



Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

Background

Queen Elizabeth II has reigned over the United Kingdom and her Commonwealth countries for 60 years. 2012 and the Diamond Jubilee brings about many opportunities to celebrate, focus and give thanks for her Majesty's faithful, gracious and devoted service to the nations.

The Queen reached her 60th anniversary on the throne on 6 February 2012. On 12 March the Queen attended Westminster Abbey to celebrate Commonwealth Day. Main celebrations will take place during an extended Bank Holiday weekend from 2 to 5 June. Coronation Day was on 2 June 1953, and there are many stories of how people of all ages remember spending that wonderful day. A few homes had televisions and the BBC broadcast the Coronation to over 20 million viewers. An estimated three million people lined the streets of London to catch a glimpse of the young monarch as she made her way to and from Buckingham Palace in a golden state coach.

The origin of royal jubilees goes back thousands of years, with the first historical records of a Royal Jubilee taking place 3000 years before Christ in Egypt. The early Pharaohs of Egypt held national celebrations every 30 years of rulership.

Jubilee is also a constant theme throughout the Bible. The word 'jubilee' stems from the Hebrew

word 'Yobel', which refers to the ram or ram's horn with which jubilee years were proclaimed. In Leviticus it states that such a horn or trumpet is to be blown on the tenth day of the seventh month after the lapse of 'seven Sabbaths of years' (49 years) as a proclamation of liberty throughout the land of the tribes of Israel. The year of jubilee was a consecrated year of 'Sabbath-rest' and liberty. During this year all debts were cancelled, lands were restored to their original owners and family members were restored to one another.

The year of jubilee was also central to the ministry of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus makes the claim to the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus states that he has come to 'proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19 TNIV). This is the year of jubilee.

Have times changed this last 60 years? The Queen has seen changes in technology, populations, family life and culture to name but a few. But God is still God. God is still our Ruler. Kingdoms rise and fall, empires come and go but our God goes on forever and ever.

So get out the Messy bunting, dust down your doilies, charge up your cameras. Let's celebrate!

This pack contains suggestions for:

- 1 Celebration/event/activity ideas**
- 2 Messy Church session suggestion**
- 3 Jubilee crafts and activities**
- 4 Celebration time**
- 5 Creative prayer suggestions**
- 6 Messy meal suggestions**
- 7 Messy take-away sheet ideas**
- 8 Become a Messy Champion!**





I Celebration/event/activity ideas

Messy planting

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by planting 60 bulbs, flowering bushes or trees. How about acorns to grow royal oaks?

Messy time capsule

Take this opportunity to make a time capsule full of memories, mementos, photographs, prayers as a Messy Church, family or by yourself. Place your favourite Messy craft inside.

Messy sing-a-long

Organise a 1953 popular songs event (including, for example, Frankie Laine, 'I believe', Lita Roza, '(How Much Is) that Doggie in the Window?').

Messy tea party

If your street isn't holding a street party, organise a Messy tea party with fancy dress and themed food. Bake blue/red/white cup cakes and drink soft drinks popular in 1953, such as Lucozade, Ribena and lots of tea! Tea bags were introduced into the UK in 1953. The first unrationed sweets went on sale in 1953 and the most popular sellers were toffee apples, sticks of nougat and liquorice strips.

Jubilee stained-glass window

Does your church have a plain glass window? Purchase some Perspex and design a stained-glass window to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee using paints and backlighting. Secure it safely.

Messy street games

Invite Messy teams to your local schools/Scouts/Guides to introduce the games which were played in 1953: for example, run-outs, marbles and dipping rhymes ('Dip dip dip, my blue ship, sailing on the water, like a cup and saucer...').

Messy domino challenge

Two boxes of dominoes have around 60 pieces. Organise a sponsored domino run to commemorate the Queen's 60-year reign.

Or place the dominoes in a number 60 figure, flat on the floor. Invite people to place coins on the numbers and donate to a charity.

Messy jubilee quiz night

Invite all ages to answer questions about 1953 and the Coronation, royal family, climbing Everest, Commonwealth countries, and so on.

