

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. Romans 13:1 [NLT]

IN LOVING MEMORY
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
1926 - 2022



Crown Servants - by Tony Gale

Anyone who is serving or has previously served in the Office of Constable in the UK, will well know that they are Servants of the Crown and not employees. We do not have a contract and we can not go on strike. It is the privilege of serving in this way, in a job that deals with an endless variety of things, that makes it so special.

And so when the bearer of the Crown passes, it has a profound effect on those that have served it's bearer. The loss of the late Queen Elizabeth II has been felt around the world. This was plain to see during her State Funeral on Monday 19th September. Her example of service to the world, let alone her country, for over seventy years, is beyond measure. It is testimony to her service that she managed to appoint a new Prime Minister (her fifteenth), two days before she died. She fully kept her promise that she made on her 21st birthday: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service".

'The Boss', as she was affectionately known to those 'in the job', was also someone who had a good sense of humour. Who can forget the 2012 Olympics when she was collected by James Bond and appeared to sky dive into the arena? And more recently the sketch with

Paddington Bear and the sandwich in her handbag?

For someone held in such high regard by world leaders and the likes of you and I, it is also so encouraging to know of her regular declarations of faith in Jesus Christ.

The late Queen said during her 2014 Christmas broadcast: "*For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.*"

What is also encouraging for us in the Police Service, is that most police force crests have a Crown on top. And the Crown on those police crests, has a Cross on top of it. So the Police are Servants of the Crown and the Crown is a servant of God. The fact that the late Queen Elizabeth was a servant of God was beautifully described in the 2016 book "The Servant Queen – and the King she serves". I encourage you to have a read of it.

And now we have a new 'Boss', His Majesty, King Charles III. God Save the King...

On & Off Duty

Asleep in the Bottom of the Boat - by Pastor Dave Wisker



It's not every day you get a message saying "Are you able to go to Scotland Yard to pray for the Met?" It was Monday night and it didn't take much thinking about to say 'yes' and worry about the details later! The Metropolitan Police are facing incredibly challenging times, so any opportunity to pray for them strategically I jumped at. I pastor a church in its North Area and have also been a Police Chaplain for 11 years.

On the day of the prayer event, I was in leafy Amersham on the very edge of our great city, attending a funeral. Celebrating a life well lived can't be rushed and before I realized it the day was ending, so I jumped on the Metropolitan line and headed on up to the new! New Scotland Yard.

Finally finding myself with some head-space, I sat on the train trying not to get distracted by the view and wrote out a 'nice prayer'. It was a good prayer. Biblically based, sound theology and then as I considered how to introduce my prayer, I thought I would start with a grand statement "*London is a great city, I love it and God loves it*". As I wrote this down I heard the Lord say to me there is another great city I loved called Nineveh, read the story again!

As I read the familiar narrative punctuated with memories of Sunday School illustrations I was hit by the stark tragedy of this story. How could a man hear God so clearly and then run in the opposite direction? All of a sudden I was overcome with emotion and immediately wanted to cry, not a gentle whimper but a sob!

Not wanting to cause a scene on the 5:10 to Baker Street, I attempted to hold in the sobs. However as I read on, the power of the living word hit me like a train travelling in the opposite direction. As I read the words "*Jonah lay sleeping in the bottom of the boat*" I heard the Spirit of God speak so clearly: "*The church in London is asleep and the city is heading for destruction*".

Moved again by the moment, my eyes once more filled with tears and as I looked down at my 'nice prayer', I wept. Once more I heard the Spirit say when you stand on the 8th floor and pray over the city call the church to wake up! My divine encounter was short lived as we pulled into a station, the doors opened and a young lady came and sat right opposite me. My humanity quickly took over as I told myself "*Pull yourself together*". Managing not to make too much of a scene I grabbed my phone and checked my email.

"*Pray for the city*" were my instructions and so just like Jonah I started to reason with God. "*That's not my remit, not my instructions, not my place*". This futile negotiation with the Almighty carried on as I arrived at the station. What happened next left me without a shadow of a doubt that it was God who had intercepted the evenings agenda. Walking up to the ticket barrier, I heard God speak again in a way I have never heard before! An announcement came over the Tannoy and a voice I kind of recognised said "*Would Jonah please come to station control*".

That night we prayed for the Met, we repented, we interceded for our city and those who protect it and serve it so faithfully. Then we stood on the balcony looked out over our city and called for the church to "*wake up, stand in the gap and pray that our great city will be saved*".



In Memoriam

This month we also say farewell to CPA member David King. David joined CPA in 1960 and was Branch Secretary of Hampshire for a time. David's daughter Ruth says thank you to all who sent condolences. As with our Queen, we hope David will hear our Father God say '*Well done good and faithful servant*'.

