.royal.uk/christmas-broadcast-2021>

Cue The Queen: Celebrating the Christmas Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9eh0Myriy4>

Wikipedia, *Royal Christmas Message*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Christmas_Message

The Royal Family: Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishMonarchy>

The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages

<https://renewaljournal.com/2020/04/14/the-queens-christmas-and-easter-messages>

Includes free PDF version.

The Queen's Faith

<https://renewaljournal.com/2021/08/20/the-queens-faith/>

Includes free PDF version

Endorsements of

The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages

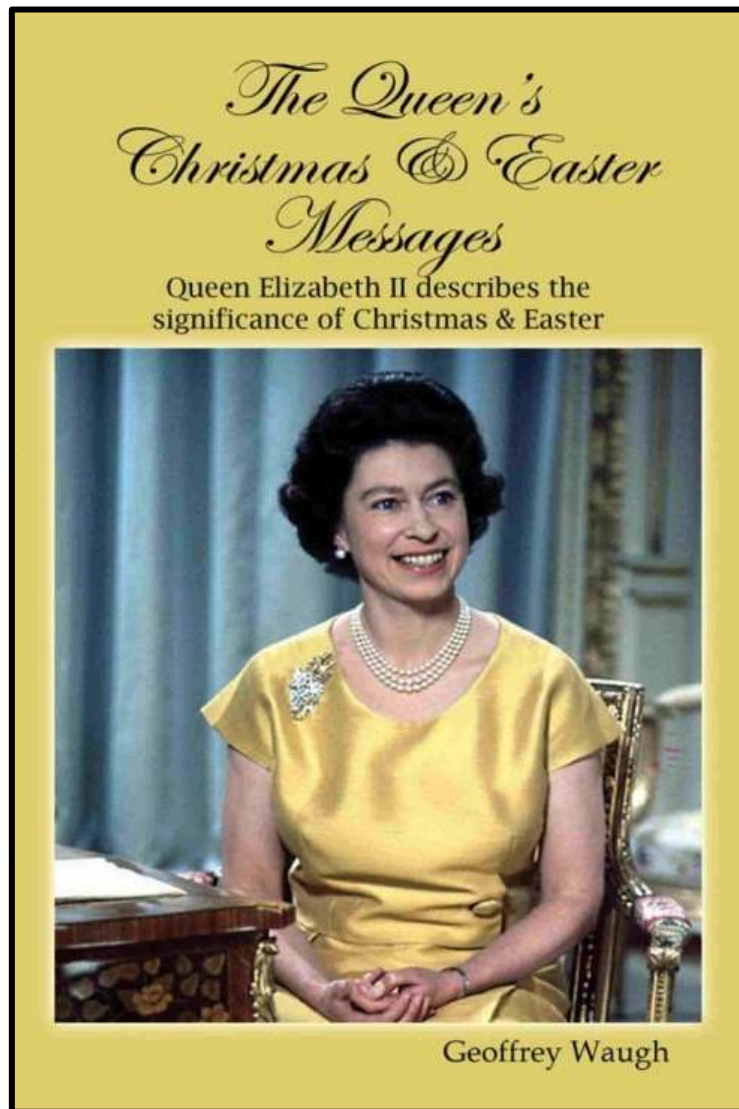
1. I haven't seen anyone else draw the events of these years together in this way before. Using the Queen's speeches not only ties in the unfolding events of our time but reveals a deep spiritual glue that provides a fascinating and intimate insight into the personal life of our Queen. A fascinating read. 5 Stars. - Rev Philip Waugh (Minister)

2. *'The Christmas Message'* is an appealing, highly unusual and very creative anthology. After an introduction about the Queen's public expression of faith, Geoff Waugh provides a selection of noteworthy passages about Christmas from the Queen's Christmas messages. He sets them into context by brief historical references, photos, and Christmas stamps. Finally there is an epilogue of famous Christmas hymns and carols including those used in the Christmas Broadcasts. This book would be the perfect Christmas present. - Alison Sherrington (Author)

3. The strength of the Commonwealth of Nations is the application of Christ's teaching of peace and goodwill to all, a thread that follows through each of the broadcasts of Her Majesty's Christmas Messages and is embodied in The Queen's own testament in these messages.