Messy jubilee cooks

Coronation Chicken was invented by a florist and a chef for the banquet of the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Previously, a recipe called Jubilee Chicken was invented for George V's silver jubilee in 1935 and again for Queen Elizabeth II's golden jubilee. Organise a competition or cook-off for all ages to create a Diamond Jubilee Chicken recipe. Nominate official Messy tasters as judges.

Messy bling swap

Organise a Messy get-together with cup cakes and Pepsi-Colas (introduced into the UK in 1953) for swapping items of unwanted jewelry. Charge £1 per item swap and send all proceeds to one of the Queen's charities.

The Big Lunch

The fourth annual Big Lunch falls on Sunday, 3 June—the same weekend as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It is featured as one of the main events in the jubilee programme: www.thebiglunch.com

The Big Jubilee Thank You (CofE)

www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/themed-services-and-events/the-queen's-diamond-jubilee-2012/the-big-jubilee-thank-you.aspx

Visit this website to write your personal well wishes and thank you letters to the Queen. Each Diocesan Bishop has allocated you a page, starting with an introductory paragraph, for you to write a few words in appreciation of 60 years of loyal service. All will be compiled into one Big Thank You letter and delivered to Buckingham Palace.



2 Messy Church session suggestion

Messy Church Diamond Jubilee

Aim

To explore royal and Godly rule, reign and authority.

Mark 1:21–27 tells us of the amazement of the people as Jesus taught in the synagogue. He taught with such authority yet didn't have the royal robes, orbs or jewels which granted authority from Kings and Queens, the rulers of the day. Jesus knew about the rules because his Father had

written them. He was teaching the people about the rules by which to live their lives.

Setting the scene

Decorate the spaces with bunting, flags, red, white and blue decorations, pictures of the Queen Elizabeth II and so on. At Messy meal time, go the extra mile with table decorations!



3 Jubilee crafts and activities

Prayer robe

You need: length of white cotton fabric, for example a single bed sheet, fabric pens, crown templates, gold glitter, sticky gems, a clasp

Decorate a crown shape each and stick onto the robe. Write a prayer for the Queen beside it. When the fabric is suitably covered, it will be worn by a leader of the Celebration Time, clasped around their shoulders, and can also be used during one of the Creative Prayer suggestions.

Talk about: how would prayers for the Queen have changed over 60 years? Prayers for the Queen are fixed parts of many Sunday church services.

Bible biscuits

You need: square-shaped biscuits, royal icing, rolling pin, water, jam, writing icing tubes, plastic knives, small paper plates, strawberry laces sweets

Roll the royal icing approximately 1cm thick. Cut a square the same size or slightly smaller than the square biscuit. Dampen each side of the icing square with water or smear with jam and press on a biscuit, trapping a short length of strawberry lace for a bookmark. Decorate a border and a cross on the front biscuit with writing icing tubes.

Talk about: at the Queen's Coronation service in 1953 she was presented with a Bible, 'the most valuable possession this world affords.'

Jubilee cocktail

You need: a selection of real fruit juices, fizzy pop, water, plastic cups, cocktail umbrellas, stirrers, ice cubes, cocktail cherries, slices of lemon or orange

Create your own soft drink cocktail and finish off with an umbrella and a fruit slice perched on the edge of the cup.

Talk about: over the decades many cocktails (mixed drinks) have been created and named after famous people. What will you call your creation?

Messy jubilee beacon

You need: small value glass tumblers, glass paints or pens, crown templates, tea light candles

Use the paints to decorate crowns and a number 60 around the outside of a tumbler. Place a tea light inside.

Talk about: Britain has a long history of beacon lighting, spanning many hundreds of years. It represents a tool of communication.

The Queen will be lighting the National Beacon on Monday, 4 June, after a Diamond Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace. Make a beacon for your own home with a glass votive. When you light it remember Her Majesty the Queen and the light of Jesus.

Jubilee people

You need: large pieces of paper, paints, washing-up bowls, towels

Make a hand print on the paper and make sure it joins to another.

Talk about: we are all people of God and important to God. We are all part of God's family and so too is the Queen and her family. Together we can love and care for each other and learn from God's commandments.

