**HM Queen Elizabeth II: Saying goodbye**

*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

***NB Every effort has been made to acknowledge and link to the source of photos in the PowerPoint.***

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| **Age range:** Primary and Secondary |
| **Theme: the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II – & her hope of heaven** |
| **Resources:** * Pictures in this presentation are all copyright-free or linked to a source that you can use to find photos for yourselves.
* Our focus here is less on what has happened at the funeral (there are CofE resources for this that you can access here: [Remembering Her Majesty The Queen | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/remembering-her-majesty-queen)), but more of a collective worship ‘wake’, where people gather to share stories and think about the ongoing legacy of that person’s life. We have chosen a couple for you to use, but if the Queen had visited your school, you might have some photos and memories of your own that would mean more to you as a school than those included here. There may also be local stories about her, which you may also want to use. There may also be elements that you’ll feel are less appropriate for your age group, so please do adapt!
* There are many different ideas about what heaven might be like, which depend somewhat on what you believe. For the purposes of this script, we reference a vision of the disciple John from the Christian Bible, focussing less on what heaven is like and more about the fact that God is there. Children sometimes have their own ideas about heaven, and for some it might even be a scary place, because it’s where dead people are. You know your children best and will be best-placed to handle their queries and concerns. If you need more support, there are some excellent resources here: [Bereavement in Schools | Diocese of Guildford (cofeguildford.org.uk)](https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/christian-distinctiveness/bereavement-in-schools)
* Words in **bold** show where to move your slides or animations within slides on.
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| Door Open**Gathering: show slide 1*** Use whatever gathering liturgy is most familiar to your children
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| Puzzle**Engaging:*** **Slide 2:** These are ancient words from the Book of Ecclesiastes, one of the books of wisdom, and they acknowledge that it’s OK for us to be sad.
* **Slide 3:** Over recent days, people have travelled from all over the world as a way of sharing their sadness with others, to pay their respects to the Queen for all that she did and to show their support for King Charles III and the Royal Family as they mourn.
* **Slide 4: *[Insert photo from news feed if preferred]*** I wonder if you watched the Queen’s funeral service yesterday? What do you remember about it? *[talk together, in pairs or as appropriate]*
* A funeral is a time when people gather to say goodbye to the person who has died. The words spoken at the Queen’s funeral may have sometimes been hard to understand, but the Queen herself would have chosen some of them because they were special to her. Some of them are from the Bible and some are traditions that have been handed down from previous monarch’s funerals.
* As a follower of Jesus, the Queen had a Christian funeral, and believed that her final destination was heaven, where she would be with God.
* **Slide 5:** At her coronation, wearing all of her precious jewels, the Queen was presented with a Bible, with these words: **‘We present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom….’**
* Let’s hear some words about heaven from this book, the book that the Queen treasured so much, in the book of Revelation, chapter 21 (which is at the very end of the New Testament):
* **Slide 6:**

***‘God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.’ Revelation 21:3-4**** The Queen believed this with all her heart, and so for her, this next big adventure is not sad, because she is with God. But it leaves us with that strange mix of emotions, which all people feel at and after funerals. People often gather after the funeral service to chat and share memories of the person, and so that’s what we are going to do now *[you may have stories from your school or local community]*
* **Slide 7: Memory of the Queen, from Richard Griffin, one of the Queen’s protection officers,** from Sky News: [Heartwarming story of the Queen’s encounter with two American tourists (yahoo.com)](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/people-sharing-heartwarming-story-queen-203029584.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYmluZy5jb20v&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAANAVCPGVKZwSnUUUsUwJ_M5nSv4NsLPz7viMJzMxapOmiimBzz9qxSefv1UWkcvaW6TKiyHdeDarqTkvL9801mJTyPWMDyA3uY1EsY_93gn3XL1aHIrQrXz9rStbihBF1948C1pejefkIIhwDo0a-53g2wRPlBL1HF6AajtPiHzQ) – these words are actually very appropriate for all ages but there is also a link to a video of Richard Griffin talking: [Sophy Ridge on Twitter: "My favourite story about the Queen… just lovely https://t.co/xueTVRU7oB" / Twitter](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJWhittington%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5COED24AF2%5CSophy%20Ridge%20on%20Twitter%3A%20%22My%20favourite%20story%20about%20the%20Queen%E2%80%A6%20just%20lovely%20https%3A%5Ct.co%5CxueTVRU7oB%22%20%5C%20Twitter)
* **Slide 8:** In the book ‘Badger’s Parting Gifts’, Badger’s friends talk about their friend Badger who has died, and they all find comfort remembering the special gifts that Badger had given them when he was alive. Although she is no longer here, there are many ‘gifts’ that the Queen has left with *us* – some people may have actual physical treasures (like the Windlesham chair), but she has left us all with other gifts to remember her by. Here are a few words from one of the recent tributes to get us started *[one screen – they are the words of Boris Johnson, which you may wish to acknowledge or not!]* ‘She showed the world not just how to reign over a people, she showed the world **how to give, how to love and how to serve**...’
* I wonder what these special gifts might be for us? *[talk together – you might want to link these with your school’s values]*
* **Slide 9: Coins** Although we don’t use real money as much these days, all our money shows the Queen’s head (facing right – Charles III will apparently face left!) – and we will continue to see it even once they make new money with his head on. Maybe these might be a reminder to us over the weeks, months and years that lie ahead to live as she did, with faith, hope and love – giving to and serving others.
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| Thought bubble**Responding (and words for worship):** **Slide 10:** And so as we come to the end of our time together, some things to think about. Let’s be still and quiet together now, and pause to reflect again….….I wonder what you will take away from today?....…maybe some words of hope….….maybe values that you saw in the life of the Queen……..…our Queen was always keen to tell others that she followed the example of Jesus……she once said **‘Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right…..to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.’**…I wonder if these words might help us as we go into the day ahead?....I’m going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I talk to God about some of these things. Make the prayer your own if you’d like to…or if you’d prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.**Slide 11: Prayer** **Loving God****Our Queen has died and people are sad.****Thank you for her long life and care for her people.****We pray for our new King****Bless him and guide him as his reign begins****Amen** |
| **Sending:** Play some music that was played at the Queen’s funeral, or you can find some suggestions from the Diocese of Southwark here, within another act of collective worship that they have published: [An-Act-of-Collective-Worship-To-Commemorate-The-Death-of-Queen-Elizabeth-II.pdf (sdbeboe.s3.amazonaws.com)](https://sdbeboe.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/An-Act-of-Collective-Worship-To-Commemorate-The-Death-of-Queen-Elizabeth-II.pdf?ts=1662732248) |