A new and innovative approach to the Christmas Story and its clear message of peace and goodwill to all. It is a rewarding experience to read it from cover to cover. - Don Hill (Consultant)

4. What an amazing collection! This has so many wonderful Christmas messages and is a great addition to any family during the holiday season. - 5 stars. Jenny & Benny (Amazon)



The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages

Queen Elizabeth II describes the significance of Christmas & Easter

**A double page for each year of The Queen's long reign.
A companion volume to this book.**

Introduction

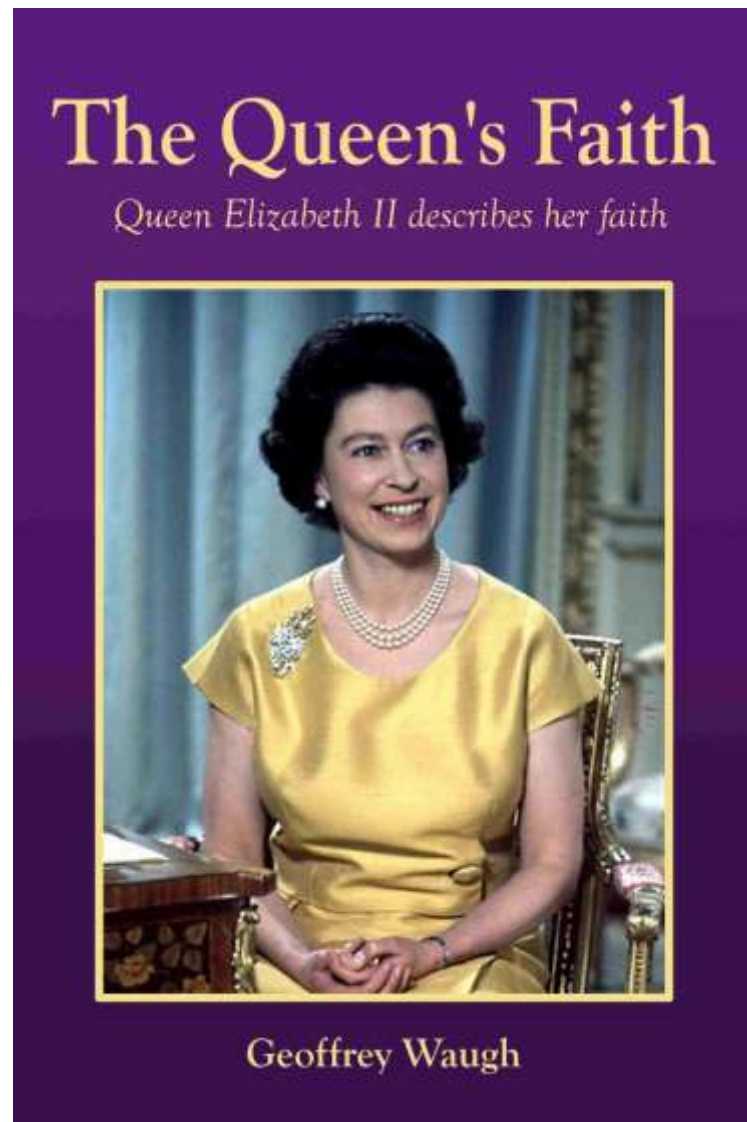
Annual Broadcasts from 1952

Christmas Carols and Songs

Resources

About the Editor

Appendix



[The Queen's Faith](#)