Diamond detectives

You need: lists of Commonwealth countries, up-to-date-atlases, world outline printouts, colouring pens

Look up the Commonwealth countries in atlases and colour in their positions on the outline of the world map.

Talk about: two billion people in 54 countries are citizens of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth countries total a quarter of the world's population and land surface area. Queen Elizabeth II is Head of the Commonwealth but is not involved in the governance of these countries. This is a personal office and there is no agreement about whether the office is passed on to any heirs. Think about how Queen Elizabeth II has visited nearly every one of the Commonwealth countries in her 60 year reign, and some, like Canada, many times. Think about how God invites each and every one of us to join him in his kingdom.

Jubilee glove waving

You need: white cotton gloves (or disposables), fabric/permanent marker pens, fabric glue, sequins and adhesive stickers

Choose one glove and decorate it ready for the Celebration Time.

Talk about: Queen Elizabeth is a fashionable lady and usually wears white gloves as an accessory. Think about how many times she has put on new white gloves to wave with and shake hands in each county and country she has visited in the last 60 years.

Jubilee street games

You need: a room or space indoors or outdoors, marbles, chalk, coats

Set up two or three areas for games which were played in 1953. Teach some 'dipping' rhymes to choose who is 'it', such as 'One potato, two potato, three potato more...' Use a pile of coats for goal posts and chalk wickets on a brick wall for cricket. If setting up a marble circle, be aware of very young children choking on the marbles. Always supervise.

Jubilee crowns

You need: crown templates, decorating options (beads, florist's wire, chenille sticks, glitter, stickers, jewels, fun foam, gold/silver paper, cotton wool, metallic pens/paints and so on)

Decorate the crown template with gold and jewels with a fur trim at the bottom.

Talk about: St Edward's Crown was traditionally used at coronations, although it is extremely heavy. Some monarchs used other crowns because of its weight. Queen Elizabeth II used St Edward's Crown at her 1953 Coronation. It was made of gold, ermine fur, 44 precious stones and had a velvet cap.

Jubilee gun salute

You need: cotton reels, rubber bands, matchsticks, pencil, corks or candles

Create a cotton reel tank. Thread a rubber band through the middle of a reel. Break a matchstick in half. Tie one end of the rubber band to the matchstick and tape securely to end of the reel. At the other end of the reel place a pencil through the rubber band. It should hold not too tightly nor loosely. Wind up the tank by rotating the pencil. Watch the tank run across the table.

You may need to minimise friction between the pencil and reel. Add a spacer (washer) by using a piece of cork, string plastic or a slice of household candle. Experiment with different spacers and sizes of pencil.

www.instructables.com/id/Cotton-reel-tanks/

Talk about: gun salutes are fired as a sign of welcome and respect. A gun salute occurs on royal anniversaries including Coronation Day (2 June).

Extra craft/activity ideas

Create orbs and sceptres

During the Coronation ceremony, the Queen was anointed with oils of oranges, roses, cinnamon, musk and ambergris. Make a recipe yourself.

Prepare table placemats for a jubilee meal—decorate on card and laminate.

Design a jubilee menu card

Create a diamond dip—a healthy snack for dipping carrot and celery sticks.

Decorate white plain plates and mugs to create jubilee commemorative ware

Create diamond tangram pictures out of diamond-shaped pieces of coloured strong card

Jumping jubilee—have a skipping rope competition. Can you manage 60 jumps in a row?

Create Mount Everest out of playdough. Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, members of the 9th British expedition to Everest, became the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest on the Nepal-Tibet border on 29 May 1953.



4 Celebration time

Messy Message: be in awe of Jesus' authority: Mark 1:22

Setting the scene:

The Celebration leader wears the prayer robe made during craft time. He/she encourages everyone to wear a crown and/or waving gloves.

You need: the rules to an easy game, like noughts and crosses (tic tac toe), and a Bible.

Go:

How wonderful to see so many royals with us today. I'll know if you are royal because whenever I say the word 'royal' you shall raise your crown in the air and/or give a royal wave with your gloved hand. Let's just practice that. Welcome **royal** subjects! Great! And also can you shout out 'God save the Queen!', which is from our National Anthem?

