



GUIDING

LIGHT

# QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY GUIDANCE FOR WORSHIP

## ABSTRACT

Her Majesty the Queen is a faith leader, Head of the Church of England, head of State and Commonwealth and has dedicated her life to the service of this country. We join together as the Diocesan family of schools to celebrate her birthday. The Collective Worship resource is structured for use with Year 7 in our high schools and academies, whether this be teacher or student led, so that they can create a bespoke act of collective worship for use with the PowerPoint within Guiding Light

## Celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Birthday, 21<sup>st</sup> April or the Official birthday celebration for her majesty the Queen on the second Saturday in June

In spring and summer 2016, local communities, the nation and the commonwealth celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The Queen is head of the Church of England and defender of the faith. The Board of Education wished to contribute to the celebrations and invited the primary and high schools and academies to explore, in Collective Worship time, the significant events, duties and special interests of the Queen's life and role.

The Queen's birthday is marked every year in April and June. We hope that by using the following Collective Worship plan you can feel part of these annual events across the country.

Her Majesty the Queen is a faith leader, head of the Church of England, head of State and Commonwealth and has dedicated her life to the service of this country. We join together as the Diocesan family of schools to celebrate her birthday. The Collective Worship resource is structured for use by Year 7 students in our high schools and academies whether this be teacher or student led.

We also hope that by exploring the life, interests and key Christian concepts linked to the role of the monarch, across the Diocese this will give everyone, especially our young people, a greater understanding of the life of our monarch. Throughout her life she has reflected the concept of Royal Christian leadership and that such a role is sourced from the Bible and Christian teachings.

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### Notes for use

- This resource includes five original pictures available in a separate PowerPoints linked to the celebrations to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These resources are suitable for KS 3 pupils and can be used annually.
- Each one has its own title; each one is interchangeable for the majority of the celebrations which are taking place locally, nationally and internationally. However, we have given, in the notes section linked to each slide, some suggestions for worship, links to specific dates and times in the life of the Queen and links to Christian Values.
- We hope that by using the following Collective Worship plan you will feel part of the annual events across the country to celebrate the Queen's birthday.
- Her Majesty the Queen is a faith leader, Head of the Church of England, Head of State and Commonwealth. The Collective Worship resource is structured for use by our primary and secondary schools and academies.
- The resources are for use by schools to create an act of worship using the 4 phases of worship, gathering, engaging, responding and sending out.



## Slide 2: The Queen and her birthday banner

**Title: Shout out for a very important arrival** The Queen and her birthday banner

**Resources needed:** birthday banner, official picture of the Queen and her immediate heirs, newspaper front cover for 21<sup>st</sup> April (current year), newspaper front cover for April 1926 announcing the birth of Princess Elizabeth, royal family tree, pictures of Trooping the Colour.

**Begin with** (The Queen and her birthday banner): When any new member of any family is born, word of the arrival of the new baby is soon spread across family and friends. Today it is not the birth of a new baby we're thinking about but of a day over 90 years ago.

**This illustration** shows the Queen holding her own birthday banner. The banner here has links with the Queen's official birthday and that she has two birthday celebrations.

**Key Questions:** Ask the children/young people what they think is happening in the picture, whose birthday is it? How old is she? How do you think she feels being (*current age*)? Who do you think she might be thinking about today and why? What questions would you like to ask her on her birthday and why? Do you know anyone who has a birthday today/on the same day as the Queen? What do you think they might be hoping to do on their birthday and why? Can you imagine how it might feel to be celebrating your (*Queen's Current age*) birthday?

**Learn about ... Explain** that the Queen, every year, has two celebration events; her real birthday, on 21 April and her official birthday on a Saturday in June. Most years, she spends her actual birthday performing royal duties and celebrating with her family.