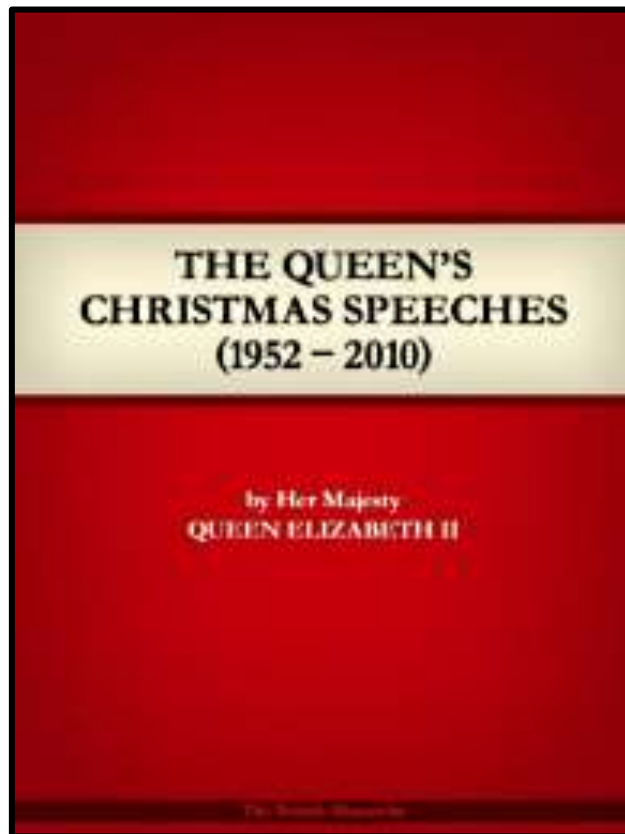
[Queen Elizabeth II describes her faith](#)

This book and its companion, *The Queen's Christmas & Easter Messages*, contain excerpts from Her Majesty's annual broadcasts. This one has shorter excerpts arranged in themes. The other has a double page for each year of The Queen's reign.

These books are available on Amazon, updated annually.

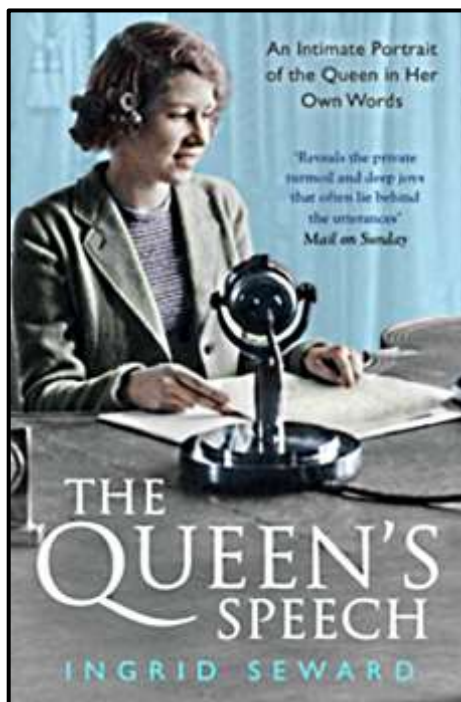
Gift Editions are printed in colour

PDF versions are available on www.renewaljournal.com



[Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. *The Queen's Christmas Speeches \(1952 - 2010\)*.](#)

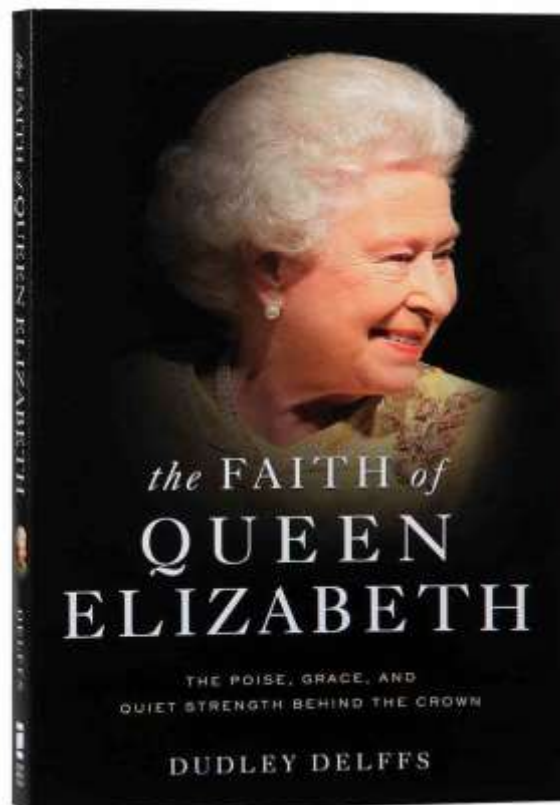
[The British Monarchy. Kindle Edition](#)



