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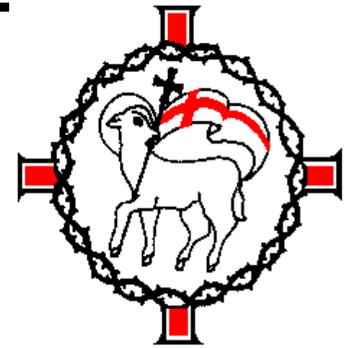
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OF ENGLAND



March 2012

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Vicar		338 2368
Curates	Revd Philip Brierley	303 0809
	Revd Keith Stewart	303 7483

Associate Priest	Revd Doreen Broadbent	330 9085
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Wardens	Ms Janet Vidler	303 7689
	Mrs Gillian Cotton	303 2787

P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Smith	338 3702
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Treasurer	Mrs Julianna Stewart	303 7483
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Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	330 0518
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Room Hire	Mr Norman Quest	338 4691
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Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
10.45 a.m.	Sung Communion and Sunday School (4 th Sunday – Family Service)
18.00 p.m.	Occasional Special Services as announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
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To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, marriages and funerals please phone the Vicarage and follow the information given.

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From the Registers

Funerals



1 February

Jean Ollerenshaw (83) Darnton Road, Ashton-under-Lyne

6 February

Minnie Schofield (81) Thorpe Close, Denton

23 February

Mary Skelton (84) Anbridge Care Home, Oldham, formerly of Ridge Hill Lane, Stalybridge

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Mar	Thomas Cowman	1984	13 Mar	Christine Higgins	2010
	George Harry Hobson	1984	14 Mar	Frank Stones	1990
	Mary Bailey	1969	18 Mar	Thomas William Thomson	1983
	Tom Bowden	1972		Alma Nuttall	1991
	Joan Wheatley	1972		Roberto Luigi Pravisani	2005
	Allen Marsden	1995		David Rawsterne	2009
2 Mar	George Jubb	1978	19 Mar	Thomas Green	1966
	Gerard Postings	1996	20 Mar	Ernest Sidebottom	1988
3 Mar	Tom Broadbent	1989	21 Mar	James Shenton	1964
4 Mar	Jean Boyle (nee Smith)			John Duxbury	1985
5 Mar	Dennis Harrison	1985		Regan Joseph Michael	1988
	Rose Ann Quest	1991		Tetlow	
6 Mar	James Wilkinson	1985		Frank Cooke Jackson	1993
	Albert Barber	1987		Emmeline Elizabeth Heap	1997
	James Eric Hinchliffe	1999	23 Mar	Harold Moore	1998
	Barry Mutch	2008		George James Crossland	2002
7 Mar	Henry Saxon	1977		James Wright	2001
	Sadie Shaw	1984	24 Mar	Alice Hardon	1989
	Jessie Mary Daly	1986	26 Mar	Denis Patrick Daly	1984
8 Mar	Jane Norris	1969		Samantha Jane Dunlop	1984
	Margaret Cawley	1985		Edward Noah Clayton	1989
9 Mar	Gordon Wheatley	1998		Hilda Graham	2009
	Joseph Sharpe	2000	27 Mar	Herbert Battersby	1965
	Norman Nield	2005		Theresa Aldred	1999
11 Mar	Sarah Ann Allsop	1986		Mary Bardsley	1994
12 Mar	Herbert Bardsley	1981	29 Mar	William Spencer	2000
	James Turner	1987		Olive Stephenson	1985
	Harold Webster	1987	30 Mar	Norman Stokes	1970
	Mabel Sweeney	1991		William Forde Clarke	2005
	Basil Kirk	1989	30 Mar	John William Arthur Dale	2008
13 Mar	William Bateman	1978		Tom Grimes	1980
	Donald Feetham	1997		Mark Press	1981
	Beatrice Kelsall	1981			

From the Vicar

The Rev Dr Roger Roberts considers a problem we all have...

Lent – a time to think about sinning

Lent is a month to think about sinning. When people sin against us, we get hurt. (Have you ever been lied to? Been robbed? It hurts.) When we sin against others, we also get hurt: we feel guilty before God, we lose our self-respect, and we feel isolated.

The little book of 1 John, in the New Testament, talks a lot about sin. John did not write in anger, but out of deep pastoral concern. His desire was that those who name Jesus as their Lord face the reality of sin in their lives. He wanted them to learn to avoid it as a pattern that ruled their lives.