**Talk about:** In June every year the Queen's official birthday is marked by a military parade known as the Queen's Birthday Parade, commonly known as Trooping the Colour, which takes place on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall in London. This event is broadcast every year on television. The tradition started in 1748 when the current Queen's great, great, great, great, great grandfather, George II had his actual birthday in November and it was considered too cold, so his birthday celebrations were moved and combined with an annual Spring military parade which we now know as the Trooping of the Colour. It is during this ceremony that the Queen presents one of the army regiments with a new flag which is known as the regimental colours. You might like to ask the children: I wonder what it might be like to have two birthdays? I wonder if it would be good to have one where you received presents and one where you gave presents to others, like the Queen

gives a new colour to the regiment. What would we give, to whom and why? Looking at our picture of the Queen and her birthday banner, what do you think the banner symbolises?

This picture highlights the core **Christian Values** of Service and **Christian Concept** of Love which the Queen lives out through her role as Monarch, and the link between her and the Armed Forces.

**The Bible link:** in the Bible, Timothy writes that he is 'grateful to Jesus Christ our Lord who has strengthened me and appointed me to his service'

*1 Timothy 1:12*

**Think about:** (so let's take some time to think about) How the Queen has dedicated her life to the service of this country. How, for all of us, she is the only monarch we have known, and even though she has passed her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, she is still fulfilling her duty of service to the nation. How she has dedicated her life to this service of the nation through the promises she made at her coronation in 1953 and made her Christian faith visible in what she says and does on a day to day basis.

**Challenge:** for children/young people to reflect on how the choices they make and the way that they live their lives are celebrated at their own birthday events, and on how the ceremonies around the Queen's birthday reflect the Queen's faithful Christian life.

**Pray about:** (you could ask the children to listen to the prayer below and then say The Grace, to conclude worship)

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father,  
give our Queen strength,  
happiness and wisdom to continue  
to carry out the promises she has made.  
Help us to respect all those who help and advise us  
and bless everyone here today  
that we may faithfully serve you  
for all the days of our life.  
Amen



### Slide 3: The Palace Birthday Cake

**Title: Great British Bake Off winner/ The Palace Birthday Cake** (either title will work for this)

**Resources needed:** pictures of Buckingham Palace, The Queen's Birthday Cake, Queen Elizabeth's chocolate birthday cake and novelty birthday cakes. A chocolate birthday cake in a carrier bag with candles, Union Jack bunting, a picture of Nadiya Hussain and Great British Bake Off.

**Begin with (The Palace Birthday Cake):** As part of the Queen's birthday celebrations, every year the chef at Buckingham Palace (Darren McGrady) makes the Queen her favourite birthday cake.

This illustration shows the Queen's birthday cake in the shape of Buckingham Palace with a row of birthday candles.

**Key Questions:** Ask the children/young people when it is your birthday, what type and flavour of cake do you hope to have? Who makes your cake or where does it come from? Do you think you share the same likes as the Queen, or do you think she would want a different type of cake?

**Learn about ...** Explain that the Queen, for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebrated with a cake made by Nadiya Hussain who won the BBC baking competition programme, The Great British Bake Off, in 2016. The cake which Nadiya made was an orange drizzle cake with orange curd and buttercream. Nadiya presented her cake to the Queen in person on the Queen's birthday that year.

**Talk about** (further explain if the children/young people have not already told you this). Talk about how honoured and nervous Nadiya felt about making the cake. Explain that the tradition of giving cakes with candles dates back to the time of the ancient Greeks when they would make round cakes to honour the goddess of the moon, Artemis. The lit candles on the cake represented the glow of the moon and the smoke from the candles, the Greeks believed, carried their prayers and good wishes to the gods. Today, candles are still used in some Christian churches as a symbol of prayers going up to heaven to God, and on birthday cakes, a symbol of the families' good wishes and the number of years being celebrated by the person whose birthday it is.

This picture highlights, through the candles on the top of the palace, the nation's fellowship with Her Majesty the Queen, in wanting to join in with the celebrations and sending good wishes to her for the years to come. The Christian Value that links with this part of the Queen's birthday celebration is Koinonia.

**The bible link:** in the bible John writes that ‘if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.’ 1 John 1:7 NRSV the candles on the cake are a reminder of the Easter candle which represents the risen Jesus. Christians believe that they are all children of God in fellowship with one another, walking in the light of Jesus.

