

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

21 .09. 2025

Trump's State Visit to the United Kingdom *16–18 September 2025*

From September 16 to 18, 2025, President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump made a formal state visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of King Charles III. Trump's first visit was in June 2019, and this was now President Trump's second state visit to the UK.

The couple were welcomed at Windsor Castle by the King and Queen, alongside the Prince and Princess of Wales. A royal salute was fired, followed by a luncheon and an exhibition of US-linked artefacts from the Royal Collection. The President and First Lady laid a wreath at the tomb of Queen Elizabeth II in St George's Chapel, with the President calling it a "great honour." A Beating Retreat military ceremony and a state banquet in St George's Hall highlighted the cultural and historic ties between the nations.

On the final day, President Trump travelled to Chequers, the Prime Minister's residence, to meet with Keir Starmer. Together, they viewed the Winston Churchill archives and later held a press conference, announcing a £150 billion "Tech Prosperity Deal." They reaffirmed the "special relationship" and discussed pressing issues, including the conflict in Gaza. Although differences emerged—particularly over the recognition of a Palestinian state—both leaders emphasised dialogue and continued cooperation.

The visit was not without controversy. Protests surrounded Trump's associations with Jeffrey Epstein, and the dismissal of UK ambassador Peter Mandelson during the same week added to the

tension. Yet despite the distractions, the emphasis remained on partnership, unity, and the hope of a shared future.

For the church, this visit serves as a reminder of the importance of leadership, reconciliation, and seeking peace, even when disagreements persist. Scripture calls us to pray “for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives” (1 Timothy 2:2). In a world of conflict and division, such occasions urge us to continue praying for wisdom, justice, and peace among nations.