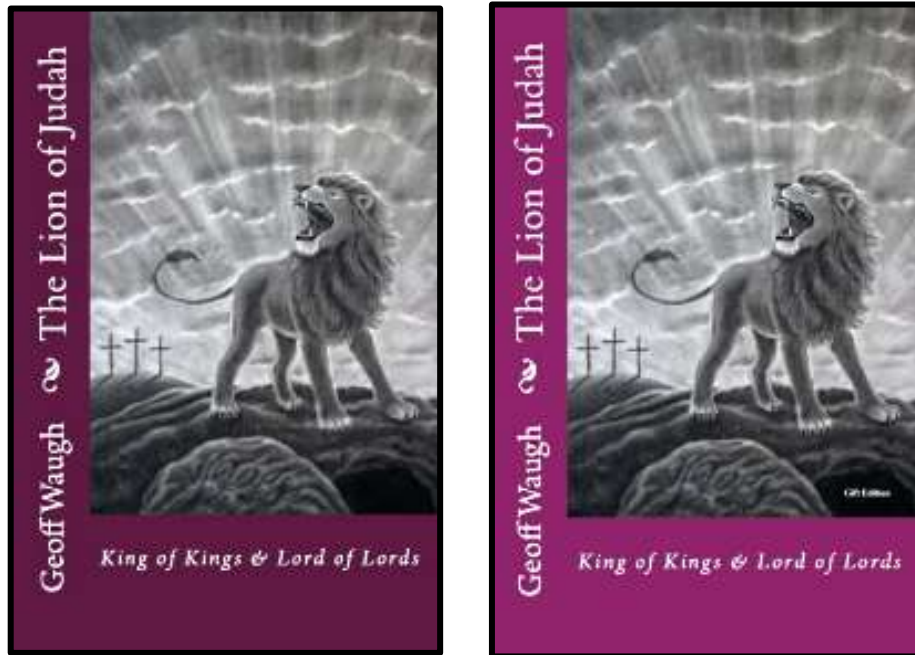
[Ingrid Seward \(2015\), *The Queen's Speech*. Simon & Schuster](#)



[William Shawcross \(2016\). *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*. The Bible Society.](#)



[Dudley Delffs \(2019\). *The Faith of Queen Elizabeth*. Zondervan](#)



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The Lion of Judah: King of Kings and Lord of Lords