**Think about:** (so let’s take some time to think about) the last time you saw someone blow out birthday candles or you blew out the candles on your own cake. Many people, when they do this, make a silent wish and these wishes are often for good things to happen in the next year. I wonder if one of the Queen’s birthday cakes has candles on it. I wonder if the Queen wishes when she blows out her candles. If so, what might she wish for? All join together after the prayer, around a cake with lighted candles, so that all the children/young people can help to blow them out.

**Challenge:** for children/young people to reflect on how, if they could blow out a candle today on behalf of the Queen, what they would wish for her and what they would wish for themselves, their family and the community to which they belong and the world.

Pray about: (you could ask the children to listen to the prayer below and then say The Grace, to conclude worship)

**Prayer:**

Loving Jesus,  
as we give thanks for the life of our Queen,  
we ask you to bless her in the future and keep her strong and faithful in your service.  
We give thanks for the love and fellowship  
which we share in our school families and communities  
and ask you to bless us today and always,  
Amen.



#### Slide 4: The Queen's Birthday Bus

**Title:** Swanning around with the Queen/The Queen's Birthday Bus

**Resources needed:** pictures linked to the interests and hobbies of the Queen: horse riding/racing, corgis, royal pigeon loft, land rovers, grenadier guard, tea, bus stop signs (three or more if required, placed around the classroom for the prayer activity)

**Begin with** (The Queen's Birthday Bus) Begin by asking the children/young people to tell you all the things they know about the Queen. Hopefully they will have some ideas e.g. she wears a crown, rides horses, lives in a castle, came to Blackburn in 2014. Remind the children/young people that she has been Queen since 1952. Did they know that (only include the ones the children/young people have not already told you) she is a qualified mechanic and is the only person who can drive without a licence or a number plate on her car and likes to drive Land Rovers. One of her favourite breeds of dog is a Corgi – she has owned more than 30 corgis since she has been Queen. That she has a royal swan keeper as they are a bird under crown protection and technically, she still owns all the whales and dolphins in the water around the United Kingdom. She owns a number of horses and still rides most days. She has her own Facebook page and sent her first e-mail in 1976. When she was a little girl, she was a Girl Guide and Sea Ranger and during the Second World War, joined the British Army. Two of the regiments which most people link to the Queen are the Grenadier Guards, who can be seen outside Buckingham Palace and the Beefeaters, who are at the Tower of London. The Queen is fluent in French and a connoisseur of tea. She is the only person to have opened two Olympic Games – Montreal in 1976 and London 2012.

**This illustration** shows the Queen riding on a red London double decker bus with swans, a horse, corgis and a grenadier guard, highlighting some of the interests and aspects of London which people link to the Queen.

**Key Questions:** Ask the children/young people what they think is happening in the picture, where do they think the Queen is going and who is she waving to? Why do they think that the illustrator has pictured the Queen with all these unusual passengers?

**Learn about ... Explain** that the Queen is Patron of more than 600 charities and organisations, these have a particular association with the Queen and her interests and hobbies. One of the less well known is the Royal Racing Pigeon Association. The Queen has 200 pigeons which have their own accommodation/pigeon loft in Norfolk at her Sandringham home. These birds have won local and national championships. One of the more famous charities which the Queen is associated with as Patron is Barnardo's. The

Queen took over as Patron after the death of Princess Diana, a role which her Grandmother, Queen Mary had. This charity was founded by a Christian doctor, Thomas Barnardo, who had trained and worked as a doctor in London. He was so moved by the poor, orphaned and homeless children that he set up a school and shelter to ensure that they could receive the care and attention they deserved. His work today still survives and goes from strength to strength, working with the most vulnerable children and young people who, for whatever reasons, find themselves living on the streets of our towns and cities.

**Talk about** (further explain if the children/young people have not already told you this). The lion appears on the Queen's personal flag, the royal standard and on her coat of arms, which is rather like their school badge, and is representative of the people of the United Kingdom. The lion's hat shows that he is aware that this is an important occasion. You might like to ask the children/young people: I wonder if she will tell the lion that in her presence, he really ought to take off his hat as a mark of respect! Think about how we might show gratitude/offer hospitality.

