



[Images courtesy of PA Media]

The Archbishop of Canterbury has presented HM The Queen with a special 'Canterbury Cross' for Her Majesty's 'unstinting' service to the Church of England over seventy years.

The Archbishop made the presentation during an audience with Her Majesty at Windsor Castle today.

The Canterbury Cross was given to The Queen in recognition and gratitude for Her Majesty's “unstinting support of the Church throughout her reign” and to mark The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee year.

Archbishop Justin Welby gave the Cross as “a heartfelt symbol of the love, loyalty and affection in which the Church of England holds Her Majesty”.

In the citation for the Cross, which was presented to Her Majesty as a framed piece of calligraphy, the Archbishop wrote:

“Throughout her reign, Her Majesty has duly upheld both the Christian religion and the Church of England in her roles as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Whether in the formality of opening sessions of General Synod or the more intimate context of her personal addresses to the nation and Commonwealth at Christmas, Her Majesty has made manifest her own deep faith and its relevance to all that she undertakes.



“Her subtle understanding of the changing position of the Established Church in England has sustained and encouraged laity and clergy alike. Her care for the unity of her people and the welfare of the least fortunate have been a constant inspiration to the whole Church. Hers is an example of the Christian life well led.

“This presentation of the Canterbury Cross is a heartfelt symbol of the love, loyalty and affection in which the Church of England holds Her Majesty and it represents the recognition and gratitude of her whole Church for her seventy years of unstinting service. God Save The Queen!”

The Canterbury Cross is presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury for service to the Church of England. The cross is made of silver; a specially cast version was made for Her Majesty with platinum inserts in honour of the Platinum Jubilee.

As Supreme Governor of the Church of England and ‘Defender of the Faith’, Her Majesty has regularly opened sessions of the General Synod of the Church of England.

In 2012, The Queen paid tribute to “the particular mission of Christianity and the general value of faith in this country” during a speech at Lambeth Palace. Her Majesty’s Christmas addresses to the nation and the Commonwealth have often included wisdom from her understanding of Scripture and the Christian faith.

The full text of the citation by Archbishop Justin Welby is as follows:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Canterbury Cross

for

Services to the Church of England

This presentation is made to Her Majesty in her Platinum Jubilee year in recognition and gratitude for her unstinting support of her Church throughout her reign.

The Book of Common Prayer provided the following prayer

on the accession of

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1952:

O GOD, who providest for thy people by thy power,

and rulest over them in love:

Vouchsafe so to bless thy Servant our Queen,

that under her this nation may be wisely governed,

and thy Church may serve thee in all godly quietness;

and grant that she being devoted to thee with her whole heart,

and persevering in good works unto the end,

may, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom;

through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,

who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,

ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Throughout her reign, Her Majesty has duly upheld both the Christian religion

and the Church of England in her roles as Defender of the Faith and

Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Whether in the formality of opening sessions of General Synod

or the more intimate context of her personal addresses to the nation and Commonwealth at Christmas, Her Majesty has made manifest her own

deep faith and its relevance to all that she undertakes.

Her subtle understanding of the changing position of the Established Church in England has sustained and encouraged laity and clergy alike.

Her care for the unity of her people and the welfare of the least fortunate have been a constant inspiration to the whole Church.

Hers is an example of the Christian life well led.

This presentation of the Canterbury Cross is a heartfelt symbol of the love, loyalty and affection in which the Church of England holds Her Majesty and it represents the recognition and gratitude of her whole Church for her seventy years of unstinting service.

God Save The Queen!

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