

# The Servant Queen

When, at 2.40am on 21 April 1926, the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York was born by caesarean section, nobody expected her to become Queen. The little girl was named Elizabeth Alexandra Mary after her mother, who was born Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Following the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936, however, Princess Elizabeth's life changed forever. This year marks The Queen's 90th birthday. To celebrate, Bible Society has joined forces with HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) to publish a new book about The Queen's Christian faith.

The book is a 64 page publication with colour photographs. Including a foreword from Her Majesty, it draws on The Queen's own words to describe her faith in God.

Queen Elizabeth II is Britain's longestreigning monarch and the longest reigning queen regnant (a female monarch who reigns in her own right) in history. Since her coronation in 1953, her reign has encompassed a huge diversity of personal experiences and rapid global change: from rationing to moon landings, a British Olympic year to an 'Annus Horribilis', wars to garden parties. Spanning 12 Prime Ministers, 97 outward state visits, 3.5 million items of correspondence and more than 30 corgis. Marked by the joys of becoming a grandmother (and greatgrandmother) and the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In all this, however, one thing has remained consistent: Her Majesty's Christian faith.

The annual Christmas message is perhaps the most publicly visible articulation of this faith. But it is hardly the only one. Over the years, The Queen has made repeated reference to the God she serves and the importance of her Christian faith. In the records of her

public speeches alone, there are allusions to a host of Bible stories and passages: the nativity, the Good Samaritan, the epistles of Paul, the prophesies of Isaiah, and the Gospel of John.

And yet, for all that, we do not often hear much about this deeply significant aspect of her life and character. Whilst many commentators have noted the depth of her trust in God, few have explored it.

That is one of the reasons Bible Society, HOPE and LICC have produced this new book. Called *The Servant Queen and the King she serves*, the hope is that it will introduce more people to this oftenoverlooked, yet essential, aspect of The Queen's identity, character and activity. Or, perhaps more accurately, to the God and the faith within which she 'lives and moves and has her being'.

To receive a free copy of '*The Servant Queen and the King she serves*' call 01793 418222 or email [contactus@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@biblesociety.org.uk)

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