This picture highlights the Christian concept of Love and the core **Christian Values** of Hope and Creation which the Queen promotes through her role as Monarch and Patronage

**The bible link:** in the bible Paul writes the church in Corinth 'I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels, but if I do not have love, it will sound like noisy brass. If I have the gift of speaking God's Word and if I understand all secrets, but do not have love, I am nothing.' *NLV 1 Corinthians 13*

**Think about:** (so let's take some time to think about) All those people who we admire and who inspire us. All those who give up their time to help those in need. All those who dedicate their lives in times of crisis like Dr Barnardo (mention other local charities working with children and young people, e.g. Donna's Dreamhouse, international situations, e.g. refugees), who have brought a sense of hope and security at times of chaos and distress.

**Challenge:** Invite the children/young people to follow you around the classroom, stopping at each of the bus stops for a prayer opportunity. Ask the children/young people to reflect on when they have helped support charity events at school and in their community. What did they do? Was it a case of giving up their time, creating items to sell or just going along to support the event? And how, through these small acts of charity, they have helped spread a sense of hope and seeds of change into the lives of others. At the first stop, think about those animal charities they have supported. (you may like to name things like Dog's Trust etc.) At the second stop, think about those charities that are linked to the health and welfare of children, young people and adults (e.g. Childline, Jeans for Genes). At the third stop, think about those charities that work towards creating a better world (e.g. Woodland Trust etc.)

**Pray about:** (you could ask the children to listen to the prayer below and then say The Grace, to conclude worship)

**Prayer:**

Loving Jesus,  
we ask you to give hope and encouragement  
to all those who work to change the world  
and help those in it, to reflect God's wonderful creation.

We give thanks for the work the Queen has done  
in supporting and promoting charitable causes  
which show your love to the world.  
Help us to spread your message of hope  
and become good stewards  
of your heavenly Father's creation.  
Amen



### Slide 5: The Queen's Beefeaters

**Title:** A sense of security/The Queen's Beefeaters (either title will work for this)

**Resources needed:** pictures - St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London and Blackburn Cathedral, Beefeaters at the State opening of Parliament, a balloon with a long tail (helium), luggage labels (these are for the prayer activity)

**Begin with** (The Queen's Beefeaters) Can anybody tell you what or who a Beefeater is, where you will find one, what do they do and how you become one? Ask if anyone has ever met a Beefeater when visiting London.

**This illustration** shows the Queen's Beefeaters in the party spirit with balloons, party blower, a party hat, card and cupcake.

**Key Questions:** Ask the children/young people what they think is happening in the picture, what is the occasion and what do they think will happen next?

**Learn about ... Explain** that at many of the Queen's important church services, the Beefeaters attend as part of the security for the Queen and the Royal Family. Their real name is the Yeoman Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London, and Members of the Sovereign's Bodyguard of the Yeoman Guard Extraordinary. They are more popularly known as the Yeoman of the Guard or Beefeaters (not to be confused with the restaurant chain) and are ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London. The word Beefeater comes originally from a French word for the guards who protected the King's food (buffetier) and were often paid in food. Today there are 73 Yeomen of the Guard, the oldest order of royal bodyguards who are all ex serving members of the Armed Forces.

**Talk about** (further explain if the children/young people have not already told you this). How their uniform has the initials of the Queen on it as a reminder of their role in protecting the Monarch. Today, when you visit the Tower of London, the Beefeaters act as guards and guides to this ancient royal residence. Their role is seen as ceremonial, but they go with the Queen to the State Opening of Parliament, attend the summer garden parties and Royal Maundy Service. In 2013, they came to Blackburn and lined the route into the Cathedral. Throughout the country there are special prayers of thanksgiving said in services for the life of Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal family. The Queen is Head of the Church of England and has a strong Christian faith and prayer life which she shares with the nation through her Christmas message every year. Rather like the Beefeaters make solemn promises to protect the Queen, the Queen made solemn promises when she was crowned, to uphold the Christian faith and dedicate her life to the service of the nation. This picture highlights the core **Christian Values** of Trust, Justice and Service which the Queen lives out through her role as Monarch.

