Good morning,

I wanted to take this moment with you to express my respect, admiration and affection for Her Majesty the Queen. She was one of the most dignified examples of leadership the world has ever seen. She will be remembered in history as a capable, talented, brilliant and warm human being. She will be missed. We now respectfully engage with the King. King Charles has huge shoes to fill. It will be an extraordinary challenge. We need to pray for him and the entire royal family.

Here at St George’s we begin a season of spiritual vitality, anointed ministry and healthy relationships. I want to personally invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 8:15 or 10:00. There will be a healing eucharist service at both services. This week we will present four preaching scarves to the Lay Readers. There will also be the opportunity to present plaques to some of our previous wardens. I am especially looking forward to the dedication of the lectern hanging and stoles as well as the burse and veil in memory of Gary McGregor. It is my sincere hope that we will also be able to offer prayers of blessing upon the new youth group leaders. Clearly it’s a very full weekend.

Children’s ministries begin this week with Sunday school registration and a staffed nursery. We welcome all families to please join us this Sunday.

As we begin our new year as is dictated by the beginning of the school year we pray for the health and safety of all children, teens as well as college and university students who have just begun their academic year. May the Lord bless them and keep them safe.

In closing this pastoral letter may I encourage you to take a moment and offer a prayer in memory of her Majesty? This prayer has been provided by our bishop who over the next several weeks will provide liturgies and other worship opportunities in celebration of her Majesty’s life. Therefore it is appropriate that I conclude this letter with that prayer.

O God, from whom comes everything that is upright and true:Accept our thanks for the gifts of heart and mind thou didst bestowon thy servant Elizabeth,And which she showed forth among us in her words and deeds;Deal graciously we pray thee, with those who mourn, especially the members of the Royal Family,       that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love,Through Jesus Christ our Lord.    Amen.

Blessings

Stephen