High Leigh - 100 Years of Christian Conferencing



CPA Executives: Brian McCarthy, Marie Reavey & Tony Gale

CPA are no strangers to High Leigh Christian Conference Centre in Hertfordshire. We have celebrated many milestones and experienced and witnessed the growth and revival of spirit in the peaceful atmosphere there over the years.

However, on 14th and 15th September 2022, CPA were part of an extra special celebration as the Christian Conference Trust (CCT) opened the very heart of High Leigh to 100 representatives of valued partnerships; to help celebrate High Leigh's 100 years of service to Christian organizations.



Michael Page, Chair of CCT Trustees, kindly welcomed guests and illuminated some of the faith filled history for us. We learned that over the last 100 years, High Leigh has welcomed over 2.5 million visitors! The estate was purchased by committed Christian Robert Barclay (of 'Barclays' Bank) in 1871, before being handed over to First Conference Estate in 1922 for £16,000 in shares (£0.8m today).

Plans were made to extend and alter High Leigh to take up to 25,000 visitors per year. The price for an overnight stay was 9s per person! (£23 today). Whilst guests could play croquet for sixpence an hour, or cricket for 5 shillings a game!

In 1924, Robert Barclay gifted a plain but beautiful oak chapel to High Leigh, which was large enough to house all of the guests that the centre could sleep.

It hasn't been all plain sailing and High Leigh has survived some real existential threats; not least the financial and societal stresses of World War II. More recently CCT have invested £3m in a new high-spec en-suite bedroom wing plus a £1m refurbishment of the tower and first floor, which now boast comfortable, purpose built, meeting rooms with hi-tech virtual conferencing equipment. This is the basis of the new 'Signature' range of services.



Singer Songwriter Tim Hughes and Gas Street Music



Emmanue-El EAGA Gospel Choir from Leicester

The Keynote guest speaker was Anthony 'Ray' Hinton, who spent 30 years of his life on death row in Alabama, for a crime he knew nothing about. Released seven years ago, Ray's life story is now captured and shared in a book and on film as, 'The Sun Does Shine'. Ray firmly believes God had this plan for his life all along.

Ray now dedicates his life to fighting injustice and helping people to see God's plan for their lives and the peace to be found in forgiveness and gratitude.



Ray with his friend Lester Bailey who regularly visited him in prison.

When Ray and Lester found out Tony and I were career police officers, they were keen to give us a hug and pray for the Mission and Vision of CPA. They are pictured here having lunch with us.

CCT continue to bless us. CPA Leader's Conference will be there in November and places are going fast. May God continue to bless this work.

And finally...

What an amazing month! This milestone month will go down as the time we lost one of the most beloved Monarchs in history. It has been refreshing to see a life of unswerving Christian faith being venerated across the world as something of immense value. A true example of the 'Pearl of Great Price' described by Jesus.

For CPA the month was also punctuated by two amazing events: the glorious display of God's provision, where the CCT team showcased hospitality of the highest order at the High Leigh 100 event; plus the powerful prayer meeting, arranged by Met Branch Leader Deborah Akinlawon on the 8th floor of New Scotland Yard.

Pastor Dave Wisker's prophetic message of praying for the church to awake, was accompanied by powerful prophetic prayer over London. We also

heard pastors from diverse backgrounds praying in turn to bless the new Met Command team; Sir Mark Rowley and Dame Lynne Owens. Along with examples of faith in action, where prayer walking and community engagement has led to a sea change in the knife crime statistics of Croydon.

Please share this magazine widely in your police forces and in your church congregations. We need the church and this country to hear this call and to arise to prayer:

'I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives". 1 Timothy 2

May God bless this beautiful kingdom and our new King!

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OUR MISSION is to

- Be a National Voice for Christians in Policing.
- Encourage and support Christians in the Police Service.
- Communicate in words and action, the truth, message and hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to colleagues and the community we serve.
- Build bridges between the Christian community and the Police.

OUR VISION is to see

- The CPA as a national charity which actively leads on issues relevant to Christians in Policing.
- An active and growing branch of CPA in every Police Service in the UK and every Christian in the Police Service to fulfil their potential in Jesus Christ.
- Colleagues and those we serve to know Jesus Christ personally.
- Police and Churches working together in every community to reduce crime and improve quality of life.

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ON & OFF DUTY is a magazine produced by CPA since its foundation in 1883. We also produce a monthly Prayer Diary intended to inform those who wish to support us in prayer. Please forward any potential articles to office@CPAuk.net by the 20th of each month.

NB. All articles published will also be available for unrestricted viewing via the Internet. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the CPA Council.

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