

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ALPHEGE SOLIHULL



A Civic Service to remember the life of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021

In the presence of
Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant, Chris Loughran DL,
The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Stuart Davis,
Chief Executive of Solihull MBC, Nick Page and
Members of the Solihull Faiths Forum

FRIDAY 16 APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm

Officiant: Revd. Simon Marshall

THE INTROIT

Take him, earth, for Cherishing – Ogdon

(written in memoriam HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh)

*Take him, earth, for cherishing,
To thy tender breast receive him.
Body of a man I bring thee,
Noble even in its ruin.*

Minister “I am the resurrection and the life” says the Lord. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”
(John 11:25, 26)

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, 39)

HYMN – sung by the Choir only

(HM The Queen quoted part of this hymn in a tribute to HRH Prince Philip)

- 1 *O strength and stay upholding all creation,
who ever dost thyself unmoved abide,
yet day by day the light in due gradation
from hour to hour through all its changes guide;*
- 2 *Grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,
an eve untouched by shadows of decay,
the brightness of a holy death-bed blending
with dawning glories of the eternal day.*
- 3 *Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,
through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,
who with the Holy Ghost by all things living
now and to endless ages art adored.*

GREETING & INTRODUCTION

Minister: In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

The minister introduces the service:

We meet this day to remember before God His Royal Highness **Philip**, Duke of Edinburgh, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

Then the minister sings

O Lord, open thou our lips
Choir: *And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.*

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
Choir: *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.*

Praise ye the Lord
Choir: *The Lord's name be praised.*

Minister: Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant **Philip**, Duke of Edinburgh, that death may be for him the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant, Chris Loughran DL, gives

A TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Duke of Edinburgh was Patron or President of some 800 organisations, with special interests in scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, and conservation and the environment. Industry was a particular interest, and there is hardly an aspect of the UK's industrial life with which Prince Philip was not familiar.

Prince Philip established the *Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme* for young people. It now operates all over the world and it is estimated that, since 1956, over 7 million young people in 132 countries have gained awards. Solihull has strong connections with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, my predecessor in this role having been Deputy Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Scheme. Many Silhillians from across our borough have benefited from this life-enhancing Scheme.

The Prince Philip Designers Prize was created by The Duke of Edinburgh as a response to post-war austerity. The Prize has rewarded the best in design from products and graphics to buildings and feats of engineering and has shone the spotlight on designers for influencing and shaping our daily life.

The Duke of Edinburgh was the first President of the World Wildlife Fund in the UK. This was established in 1961 and the Duke held this position for 20 years. He was also President of the World Wildlife Fund International from 1981-1996. This Fund works to protect vulnerable animals, places and people, it tackles climate change and addresses the unsustainable consumption of precious natural resources.

As the Duke of Cambridge has so eloquently expressed, his grandfather's century of life was defined by service – to his country and Commonwealth, to his wife and Queen and to his family. He was an extraordinary man and part of an extraordinary generation. May perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

THE FIRST LESSON

Read by the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Stuart Davis

Revelation 21: 1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Choir will now sing Psalm 23

*THE LORD is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Read by the Chief Executive, Nick Page

John 15: 12-17

Jesus said, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE SERMON

Given by the Minister

The Choir will sing the Anthem: Jubilate Deo – Britten

(Dedicated to HRH Prince Philip)

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;

we are his children and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,

and into his courts with praise;

be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting,

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

*Pre-recorded messages from young people who have achieved their
Duke of Edinburgh Awards.*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF HRH DUKE OF EDINBURGH

*Representatives from the Solihull Faiths Forum will share words of reflection
and thanksgiving for the life of Prince Philip*

THE PRAYERS

The Minister sings

The Lord be with you

Choir: and with your spirit

Let us pray:

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Choir: 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.*

Minister: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

Choir: and there shall no torment touch them.

Minister: You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

Choir: my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

Minister: I will walk before the Lord

Choir: in the land of the living.

The Minister prays the following prayers:

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 His Royal Highness **Philip**, Duke of Edinburgh,
for the love he 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 **Philip**
that clearer vision, promised to us in the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray,
with all who mourn: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, 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.**

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to
enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor
dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor
hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the
habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. **Amen.**

after John Donne (1571–1631)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our
understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all
things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can
desire; 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**

All stand

THE COMMENDATION

Minister: Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh. Enlighten him with your holy grace and suffer him
never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

after St Edmund of Abingdon (1170–1240)

The Kontakion for the Departed is said:

**All: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Minister: Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of man:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of earth,
and unto earth shall we return.
For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying,
'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.'
All we go down to the dust;
and weeping o'er the grave we make our song:
Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

**All: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

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

All: Amen.

THE NAVAL HYMN in honour of HRH Duke of Edinburgh's service at sea
To be sung by the Choir only

1 *Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

2 *O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid the rage did sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

3 *O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,*

*And give for wild confusion peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

4 *O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Your children shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

THE BLESSING

Minister: May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom,

And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sung only by the Choir

*God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!*

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

Concluding Music: Sonata for Organ, Movement 1 - Elgar