John reminded his readers that God is perfect light, holy, and the source of all life, truth and beauty. Christ, his son, the Light of the World, came to redeem us from our separation from him caused by sin, which has marred the world since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So what is sin? The Bible says that sin includes not only physical indulgences of our selfish appetites, but also our lustful, angry and hateful thoughts, as well as our self-righteousness, selfish ambition, divisive spirit, and pride.

All of the Law of God, Jesus said, is summarized in the Great Commandment to love God with our entire being and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12:28-34), and not one of us in light of these commands can claim to be without sin (Luke 10:25-37).

As John makes clear in his short epistle, even God's being-saved, true believers will be guilty, perhaps even daily, of single acts of sin. Even though true believers have been released from the dominance of the habitual patterns of sinful behaviour, and have access to the liberating, victorious power of the Spirit for new life in Christ, we still, as long as we remain in these sin-prone bodies, will commit sin.

Yet this is not to discourage us, but to encourage us to take action. Our Father in heaven is a loving Father, waiting for us to come back to him, confessing each sinful failure, each hour of each day,

if necessary. There's no sin so great as to separate you from the Father's mercy, grace, forgiveness and love. And through the Holy Spirit, we can become more Christ-like in our nature. It is a growth process, and we need to start growing now. This month is the perfect time for you to return to the Father's house, and receive and celebrate his complete forgiveness.

+++++++

Is it still winter, where you are?

There are seasons in the year, and there are seasons in our lives. Things don't grow in winter, they endure and wait until the Spring, the season of growth. Sometimes our lives can be like that: everything shuts down around us, and no matter what we attempt, it will not grow.

This does not mean God has deserted you. For just as nature needs times of shut-down, so our seasons of outward barrenness can enrich our inner lives: we lose pride in our ability to run our lives, and increase our dependency upon God.

Paul says 'Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us. (2 Corinthians 4:17) In other words, these afflictions are only temporary. Take heart: just because you cannot alter something does not mean that you can't survive it! If you can't alter it, outlive it! Be like a tree. In the winter it does not even attempt to grow leaves. Instead, it sheds all unnecessary outward commitments, and refurbishes its strength on the inside. It may look dead, but it is most certainly not; it is preparing for the next season of fruitfulness.

This month, reflect on your life, and try and trace your past seasons. Have you been in a long dark winter in your life? You can grow patience, endurance, and sink your roots deep in God's faithfulness. Trust him, and stay close to him, and he will make you fruitful once again, in his timing.

WIN JOHNSON

We were saddened to hear of the death of Win Johnson.

Win, her husband Ron and their four children (Brian, Sharon, Neil and Janet) were members of our congregation in the 1970s and Ron served as a Lay Reader for a short while before his job took him to pastures new.

We send our condolences to the family.

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Readings and Psalms for March 2012

Sun 4 th	2nd Sunday of Lent	10.45	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-end; Mark 8.31-end
Tues 6 th	10.30	Isaiah 1.10,16-20; Psalm 50.8,16-end; Matthew 23.1-12	
Sun 11 th	3rd Sunday of Lent	8.30	Exodus 20.1-17; John 2.13-22
	10.45	Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19.7- end; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22	
Tues 13 th	10.30	Song of the Three vv 2,11-20; Psalm 25.3-10; Matthew 18.21-35	
Sun 18 th	4th Sunday of Lent - <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	10.45	1 Samuel 1.20-end; Psalm 34.11-20; Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27
Tues 20 th	10.30	Ezekiel 47.1-9,12; Psalm 46.1-8; John 5.1-3,5-16	
Sun 25 th	5th Sunday of Lent	8.30	Jeremiah 31.31-34; John 12.20-33
	10.45	Jeremiah 31.31-34; John 12.20-33 <i>Worship For All</i>	
Tues 27 th	10.30	Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 102.1-3,16-23; John 8.21-30	

8.30a.m. Holy Communion Service from February 2011

During the time that we are without a Vicar - the 8.30a.m. service of Holy Communion will be celebrated only on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

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Men and women

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about two hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, went one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.



The family believed that Marie had
given up sweets for Lent so she
developed ways of hiding her polos.



