

## Collective worship 1. The news

Gathering – in quiet (or with quiet music playing)

There is no easy way to tell you this, the event that has happened will affect everyone in the country one way or another but I have to tell you that Queen Elizabeth 2 has died. The information that we have and therefore can tell you about is that the Queen died peacefully at her home of Balmoral in Scotland.

.....Many of us are deeply shocked at this awful, sad news, but before we do anything else and while we are all together to support and help each other, may I suggest that we be still now together for one or two minutes to honour and remember Queen Elizabeth. You may remember that only a recently we had celebrations in our school, and all around the country, to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee and to give thanks for her long life and service to the country. There will be another time for us to give thanks again for her life and example but, for now, it is good for us to remember together what our country has lost, in losing someone who has been on the throne, as queen for the whole of most people's lives.

Here are some pictures from different times in her life to look at, as we think quietly.

..... (1-2 minutes of quiet)

Thank you.

Engaging

Queen Elizabeth has been Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and other territories, and the Head of the Commonwealth for the whole of your lives, as well as the whole lives of all the staff in the school, and your parents, and most of your grandparents. None of us have known anyone different as monarch, as queen or king. 70 years is a very long time for one person to be on the throne and – not just ruling, but working for people in our country. For many people, in this country, and around the world, this is a very sad day. It is also a sad day for her family and friends, those who knew her best, for those to whom she was a member of the family as wife. ....mother..... grandmother ... and great-grandmother, and those who worked with her as part of her team. We might want to spend a few moments thinking of some of them, and how they might be feeling.

Here are some pictures of family members of the Queen.

..... (1 minute of quiet)

Thank you.....

Responding

There will be many opportunities for us to show our feelings during the next few days. There will be many ways for us to honour the life of Queen Elizabeth 2, and to think about what she has meant to people in our country. Your ideas will be most welcome. Talk to ..... but talk to any of the staff with your thoughts and feelings.

I am now going to say a prayer. Please, sit quietly and listen to the words. You may like to join in with this prayer by listening carefully, and then saying Amen.

We remember before God all those we know who are sad because the Queen, Queen Elizabeth 2 has died. We hold before God those in her family who are sad that she has died.

We hold before God Queen Elizabeth. May she rest in peace.  
Amen.

Or

Lord, we look up to you and receive from you  
Your blessing  
Your strength  
Your most holy love.  
In the darkest moments of our lives,  
Let us remember that you are the light  
You are the hope  
You are the courage we need.  
Amen

Or

Lord God Almighty,  
We thank you for the life your servant Queen Elizabeth 2,  
We thank you for the example of her life of service, lived out in faith in you.  
Comfort us and people around us, in our sadness at her death.  
Following her example, help us to trust in you for the good times, the bad times, and the days to come.  
May her soul rest in peace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the King of love.  
Amen.

## Collective Worship No. 2 Thanksgiving

### Gathering

As you know we gathered together yesterday to tell that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, has died. It happened at x o'clock yesterday/on xxxday. As you now know she (briefly describe what happened). Everyone reacts differently to news like this, and some of us will feel more affected than others. Whether you feel deeply sad, just a bit thoughtful, or anything in between, that is fine. Despite this being a time of sadness for many, it is also important to think about the many wonderful things Her Majesty, the Queen has done, to be thankful for them and for her. I wonder what we will remember of her life and work in the future?

### Engaging

#### **Celebration of how the Queen has served this country during her reign.**

Queen Elizabeth has been the longest reigning monarch in British history. Do you know how long she was Queen? Who thinks over 40 years? Who thinks over 50 years? Who thinks over 60 years? The answer is - over 60 years or XX years, to be precise. That is a very long time to have any job, let alone a job where you are meeting people for much of the time. Every day of the year (apart from Christmas and Easter) she read a big box of papers from the government, and asked important questions of the country's leaders that affected the way that the country has been run. The Queen has met weekly with prime ministers, and with many people on visits to cities, towns and villages round the country, as well as inviting people to Buckingham Palace. She also spent time with people from different countries on their visits to the United Kingdom, or on her visits around the world helping to develop positive, peaceful relationships between our country and others, as well as helping to improve our trade links. Most people in our country who have a paid job, retire in their sixties, and then have more choice about how they spend their time. The Queen carried on with her duties, sometimes even working 40 hours a week until well into her nineties. I wonder how tired you feel after a busy week at school? I wonder how the Queen felt after her weeks of work? Did you know that the Queen personally spoke with 2000 people each year? I wonder how many people you haven't met before that you speak to each year? Do you find it easy or hard to speak to people who are new to you? The Queen was invited to so many events, some of which reflected her hobbies and interests, but she also went to many events which would not have been so interesting for her. Can you imagine how many speeches she listened to? Yet, she accepted all kinds of invitations, as she knew how important it was, in her role as Queen, to be present at public events, both happy and sad, to show the interest and concern of the royal family.

