

## Prayers for 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 from Jan Teale

I think we have all been saddened by the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. We prayed and paid tribute to him in church last Sunday and whilst we continue to do that, I would like to make my article and prayers this week to be focused on the Queen in her time of loss.

Both she and her family have stressed that whilst they have lost a dearly loved family member, they are no different to many in our land who have also lost loved ones, especially because of Covid.

This is so typical of the Queen's Christianity and her approach to her subjects. There are many of us who are 'in the same boat' as her Majesty is. Our loved ones may or may not have died of Covid and may well have died some years ago, but how we feel is just the same.

As a great royalist I have read widely about the monarch and the royal family. During the Second World War I know that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth felt that when they were bombed at Buckingham Palace then, and only then, did they feel able to look the East End in the face, since they had experienced the same thing.

We will support the Queen at this terrible time, just as we support our family and friends who have the same feelings in their loss.

God loves and cares for us all equally and stands beside us, giving us strength to carry on regardless of who we are. God, I believe, has made a special 'Philip shaped space' in heaven as surely as he has made a 'Peter shaped space' for my friend whose family also faced a funeral this week.

Our prayers today reflect the many ones I have written for families at the numerous funerals I've conducted. Let us pray:

Lord we pray for the Queen and all who are sad and mourning. Give them strength, courage and hope to carry on, in the sure and certain hope of eternal life and God's promise that one day we will all be back together in His Kingdom, never again to be apart.

Help us too, to use aright the time left to us on this earth in the best way we can.

And we pray for the recently departed Peter Blyton and for all who are ill, whether at home or in hospital, or who may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are commemorated in our memorial book this week: Kenneth Bunting, Winifred Norbron, Ernest William Smith, Alice Wright and Timothy Hugh Bibby.

We ask these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,                      Amen