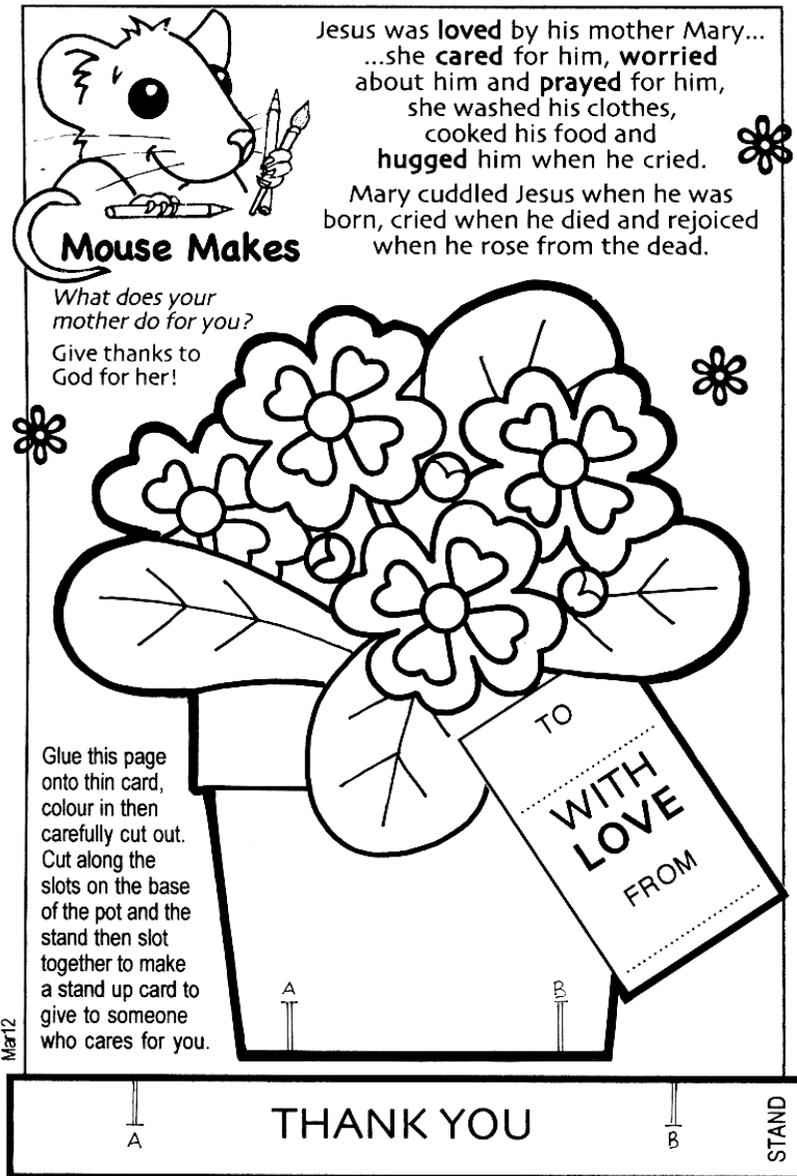
Don't forget to put your clocks forward!

**British Summer Time starts at 2 am on
Sunday 25th March**

February Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Wage. 3, Cleansed. 9, Plateau. 10, Ready. 11, Did so. 12, Hollow. 14, Unregenerated. 17, Offers. 19, Islam. 22, Is not. 23, Overran. 24, Barracks. 25, Legs.

DOWN: 1, Wiped out. 2, Guard. 4, Laughing-stock. 5, April. 6, Seaport. 7, Days. 8, Belong. 13, Oddments. 15, Refiner. 16, Raided. 18, Extra. 20, Large. 21, Limb .



Some dates for your diary - March 2012

- Thurs 1st 9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Fri 2nd Woman's World Day of Prayer
2.15p.m. Service at St. Paul's Church, Stalybridge
3.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Cllr. C. Patrick - Surgery
- Sun 4th Second Sunday of Lent**
10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist with Guest Archdeacon
The Ven. Revd. Cherry Vann & Junior Church
- Tues 6th 10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
- Thurs 8th 9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
7.30p.m. Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir
- Sun 11th Third Sunday of Lent**
8.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
- Tues 13th 10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
7.45p.m. Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
- Thurs 15th 9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sun 18th Mothering Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Lent**
10.45a.m. Parish Eucharist with Guest
The Revd. Steve Dixon & Junior Church
- Tues 20th 10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
8.00p.m. Parochial Church Council
- Thurs 22nd 9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sat 24th 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea/Coffee
- Sun 25th Fifth Sunday of Lent - British Summer Time Begins**
8.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
10.45a.m. Worship For All with Guest
Ann Haggerty, Lay Reader
- Tues 27th 10.30a.m. Holy Eucharist
7.45p.m. Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
- Thurs 29th 9.30a.m. Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee A Letter from Bishop Nigel

To All Churchwardens

As you may know, the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and I, in conjunction with the Borough Deans of the Diocese of Manchester, have agreed to hold a special church service in each of the eleven boroughs that, partially or wholly, form the Manchester Diocese, during the period from the sixtieth anniversary of The Queen's Accession to just after the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Each service will be led jointly by representatives from other denominations and, as appropriate, there will be other faiths present.

