

CLACKMANNANSHIRE SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH II**



TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

6PM

ST MUNGO'S PARISH CHURCH, ALLOA

EVERYONE WELCOME

PARKING AVAILABLE AT ALLOA TOWN HALL



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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Comhairle Siarachd
Chlach Mhanann

As the official period of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth ended with her state funeral, which was held on Monday 19 September, many of us will have been reflecting over recent days on the changes we have seen over the 70 years of her reign. During that time there have been many changes in society and the Queen herself adapted over time. Everyone will have experienced the death of someone they love during that period of time and will know that when someone dies as well as the sadness of loss, we will look back on the life of that person and remember the good times and happy times as well as the sad times. For many people in Clackmannanshire, Queen Elizabeth is the only monarch they have known and people have been heard to say they have been more affected by her death than they would ever have thought because her death reminded them of their mother or their granny.

Across the county, people have been remembering the events of the last 70 years and there was an official Clackmannanshire service to commemorate and celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth to which everyone in Clackmannanshire was invited. The ecumenical service took place in St Mungo's Parish Church on Tuesday 20 September at 6 pm. Representatives of different churches took part in the service and the tribute was given by the Lord Lieutenant of the county.

You can watch the service on our [Facebook](#) page.

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An ecumenical service hosted by Provost Donald Balsilie,
Lord Lieutenant Johnny Stewart and the clergy of
Clackmannanshire.

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.

Call to Worship

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Confession and the Lord's Prayer

(led by Father Michael Carrie of St. Mungo's RC Church, Alloa)

Hymn 160: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

The First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

(read by Pastor Kevin Harding, Alloa Elim Pentecostal Church)

Hymn 533: Will You Come and Follow Me

The Second Reading: John 14:1-6, 27

(read by Provost Donald Balsillie)

Hymn 159: Lord, for the Years

Tribute to HM The Queen

(delivered by Lord Lieutenant Johnny Stewart)

Hymn 694: Brother, Sister, Let me Serve You

Prayers of Intercession

(led by Rev. Dawn Laing of Alloa Ludgate Parish Church)

Hymn 512: To God be the Glory

Benediction with Threefold Amen

(led by Rev. Stuart F. Gray of St. John's Episcopal Church, Alloa)

National Anthem

TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

(Given by Lord Lieutenant, Johnny Stewart)

I am heartened and delighted to see that so many of you have come to St Mungo's Church this evening to remember a very remarkable lady, our late Queen, and to give thanks for her life and service to our Country. On her 21st birthday she took an oath in which she declared that her whole life would be devoted to our service and, at the age of 96, she had certainly delivered on her promise. Everything she did, she did with the interests of the people, her Country and the Commonwealth in mind.

Although we had all been aware of her frailty in recent months, the news of her death came as a shock to the nation. Her death at Balmoral triggered Operation Unicorn, a well-rehearsed 5 days of ceremonial duties in Scotland. Despite the short notice, the Country rose to the occasion and before the eyes of the World we paid our respects both professionally and in a personal way. I was very privileged and spent all 5 days on duty in Edinburgh and I have many special memories, but I think among my favourites, which you will all have seen on television, were the line of coloured tractors sparkling in the sunshine on the edge of the Aberdeenshire road and the line of ponies with their young riders overlooking the M90.

Queen Elizabeth the Second was our longest serving monarch in the history of the United Kingdom and reigned over seven decades of unprecedented change. She remained throughout a beacon of stability and, above all, duty. She led by her personal example, demonstrating qualities

of kindness, hard work and respect for others which we might all aim towards in our daily lives. Fifteen Prime Ministers have served her, the last of whom she invited to form a Government only 48 hours before her death. The image of Her Majesty doing so will be etched in our memories for many years to come.

No one, I think, has served the nation in the way in which she did and the vast majority of us have known no other monarch. She took great pride in all of the charitable works which she undertook. In 2002, during her Golden Jubilee year, Her Majesty instituted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as a means of providing recognition for voluntary organisations. As a County we have been very successful in recent years and 5 organisations have received the award. It was a huge privilege 2 weeks ago for me, on behalf of the Queen, to present the Award to Home-Start Clackmannanshire, an organisation which has done so much for families in need, especially during the very dark and difficult days of the pandemic. We will remember her late Majesty for her commitment to her people. No one, even those less disposed to the Monarchy, doubted the service which she has given.

The Queen visited the Wee County on 2 occasions. In 1963, accompanied by Prince Philip, she visited Menstrie, Tillicoultry and, after driving by car to Dollar, departed on the Royal Train from the station. More recently, in 1997, she reopened the restored Alloa Tower and, according to my late father, thoroughly enjoyed her tour of the building as well as the display of Line Dancing in the centre of the town. I will work hard to get

our King to visit Clackmannanshire in the coming years.

Her Majesty loved Scotland and the countryside and was never happier than when she was at Balmoral. She enjoyed riding, walking her corgis - of which she owned 30 in her life - and meeting members of the local communities in Aberdeenshire. She always said that she felt so happy in Scotland and was truly the Queen of Scots.

All of you will have your own special memory of the Queen and some of you would have been fortunate to meet her at events such as the annual garden party at Holyrood in Edinburgh. I want to share with you a couple of my memories which serve to remind us that not only was she our Queen, but she was also a lady with a gift for making the people she met feel special, as well as having a wonderful sense of humour.

In 1997, as commanding officer of the Scots Guards, I was invited to command the Queen's Birthday Parade in London. I had met Princess Margaret at a previous event and she asked how I was getting on learning to ride a horse. I replied that I was having great difficulty persuading my horse to "reverse". She replied that the term was "rein back" and definitely not "reverse". Two months later, and after the Parade, I was invited up to the drawing room at Buckingham Palace to be confronted by about 50 members of the Royal Family. The entire room went silent and the Queen said to me "Many congratulations Colonel Stewart, it was a wonderful parade, but you are a great disappointment to my family". There was

then a pause during which I apparently went bright red and resembled a goldfish gasping for air and before I could say anything, with a bright smile Her Majesty said, “you managed to reverse your horse”.

In 2014, my wife Katie and I were invited to attend a reception at Buckingham Palace only 4 days after I was appointed Lord Lieutenant. We had to decline the invitation due to another commitment but the following year we were able to accept. When I stood in front of the Queen, wearing a badge with Clackmannanshire on it, she said “Clackmannanshire, Oh, how nice of you to find time to come to my party this year”.

The outpouring of grief from every corner of the world is testament to the level of respect and affection in which she was held. The Queen was an integral part of all our lives, for so long. She has been the linchpin of our country. Her devotion to duty and country has been so extraordinary that I suspect many of us have taken her for granted, and like so many things we take for granted, it is not until we lose them that we full appreciate their value. She was a truly remarkable lady who devoted her life to us.

Rest in peace your Majesty God save the King.



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