

## The Death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The people of St Peter's, Ash, join the nation and people around the world in mourning the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. As many have said, he has given us a wonderful example of faith in Christ and of service to others. He has shown his devotion to the sacrament of marriage in the way in which he has supported HM the Queen in both her royal duties and in their personal family life. He bravely spoke out for the causes that were dear to his heart when it may have been easier to have kept silent. He has been an inspiration to many across the Commonwealth and elsewhere, not least to young people through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. For that he will be long remembered.

Our thoughts and prayers go to HM the Queen and all the Royal family at this time of sadness for them all. In this Easter season though, we are especially reminded that death has been conquered by Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and that out of sadness comes the joy of eternal life. Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's Kingdom, and we pray that Prince Philip will now rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

### The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby has written:

"I join with the rest of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in mourning the loss of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, and give thanks to God for his extraordinary life of dedicated service. Prince Philip continually demonstrated his unfailing support and unstinting loyalty to Her Majesty The Queen for 73 years.

"He consistently put the interests of others ahead of his own and, in so doing, provided an outstanding example of Christian service. During his naval career, in which he served with distinction in the Second World War, he won the respect of his peers as an outstanding officer.

"On the occasions when I met him, I was always struck by his obvious joy at life, his enquiring mind and his ability to communicate to people from every background and walk of life. He was a master at putting people at their ease and making them feel special.

"The legacy he leaves is enormous. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which he founded in 1956, has inspired generations of young people to help others and instilled in them a vision for citizenship and a desire to serve their communities. His work with countless charities and organisations reflected his wide-ranging, global interests in topics including wildlife, sport, design, engineering and inter-faith dialogue.

"In his powerful advocacy for conservation his was a prophetic voice for over half a century, as he brought people from around the world to a new concern and commitment to action for the future of our planet.

"As we recover and rebuild after the terrible trial of the coronavirus pandemic, we will need fortitude and a deep sense of commitment to serving others. Throughout his life Prince Philip displayed those qualities in abundance, and I pray that we can take inspiration from his example.

"I also join many people in giving thanks for the marriage of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, and for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Theirs was a marriage grounded in friendship and mutual respect and sustained by shared faith in Christ.

"I pray that God will comfort Her Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family at this time. May His Royal Highness rest in peace and rise in glory."

### The Bishop of Dorking - Bishop Jo writes:

I was so sorry to hear today of the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He has provided huge service to our Nation and the Commonwealth for all my life and longer, both on his own account and in his unswerving support of Her Majesty the Queen through the many joys and challenges of the past seven decades. Our thoughts today are with the Queen and members of the Royal Family, that they might know the presence of the living God as they mourn his loss. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### A Prayer from the Church of England website:

God of our lives, we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, for his love of our country, and for his devotion to duty. We entrust him now to your love and mercy, through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

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We will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of HRH Prince Philip in St Peter's Church soon – date to be announced.

You can leave messages of condolence now by visiting [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)