



## IT'S A JUBILEE!

SERVICE

### PREPARATION

- + Ask members to bring any memorabilia they have from the 1953 Coronation or previous Royal Jubilees
- + Look at the ['70 Acts of Service'](#) and consider if this is something your group would like to engage in
- + Organise a Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea and get everyone to come dressed in red, white and blue. You could also raise money for the Helping-Hand Appeal
- + Make Jubilee Beacons: small-value glass tumblers, glass pens/sharplies, tealight candles
- + Grow a tree for the Jubilee - the Queen's Green Canopy: plant/yoghurt pot, compost, seeds, Platinum Jubilee logo, glue
- + Plant a tree near your building - young sapling, spade, Platinum Jubilee logo or plaque
- + For more ideas and resources see the [Platinum Jubilee website](#)

 Give Jubilee Beacon and/or tree planting resources to members in advance

### INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

Today the term jubilee is often associated with Royal families, the ceremony and spectacle used to celebrate significant periods in a monarch's reign. No British monarch has ever achieved a reign of 70 years before, and so the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II is expected to be widely celebrated around the world.

The concept of a jubilee began in biblical times, when God instructed Moses that every 50th year was to be a time of celebration, rejoicing and rest - rest for the land and rest for the people. The word jubilee literally means 'ram's horn' in Hebrew. The ram's horn was blown on the tenth day of the seventh month to start a year dedicated to rest, to the restoration of property, and to freeing people from slavery and debts.

From this we learn that God thinks rest is important and that he doesn't want his people to work all the time. He wants us to take time away from our everyday life and make time for worship, rest and reflection.

In the New Testament Jesus presents himself as the one who brings the old jubilee to completion, and the themes of forgiveness and redemption reveal him as the one who came to set us free from sin (Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1, 3:22). Jesus paid

# Connect



the debt of sin for us on the cross so we are no longer captive to sin but are forgiven and free to enter the rest only he can provide (Hebrews 4:9-10).

## ACTIVITIES

### SERVE

Get involved with the '70 Acts of Service' – an invitation to communities to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by serving others with 70 community service ideas, drawing on [Stewardship's 40 Acts](#).

### AFTERNOON TEA

Celebrate the Jubilee with a themed afternoon tea, for your group or for the wider community. Why not fundraise for the Helping-Hand Appeal too!

### SHARE

Ask members to share their memories of the Coronation and previous Royal Jubilee Celebrations – ask them to show any memorabilia they still have.

### THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Grow or plant a tree for the Jubilee – the Queen's Green Canopy. The Queen is passionate about the environment and throughout her reign she has planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world. Talk about what can we do to protect the wonderful world God has created.

### GROW

Stick a Platinum Jubilee logo on the side of a plant pot. Add some compost in the bottom, plant a seed and cover with compost. (You could use apple or pear pips. Make sure they are clean and dry before planting, and the pots are kept cool and moist to encourage germination.)

### PLANT

If you have grounds around your building, you may wish to plant a tree there. For more information check out the [Woodland Trust website](#).





## JUBILEE BEACON

Make a jubilee beacon by decorating a glass using the pens provided. Include a crown in your design and the number 70. Place a tea light inside.

In Britain there is a long history of beacon lighting, spanning many hundreds of years. Beacons traditionally represent a tool of communication. Ask your members to light their candle on Thursday 2 June 2022 and put it in their window. On this date Jubilee beacons will be lit all around the UK and, for the first time, in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries. Ask members to take a minute to think of Queen Elizabeth II and also to think about Jesus being the Light of the World.

## QUIZ

Play a game of Higher or Lower. For each statement members decide whether the number given should be higher or lower.

1. The Queen has owned ten corgis. (**Higher – more than 30**)
2. During the Queen's reign there have been 16 Prime Ministers. (**Lower - 14**)
3. In 1953 ten million people watched the Queen's Coronation. (**Higher – more than 27 million**)
4. Although she is 95, the Queen still works 20 hours per week. (**Higher – usually 40+**)
5. There have been ten different portraits of the Queen on coins. (**Lower – five**)
6. The coronation crown weighs more than three pineapples. (**Lower – weighs 2.2 kg (4lbs 12oz); average pineapple weighs 1kg (2.2lbs)**)
7. The Queen is patron to 500 charities and organisations. (**Higher – 600+**)
8. The Queen has given assent to 4,000 Acts of Parliament. (**Lower – 3,500+**)
9. The Queen has awarded 350,000 honours. (**Higher – over 400,000**)
10. The Queen employs 1,000 people. (**Higher – over 1,200**)



## BIBLE READING / THOUGHT

### **Leviticus 25:1-13**

In Old Testament times God declared that the people of Israel should celebrate a time of rejoicing and rest – this was called a jubilee. Nowadays, a jubilee is associated with celebrating the reign of a monarch and this year we are commemorating the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II has a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As well as her formal role as ‘Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England’, her personal faith is very important to her.

During her first Christmas broadcast in 1952 she said, ‘Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life.’

In 2008 the Queen said, ‘I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life ... He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.’

She has also said that, ‘For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life,’ and throughout her long reign we have seen Christ’s example and teaching faithfully lived out.

As Christians we believe that Jesus is the King of kings who reigns for ever, and that we can celebrate every day the joy of knowing him as our friend and Saviour. At this time of Jubilee, we want to thank God for the Queen, for her faithfulness to God and her duty as sovereign. But, more importantly, we thank God for giving us Jesus who is the King of kings.

### **PRAYER**

O God our Father,  
You love all your children in this and every nation.  
We give you thanks for Elizabeth our Queen at this time of her  
Platinum Jubilee.  
Give her your strength and protection,  
your love and your peace,  
that she may joyfully serve you  
and her people all the days of her life.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and our friend who is the King of kings. Amen.





## SONGS

- ♪ SASB 363 'Give me joy in my heart (Sing Hosanna)' [Salvation Army instrumental](#) or [New Orleans style version led by children](#)
- ♪ SASB 376 'King of kings, majesty' [Salvation Army instrumental](#) or [Salvation Army piano and soloist version](#)
- ♪ ['God Save the Queen'](#) – The National Anthem
- ♪ 'Rise up and serve' – a new song for the Platinum Jubilee. There is a [lyric video](#) and more resources, lyrics, music and backing track, on the [Platinum Jubilee website](#).

## WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect)
- Family Ministries website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families)
- Email: [familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk)
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily\_ministries



## Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

**Children** | **Adults** | **Everyone**