It is planned that each service will be attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (except in the case of Rossendale when hopefully the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire or one of his deputies will attend instead), together with the three bishops of the Manchester Diocese (myself and the Bishops of Bolton and Middleton). The services for the boroughs of Wigan, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford will involve only the parishes on the Manchester Diocese's side of the Anglican ecclesiastical boundary but other denominations and organisations will be represented from across each borough.

The purpose of this service will be to use the natural opportunity, provided by thanksgiving for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Year, to draw together many aspects of the life of each borough, and to celebrate and affirm the roles of churches and faiths for the ways in which they support and enhance the cohesion and well-being of the varied communities that make up each borough.

You may be aware that a variety of opportunities to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee are available and further details can be found at www.diamondjubilee.churchofengland.org. With the forthcoming Olympic Games, (ideas for churches to be involved available at www.manchester.anglican.org), this promises to be a year in which your congregation has God-given opportunities to engage with the community it serves.

My chief reason for writing to you as my churchwardens is to ask you please to encourage members of your congregation to come to what will



MAKE WAY FOR MUM

It's possible to make a few fairly specific forecasts about Sunday March 18th. The most certain is that all over Britain mothers will receive cards, the best ones being home-made with crayons or felt-tip pens and featuring hearts and smiley faces. There may well be presents, too, carefully if clumsily packaged and containing one or more of the following: chocolate (in various forms), cosmetics, handkerchiefs or funny aprons.

From a more senior source (if the recipient is lucky) might come some flowers, a book, some half-decent perfume, or a subscription to a fashion magazine. If, however, he's got it wrong (as he usually does) she might find herself with a toaster, a new iron or even a season ticket for the local football club. It's Mothers' Day!

Of course, as far as the Church is concerned it's nothing of the kind. It's 'Mothering Sunday', which sounds quite menacing, really - too near 'smother' for comfort. Yet it did all start in church long ago, with a Lesson for the fourth Sunday of Lent which included the phrase 'Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all' and a tradition of welcoming apprentices home halfway through the Lenten fast, bearing simnel cakes for their mothers.

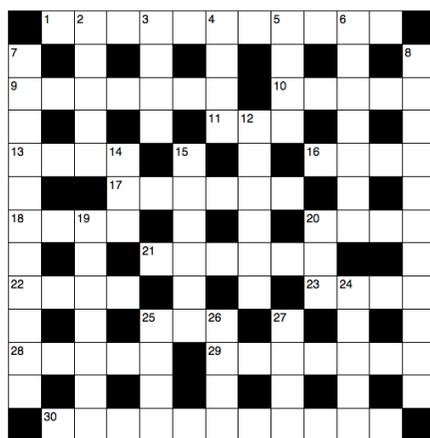
But then the greeting card industry got interested, the occasion spread to America and bingo - it was suddenly big business. Of course it's more than that. It's also a very welcome opportunity to recognise that mothers tend to play a rather big role in everyone's life and to say 'thanks' to them. On the whole, Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day is definitely a 'good thing'.

It's also quite a good thing for the church, because families like to come together on this particular day, and by tradition (fairly recent, I suspect) posies of flowers are provided for the children to give to their mums - and sometimes grandmas, too. Because the following weekend is the feast of the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she was going to have a baby), preachers may justifiably point out how crucial the role of motherhood is in the whole Christian story. All those paintings and stained glass windows of the Madonna and Child remind us that, just like all the rest of us, Jesus had a mother who fed and nurtured him, guided him through the years of childhood and stood by him later on when things were dark and dreadful.

Some chocolate, some flowers, a phone call, a nice lunch out - only a gesture, perhaps, but they are ways of saying 'thank you, mum'.

She deserves it, doesn't she?

March Crossword



Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — ; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)

be an important and hopefully memorable occasion in your borough. It will be helpful if notice of the service can be announced in your church. Also, a poster will be sent out to each parish in the diocesan mailing in the first week of February and, for your information, I have listed the dates, times and venues at the end of this letter.

My hope is that together we can enable this to happen in a way that will not only be in tune with the Jubilee, but also will work to the benefit of the important partnerships that already exist in Greater Manchester and Rossendale between the civic authorities, the churches and the other faith communities.

