

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St Nicholas' Anglican Church, Helsinki
A Church of England Congregation



19/05/22

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II, ON THE OCCASION OF HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

**KIITOSJUHLA KUNINGATAR ELISABETILLE
3.6.22, HELSINGIN TUOMIOKIRKKO, KLO 18:00**

- Celebrate, and be part of, a historic anniversary
- Choral tribute to Her Majesty with Coronation Anthems, including stunning rendition of 'Zadok the Priest'
- Address by the British Ambassador to the UK, reflecting on the Queen's 70 year reign

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the first British Monarch to reach a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years since her succession to the throne on 6 February 1952. A celebration of this historic anniversary takes place at Helsinki Cathedral on Friday 3rd June. The service is arranged by St Nicholas' Anglican Church – which has represented the Church of England in Finland for over 100 years.

Guests at the cathedral will experience a wonderful selection of music and pageantry, paying tribute to HM the Queen's coronation and some of her favourite hymns, starting with a majestic setting of 'I Was Glad' by Hubert Parry. A powerful combination of organ, trumpets and choir accompany the first hymn 'All People that on Earth Do Dwell', from the composer Vaughan Williams. Another musical highlight during the service includes a rousing rendition of 'Zadok the Priest', originally composed by Handel for the coronation of George II in 1727.

The British Embassy in Helsinki is supporting the event, and those attending can look forward to a personal reflection on the Queen's 70 years of service by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mrs Theresa Bubbear OBE. St Nicholas' Chaplain, Tuomas Mäkipää, is keen to point out that **'this service marks a special moment in history but is also an opportunity to celebrate the warm relationship that Finland has with the UK, and our ability to work together during challenging times.'**

The service is followed by a small reception in the Cathedral Crypt. Places are limited so vouchers will be handed out to the first hundred guests who arrive at the Cathedral.

This event coincides with public celebrations taking place across the UK, Commonwealth and the Church of England in Europe. Earlier, on the same day, the Queen is due to attend a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Her Majesty is a committed Christian and Churchgoer and has often spoken of her faith in her speeches and broadcasts.

The musicians on this occasion include celebrated organist Irina Vavilova and the St Nicholas Chamber Choir conducted by their Finnish-Canadian Director of Music, Erik Johannes Riekkö.

Background

The celebration of the Sovereign's jubilee years began in earnest during the reign of King George III, who celebrated the fiftieth year of his reign in 1809. Queen Victoria was the longest-reigning British monarch, celebrating Golden and Diamond Jubilees (50 and 60 years respectively), until Queen Elizabeth II surpassed her in 2015.

As well as being a Head of State and Head of the Commonwealth, The Queen is 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England'. These titles date back to the reign of King Henry VIII, who was initially granted the title 'Defender of the Faith' in 1521, by Pope Leo X. St Nicholas' Anglican Church in Helsinki is part of the Church of England and serves an international community. The current chaplain, Tuomas Mäkipää, was the first Finnish Lutheran ordained in the Church of England under the Porvoo Agreement. The Queen visited Finland in 1976, one of over 250 official state visits.

The event on 3rd June is sponsored by **St Nicholas' Foundation**; a charitable organisation which seeks to raise funds for/distribute grants to local Anglican congregations or other organisations that support Anglican ministry in Finland (<https://www.stnicholasfoundation.fi/>). There is no pre-registration for the service but guests are encouraged to arrive in good time to take their seats.

The event is advertised on facebook <https://fb.me/e/4CGqXiObV> and myhelsinki <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/en/see-and-do/events/service-of-thanksqiving-for-queen-elizabeth-ii>

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Interesting Facts to Mark HM Queen Elizabeth' Platinum Jubilee

The following trivia are taken from <https://www.royal.uk/70-facts-mark-queens-platinum-jubilee>

Did you know...

The Queen's **official title** is 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith'

The Queen has sat for over **200 official portraits** during her reign

There have been **14 Presidents of the United States during Her Majesty's reign**, and, with the exception of President Johnson (1963-9), Her Majesty has met each one.

She does not require a British passport for travelling overseas, as all British passports are issued in her name!

The Queen has been **served by 14 Prime Ministers** of the UK during her reign – her first Prime Minister was Winston Churchill.

Her Majesty has owned **more than 30 Corgis and Dorgis** during her reign, most of which have been descended from her first Corgi, Susan, who was gifted to her on her eighteenth birthday in 1944.

The Queen joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (the women's branch of the British Army during the Second World War) in 1945, becoming the **first female member of the Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time, active member**.

Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their **Platinum Wedding Anniversary in 2017**, the first time a reigning Monarch had done so.

In 1973 The Queen **opened Sydney Opera House**.

The Queen **wore two crowns on her Coronation Day**: St Edward's Crown (which was used for the crowning ceremony) and the Imperial State Crown, which was worn for the return procession and subsequent balcony appearances at Buckingham Palace. On the journey to Westminster Abbey, The Queen wore the State Diadem: a circlet of diamonds, which she has gone on to wear for the journey to and from the State Opening of Parliament.

Her Majesty's **Coronation ceremony was the first to be broadcast on television**, as a result of which people purchased television sets in their millions. 27 million people watched in the UK alone, and television became a mainstream medium.

The Queen sent a **message of congratulations to Apollo 11 astronauts** for the first moon landing on the 21st July 1969.

Her Majesty has received many gifts including a variety of live animals. The more unusual animals were placed in the care of zoos, among them jaguars and sloths from Brazil, an elephant from Cameroon and two black beavers from Canada.

Windsor Castle, currently Her Majesty's main residence, is the **oldest and largest occupied palace in the world**.

Her Majesty **speaks fluent French** and has often used the language during audiences and State Visits.

The Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) became a **Girl Guide** In 1937 aged 11, learning how to pitch tents, cook on campfires and administer first aid.

The Queen's **Green Canopy initiative** is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022