I wonder why she carried out her role in such a way? The Queen worked so hard because she is committed to service. She made firm and serious promises when she was crowned in 1953, and she kept her promise faithfully to serve the country. This also came from her Christian commitment to follow the ways of Christ, the teachings of Jesus. In her televised Christmas speech in 2012, she gave a clue to the reason for her faithfulness, as she referring to the idea of Jesus as a servant as seen in the story of him washing the feet of the disciples from the Gospel of John (13 1-17):

"This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only Son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ." She went on to say, "The carol, 'In the Bleak Midwinter', ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service: 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part. The carol gives the answer, 'Yet, what I can, I give him - give my heart'."

Her belief in God and shaped her faith, her life and her service, and recognised those who also sought this shape to their lives. In an earlier Christmas message, she paid honour to the those who make real contribution to their communities, in all walks of life, and in unexpected places. She praised people who serve through their occupation, like those in the health care services or the armed services, and the police, and in churches and religious communities, but also those who serve in schools, like your teachers and all the support staff who work hard to make school a great place for you. She also thanked people who give service in their spare time, volunteering to make life better for others, especially those who do things quietly and without fuss. I wonder what you do to help others, in the way that the Queen talked about? But what the Queen was talking about, was what she lived herself. I wonder what ideas you have about the Queen and her life?

Responding

- Prayers of thanks

The children may have been invited to prepare a prayer or expression of thanks for something the Queen has done.

It could be about her role;

- as a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
- in leading the country
- as head of the Commonwealth

Or

I am going to say a prayer now, and invite you to listen to it, and to make it your prayer too, if you wish, by saying Amen at the end:

Almighty God,

We thank you so much for the life, service and example of Queen Elizabeth 11. We thank you for her long life of serving others, and serving our country. We thank you for all that she did to make this country, and the world, a better place.

Amen

Sending

As you leave, I wonder what you will remember about Queen Elizabeth 11.

You may want to talk about the queen in your classrooms.

You may want to write in a book of remembrance.

You may want to respond by writing a poem or drawing a picture.

You may want to remember in another way.

## Collective Worship No. 3

### Reflecting on the death of our Queen, Elizabeth 2 and looking to the future.

#### Gathering

We have gathered together this week to reflect on the life of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and to remember her example of service and leadership during her reign. You may still be feeling deep sadness about what has happened, you may be ready to think about the future monarch or you may be somewhere in between.

When one monarch, a king or a queen, dies, the new monarch begins to get ready to take their place as leader. In this country, the new monarch will be Charles, the Prince of Wales, who is the Queen's eldest son. Charles will be the third man called Charles to be king, so he will now be known as King Charles III. It will soon be decided when Charles will be crowned. This is the time of great celebration when the new King will make his promises to serve and lead the country and the Commonwealth. The last time this happened was in 1953, more than 60 years ago!

You may like to show a clip from the Queen's coronation.

Here, you can see Princess Elizabeth becoming Queen Elizabeth at the age of 25. Charles will be 70+ when he is crowned King.

#### Engaging

##### What should a king be like?

Invite the children to offer examples of ways that a king might behave, good attributes for a king to have or things that a king should be able to do.

Changes can bring about all sorts of feelings. Change might make you worry or it might make you feel really excited. Some people might worry about what a big change, like a new King, might bring. It is ok to feel worried about changes in our lives. Other people might feel really excited about a new monarch, they might think we can think again what a king or queen should do or be like. However we feel about this big change, it is good to talk about how we feel and what we think with people who know us well.

#### Responding

Prayers for the future King Charles III

- Wisdom, unity, stability, understanding, listening,
- Prayers for our country and the world

#### Sending

What does this mean for us?