Date	Borough	Venue	Time
5 February	County Service	Cathedral	3.30pm
26 February	Bolton	St Peter Bolton	3.30pm
4 March	Tameside	St Michael & All Angels Ashton	3.30pm
18 March	Salford	Salford Cathedral	3.00pm
25 March	Rochdale	Rochdale Town Hall	3.00pm
29 April	Trafford	St Matthew Stretford	3.30pm
13 May	Bury	St Mary Virgin Bury	6.30pm
27 May	Rossendale	St Mary Rawtenstall	3.00pm
3 June	Manchester	St Ann Manchester	4.00pm
10 June	Wigan	St Mary Leigh	5.00pm
17 June	Stockport	St Elisabeth Reddish	3.00pm
24 June	Oldham	St Mary & St Peter Oldham	3.00pm

Yours in Christ

+Nigel

+++++



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or one of the clergy.

The cost for the special inscription is £7.50 per entry



In the second in a series on Queen Elizabeth II, looking back down the 60 years of her reign, we look at the War Years. David Winter, former head of Religion for the BBC, has compiled this for us.

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - pt 2. The War Years

'Not Majesty, but Service'

Elizabeth was 13 when the Second World War began, and 18 when it ended - five years that undoubtedly influenced in profound ways the rest of her life. Her father and mother, the King and Queen, decided to remain in London or at Windsor throughout the War, and were conspicuously present through the years of the blitz - not only in London, but visiting other cities which suffered from bombing, usually on the morning after the attacks.

There were many press and newsreel pictures of them standing in the ruins of bombed streets talking to those made homeless or to the tireless volunteer air raid wardens and the members of the emergency services. When eventually a bomb struck Buckingham Palace, the King remarked that his family was now truly one with his people, because they too had experienced their home being attacked.

The two young sisters shared all these experiences. They were not sent to safe hide-outs in the country, but endured the full horror of night after night of incessant air raids. Doubtless Elizabeth, knowing that she was heir to the throne, noted her parents' total identification with their people and learnt that royalty was primarily about service, not majesty.

Towards the end of the War she joined the Women's Royal Army Corps, training as a driver, and was also appointed Counsellor of State, which would mean that she could assume public responsibilities in the event of her father being absent or incapacitated for any reason. She had undertaken her first public appearance in 1943, visiting the Grenadier Guards and being appointed their Colonel in Chief. All of this happened while she was still in her teens - a fast track to adulthood, indeed.

Her childhood and adolescence were in any case hardly 'normal', not only because of the way royal children were brought up in those days, but also because of the impact of the war. Those were strange times in which to be young. Bombs, food shortages, air raid shelters, evacuation and conscription for National Service at eighteen were simply part of the growing up process. Even those not directly involved knew that these were day to day experiences for millions of young people.

Eventually the War in Europe came to an end, with massive celebrations all over the country, but especially in London. The princesses were given permission to slip out of Buckingham Palace anonymously and join the

crowds in Trafalgar Square and the Mall. It was a memorable experience - as Elizabeth recalled, "linking arms and walking down Whitehall, swept along on a tide of happiness and relief". Somehow the two royal teenagers went unrecognised, and were able to share in that extraordinary display of joy and thankfulness. Hostilities would continue in the Far East for a while, until the dark shadows of atomic bombs brought that conflict to an end as well.

When Elizabeth was 13 she had met for the first time a tall and handsome distant relative, Philip, the son of a Greek prince and princess, who was serving as a young officer in the Royal Navy. She was deeply smitten, we later learnt, and the seeds were perhaps sown in her thoughts of an alliance that would eventually prove one of the most enduring love stories of modern times.

For now, though, it was a new life of increasing responsibility. Her father did not enjoy robust health and his elder daughter, an attractive young woman who became the spotlight of what we would now call media attention, was quietly learning a role in life with which she would one day become totally familiar.

+++++

Where were YOU when the King died?

Joan Jenner of South Yorkshire writes: I seem to recall I was in school. I would have been still 7 years old then, as my 8th birthday was not until the summer of 1952. I think somehow the news had filtered in to the teaching staff, and each class teacher then made an announcement to their own pupils. At that age, we did not take it in fully, but I remember when we got home from school my mother explaining, to myself and my younger brother, what the significance of the event meant.

What I do remember more clearly is that, during that year and the following year, up to shortly before the Coronation, the Queen, our new Monarch, toured the country and she actually came past my junior school in a procession of cars. We were all lined up outside with our little Union-jack flags waving them like mad, as she waved to us as she passed by. This was something very special in those days, as we did not have a television (very few people did then), and for her to have come through a small mining town in Yorkshire was a very great thrill.