

# Queen Elizabeth II



Princess Elizabeth was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926. Her father was George, Duke of York, the second oldest son of King George V.





George, Duke of York, never expected to become king. When his father, George V, died, it was his older brother who became Edward VIII.

However Edward soon stepped down from being King over a dispute about who he could marry. So, in December 1936, when Elizabeth was 10 years old, her father became George VI.

Only three years later, the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War began.

Officials wanted Elizabeth and her sister Margaret to be evacuated to safety in Canada. Her mother would not think of it, saying, "The children won't go without me. I won't leave without the King. And the King will never leave."



So Elizabeth remained in England during the war and tried to play her part.

However, despite marking the start of the war, 1939 did hold some good memories for Elizabeth.



On a visit to Royal Navy College at Dartmouth with her father the King, she was escorted by an 18 year old navy officer, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark.

Although she was only 13, the young princess fell in love with Philip and they kept in touch by letter throughout the war.

Elizabeth was very aware of the hardship the war brought to the British people. When she was old enough she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service to help out.

On the day the war ended, Elizabeth and her sister went out in secret to join in with the celebrating crowds.



After the war, Philip and Elizabeth were engaged to be married.

The couple were married on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947 at Westminster Abbey





It was not many years after this that Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952. Elizabeth was on a royal tour in Kenya when the sad news was broken to her by her husband, Philip.

At that moment she became Queen Elizabeth II.

Her coronation ceremony took place in June 1953.

At the start of her reign, the British Empire was still in place, with Britain ruling countries right across the World.



But she and her government realised that this could not last. Over the following years most of these countries and protectorates were given their independence.



Queen Elizabeth was always very popular with her people. However in 1981, six shots were fired at her from close range as she rode down the Mall at the trooping of the colour. Amazingly, she kept her calm and control of her horse.

Police caught the assailant and later discovered that the shots were blanks.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Queen Elizabeth became the longest reigning British monarch ever. At her death, she had ruled the country for over 70 years.

Throughout her reign, she was driven by a very strong sense of service to her people and the nation. Every year, even in her old age, she completed hundreds of official royal engagements. She was also patron of over 600 organisations and charities.



Her own personal Christian faith was also very important to her. She often mentioned it in her Christmas addresses to the nation.



For example, in 2000, she said, *“To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.”*

Her family was always very important to her. She describe Philip as her "*constant strength and guide*".

They had four children, Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.



There were also 8 grand-children and 12 great grandchildren.

Queen Elizabeth died on 8  
September 2022 aged 96

She will be missed not only by  
the nation, as our monarch, but  
even more by the family she  
adored.

On her death, her oldest son  
was proclaimed King Charles III.