A devotional commentary on Jesus, the Lion of Judah

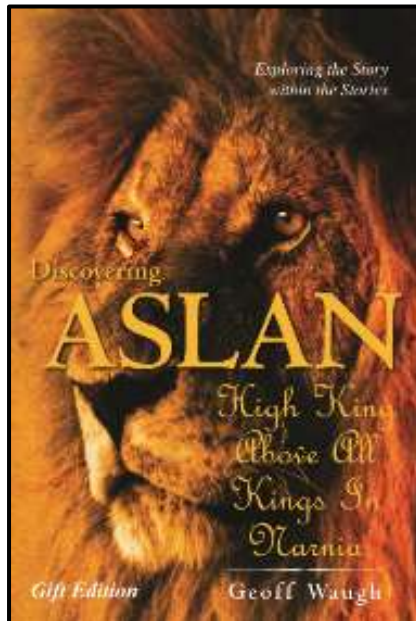
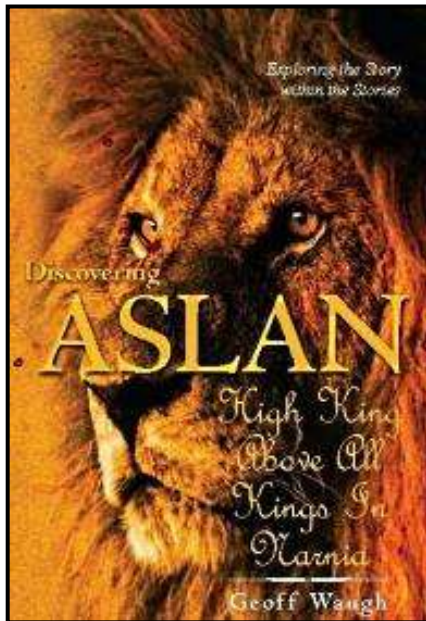
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"Aslan is on the move"

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"Every year you grow you will find me bigger"

3. The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

"By knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there"

4. The Silver Chair

"Aslan's instructions always work: there are no exceptions"

5. The Horse and His Boy

"High King above all kings in Narnia"

6. The Magician's Nephew

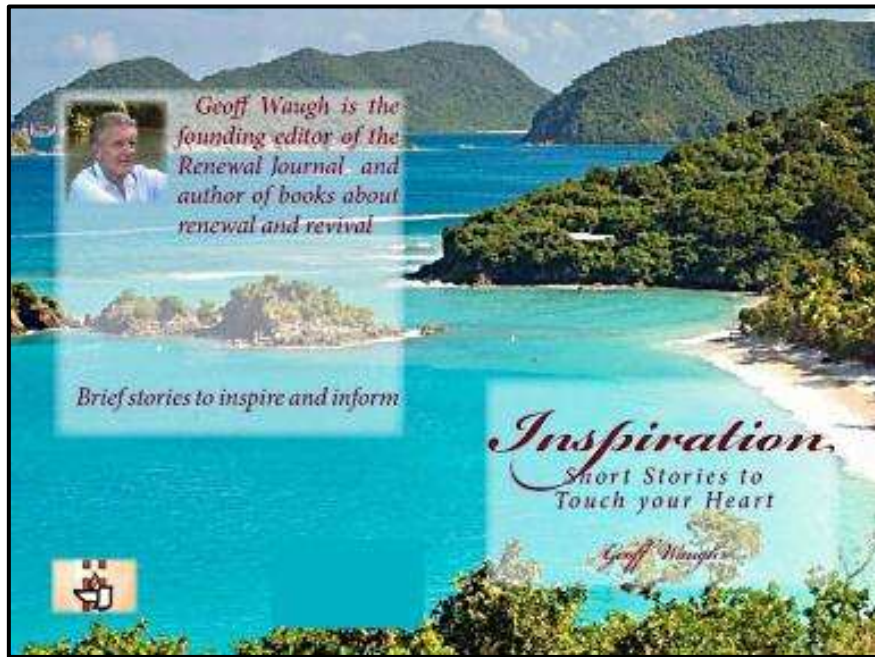
"I give you yourselves ... and I give you myself"

7. The Last Battle

"Further up and further in"