**The bible link:** in the book of Proverbs it tells us to 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' *NIV Proverbs 3:5-6*

**Think about:** (so let's take some time to think about) Invite the children/young people to write prayers (on the luggage labels) of thanksgiving for the Queen, and the special people in their lives and the life of the community to which they belong, who have helped them understand their faith and helped them feel safe and secure.

**Challenge:** for children/young people to reflect on how talking through their hopes and fears with others and praying at times of great joy and at times of uncertainty, this has helped them to cope with events which have seemed difficult to deal with (attach the luggage labels to the long tail of the balloon and let it drift away).

**Pray about:** (you could ask the children to listen to the prayer below and then say The Grace, to conclude worship)

**Prayer:**

Living God,  
hear the prayers that we offer  
in thanksgiving for the life and faith of our Queen.  
We ask you to continue to bless her  
and strengthen her faith in you at times of joy and trial,  
that she will continue to rule justly in your name.  
Amen



### Slide 6: The Queen's Tea Party

**Title:** A very special birthday party / The Queen's Tea Party (either title will work for this)

**Resources needed:** picture of Windsor Castle, the Royal Standard and Coat of Arms, Buckingham Palace garden party invitation (picture), a teapot.

**Begin with** (The Queen's Tea Party): Ask the children what they think is happening in the picture?

**This illustration** shows the Queen serving a cup of tea to a lion that is wearing a bowler hat.

**Key Questions:** Who has come to tea, who they feel that the lion represents and why he is wearing a bowler hat and how the lion and the Queen might feel. Do they know anyone who has been for tea with the Queen? How do they think they might feel if they were asked to have tea with the Queen?

**Learn about ... Explain** that the Queen holds tea parties at Buckingham Palace every year. She invites people to attend who have played a special part in their local communities helping others. She has 8 garden Parties (tea Parties) every year, some of which are held at Buckingham palace; on average 8000 people attend each one. The people who attend have often worked for local charities, but they also include members of the armed forces and the clergy, as well as politicians and celebrities, and come from this country and the Commonwealth.

**Talk about** (further explain if the children/young people have not already told you this) The lion appears on the Queen's personal flag, the royal standard and on her coat of arms, which is rather like their school badge, and is representative of the people of the United Kingdom. The lion's hat shows that he is aware that this is an important occasion. You might like to ask the children/young people: I wonder if she will tell him that in her presence, he really ought to take it off as a mark of respect! Think about how we might show gratitude/offer hospitality.

This picture highlights the core **Christian Values** of Respect and Service which the Queen lives out through her role as Monarch.

**The bible link:** in the bible Peter writes that followers of Jesus should 'Honour everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the Emperor.' *NRSV / Peter 2: 17* (if you need to, explain that Emperor is another name for a ruler of a country)

**Think about:** (so let's take some time to think about) all those people who we respect and care for and give thanks for how they have helped us. All those members of our school, our family and our friends who have given us help and shown us respect.

**Challenge:** for children/young people to reflect on how their lives can change the lives of others through acts of service and demonstrating respect for all.

**Pray about:** (you could ask the children to listen to the prayer below and then say The Grace, to conclude worship)

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father,  
give our Queen strength,  
happiness and wisdom  
to continue to carry out the promises she has made.  
Help us to respect all those  
who help and advise us  
and bless everyone here today  
that we may faithfully serve you  
for all the days of our life.  
Amen

**Websites and resources to help you plan events and celebrate Her Majesty's Birthday**

- Church of England: Queen's Birthday Prayers. This website has the official prayers which the Queen has approved as part of her birthday celebrations.
- [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)
- Pinterest Board BDBE Schools - Royalty Pictures of Queen Elizabeth and members of the Royal Family including information those who appear within the Queen's Family Tree and information on her interests and hobbies and fun information.
- [www.pinterest.com/hvsage/royalty](http://www.pinterest.com/hvsage/royalty)