

Thank you to Queen Elizabeth II

Ladies & Gentlemen.

I, on behalf of you all, together with the millions of people across the UK and Commonwealth, give a heartfelt **thank you** to Her Majesty **Queen Elizabeth II**.

She had become our longest reigning monarch and we thank her for the extraordinary service she has given our country for more than **seven decades**.

Throughout her reign, her commitment to public service had been beyond question. Her sense of public duty was as steadfast today as it was when she declared, aged just **21**, that she would devote her whole life to the service of her people. She continued to demonstrate that commitment every single day.

Her selfless sense of duty inspired our respect and our fondness, not only in Britain but around the world. This was particularly true across the Commonwealth an institution which owed much of its success to Her Majesty and the leadership she had provided. As a diplomat and ambassador for Britain, it is hard to overstate what she has done for our country

We should perhaps pause for a moment to reflect on the truly remarkable scale of Her Majesty's service during her reign. She became our Queen on **6 February 1952** and her Coronation was on **2 June 1953**. In those **70** years, she had worked with:

15 Prime Ministers and **6** Archbishops of Canterbury,

She had represented us on **265** official visits to **116** different countries,

She had answered over **4** million pieces of correspondence,

She had sent over **300,000** telegrams to centenarians across the Commonwealth,

And had met more people than any other monarch in our history.

Her Majesty exemplifies the unique combination of tradition and progress that has come to define us as a nation. The United Kingdom in **2022** is a world apart from that of **1952**, yet she had kept in touch with our national life throughout her reign. She had provided a rock of stability and an enduring focal point for all her people.

But, at the same time, one of her greatest qualities was that she had continued to adapt, evolve and change the role of the monarchy, while always retaining the values of the Institution —decency, honesty, humility and honour, which we all cherished.

Her Majesty had served our country with unerring grace, total dedication, dignity and decency.

Rest In Peace Your Majesty.

Cllr Keith Hill