

**A special service marking
the death of Her late Majesty, Queen
Elizabeth II**

Sunday 18th September 2022

**9.30am St Mary's Downe
11.00am Cudham Church**

The service is opened by the Reverend John Musson (Vicar of Cudham and Downe)

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11.25,26

We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6:7, Job 1:21

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33:27

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38,3

Hymn: Words from Psalm 100

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto:
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Psalm 100 Old Hundredth. Melody from Genevan Psalter 1551

The minister says

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
Grace and mercy be with you.

Today we come together to remember before God
her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,
to give thanks for her life,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

The minister leads the congregation in the responses:

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The minister prays:

O Jesus Christ our Saviour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
We thank you for our late Sovereign Lady
your servant, Elizabeth our Queen,
who is now with you in glory;
Grant, in your tender mercy,
comfort to those who mourn,
strength and wisdom to our King,
and blessing upon our whole nation,
that upheld by your grace and trusting in your goodness,
we may know your power to save.
We ask this in your name
Amen.

At Cudham church children are invited to leave for Sunday Club

Confession

God has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of his glory
in the face of Christ.
But we have this treasure in earthen vessels
to show that the power belongs to God
and not to us.

As we acknowledge our human weakness,
we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission,
and confess them before God our Father.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The minister prays:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Psalm 33

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous:
It is right that his people praise him.

For the word of the Lord is right and true:
He is faithful in all he does.

The Lord loves justice and truth:
His faithful love fills the earth.

Let all the earth fear the Lord:
The people of the world revere him.

God's purposes are sure:
His plans endure forever.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord:
Happy the people he makes his own.

We wait in hope for the Lord:
He is our help and shield.

May your constant love be with us, Lord:
As we put our hope in you. Amen.

Bible readings

The first reading is taken from Isaiah chapter 61 verses 1 to 3

Read by Councillor Jonathan Andrews

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendour.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn: Psalm 23 from the Scottish Psalter (Crimond)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forever more
My dwelling place shall be.

The second reading is taken from 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Read by Downe RA Committee member Tony Dixon at Downe

Read by Cudham RA Chair James Crawford at Cudham

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather round them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the

truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Address *Rev John Musson*

Hymn: *Words from Psalm 90*

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Prayers *led by Rev Rach Archer, Curate of Cudham and Downe*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
And there shall no torment touch them.

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord
In the land of the living.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH, for the love she received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with your servant QUEEN ELIZABETH and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH. Enlighten her with your holy grace and suffer her never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

May God in his mercy grant us, with all the faithful departed, rest and peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: *Words from Psalm 103*

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth,
and all humankind,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The National Anthem

God save our Gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King!

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King!

There is a book of condolence at the front church which you are invited to sign and write your own reflections in before you leave.

Refreshments will be served in church, feel free to stay – the church is open for quiet prayer and reflection today and tomorrow.