Conclusion & Epilogue

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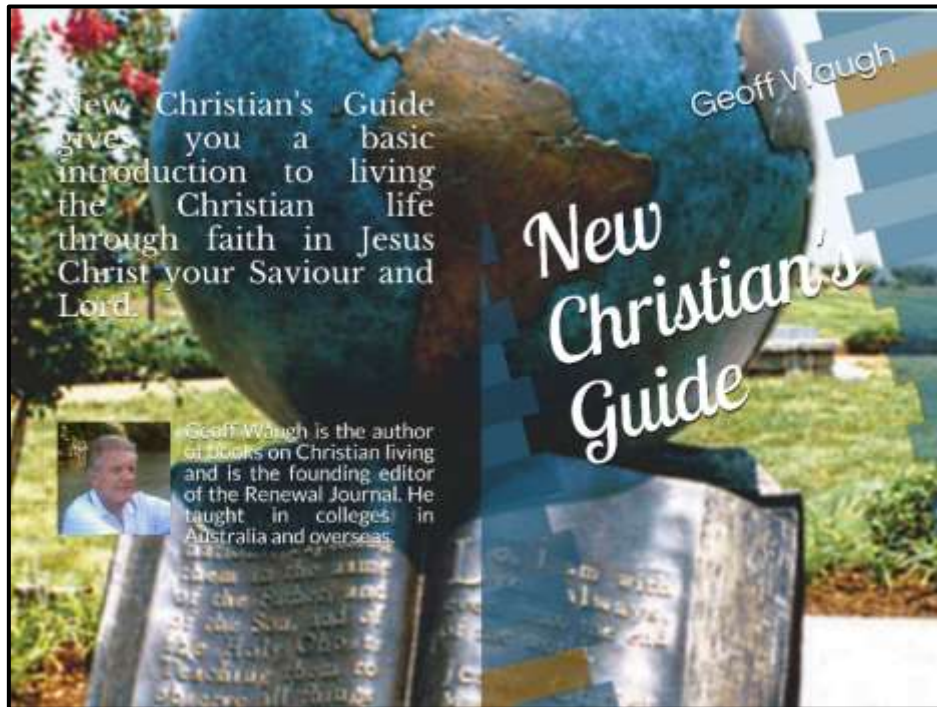
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- 9 Friends
- 10 Coming Home
- 11 Red Marbles_
- 12 Surprise Hidden in Plain Sight
- 13 Choices_
- 14 Prayer PUSH
- 15 Cracked-pots
- 16 A Girls' Prayer
- 17 A Boy's Insights
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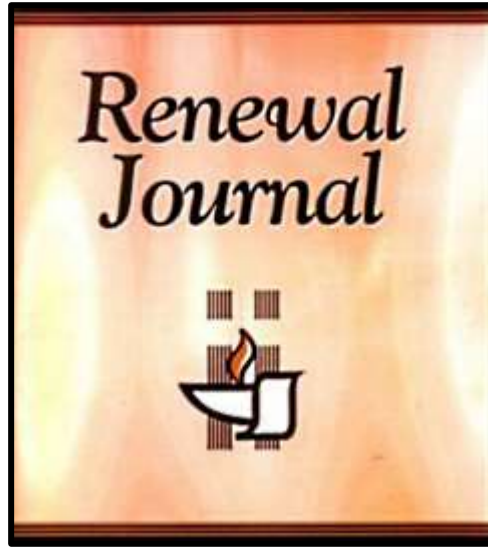
Serve one another

Encourage one another

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About the Editor

The Rev Dr Geoffrey Waugh is the founding editor of the [*Renewal Journal*](#) and author of books on ministry and mission. He taught Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church (formerly Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian) students in Trinity Theological College and the School of Theology of Griffith University as well as at Christian Heritage College in Brisbane, Australia. He taught in schools and Bible Colleges in Papua New Guinea and in the South Pacific with Baptist and Churches of Christ missions and led short-term missions in Africa, Europe, South-East Asia, and in the South Pacific islands.

His books and the *Renewal Journals* are available from Amazon, Kindle and Distributors, with PDF versions available to download in colour from the [*Renewal Journal*](#) website.

Geoff and Meg have been blessed with three adult children and eight grandchildren, and have celebrated Christmas with five generations including parents and grandparents, proclaiming the Christmas Message:

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).



The official emblem for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The emblem was designed by 19 year old graphic design student Edward Roberts, from Nottinghamshire. The official emblem is available for download free of charge. It is available for use for all activities associated with the Platinum Jubilee events, publications, social media, retail and merchandising.