I love playing games. Do you? But if you don't know how to play a game you need to find out the rules. I have some rules for a game here. I need two volunteers to help play this.

These are the rules: to win this game you have to get a line of three noughts or three crosses in either a horizontal, vertical or diagonal row. The noughts and crosses board is a square grid containing nine squares in rows of three. The player (X) plays first by adding an X to a square. Then the other player adds an O to another square, and they continue until one player has a line full of their nought or cross.

The two players play a game. Then repeat once more.

Thank you, players. Please return to your **royal** families. So did explaining the rules help you to

understand this game better? Was it easy to play? Who made the rules to this game? The person who made up the game?

So, **royal** people, do you follow any rules in your lives too? Do you think Queen Elizabeth II does? Or does she give out the rules?

Wait for responses.

Well... the Queen has a Parliament to govern the UK and she can only advise Parliament, except in exceptional cases when she has to exercise her powers. Queen Elizabeth has followed her **royal** predecessors throughout history and reigns over the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries. Queen Elizabeth, like us, has rules to follow too.

The Bible is a book full of wonderful stories and rules for us to follow. Who wrote these rules? God did. Just like the rules to our game helped us to enjoy playing it, God wrote these rules to help us enjoy living our lives the right way. But how do we know this?

Well... **royal** people here today, after Jesus had been baptised by John and the Holy Spirit sent him into the desert to be tempted by the devil; Jesus called his first disciples to follow him. His teaching had begun. He went into the synagogue and amazed the people with his teaching, because he taught with such authority. No other power or authority can compete with his power and authority. The people had never heard anything like this before. What Jesus was saying and how he was saying it was astonishing. They had heard teachers talk of the law before but this was something so amazing that they were in awe. Jesus was in another league.

Queen Elizabeth II has reigned for 60 years but God is living and reigning forever. As we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with Her Majesty and the **royal** family, let's remember who has absolute power—God.

Talk about

I wonder how the Queen feels when she visits another Commonwealth country.

I wonder how Jesus felt when he attracted huge crowds of people wherever he went teaching.

I wonder how often you read the Bible to hear the words of God. When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned during her Coronation service, the Archbishop said, 'Be strong and of good courage. Keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways.'



5 Creative prayer suggestions

Messy diamonds

Use silver hologram or shiny paper to cut out a paper diamond shape for each person, about 1 inch in size, and invite everyone to shine like a diamond for Jesus. Place/stick the diamonds on a large template of a crown on a sheet of paper or card. You could have the diamonds in a basket alongside the template. Play appropriate music and end with a short prayer about shining Jesus' light into the community. We are all diamond gems to God.

Prayer robe

Invite a young person to wear the prayer robe and a crown. Explain that Elizabeth was only 25 years old when she became Queen in 1953. Read a few of the prayers from the robe. End with a short prayer about how Jesus didn't need any fancy clothes or props to show that he was a king, and that Jesus looks inside each one of us, and the clothing we wear does not matter to him.

Reflective 60 years prayers

Use a PowerPoint to show photos of Queen Elizabeth through her 60-year reign. Play appropriate music. Pray periodically about:

- Queen Elizabeth's family
- her duties as Head of State (visits abroad, hosting visitors from other countries)
- her faith as Head of the Church of England
- her daily duties as she receives documents in her 'red boxes' which have to be read and signed
- her travels around the country and overseas

Jubilee people

Everyone join hands to make an enormous diamond shape. If there are lots of people, make two or place one within another, depending on space. Explain that we are all God's people, in God's family and we are special to him. He wants us to love him and love one another. Share the Messy Jubilee Grace together:

We are all God's people *Hold hands*

We love God and each other *Give hands a gentle squeeze*

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ
Hold out your hands as if expecting a present

And the love of God *Put your hands on your heart*

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Hold hands

Be with us all, now and forever. Amen
Raise hands together on the word 'Amen'

God Save the Queen! *Shout!*

Song suggestions

'Come on and celebrate' (1984, Thank You Music)
'Our God is a Great Big God' (Vineyard Music)
'He's Simply the Best' (Listen 2 Him Vol 2, Biblical parodies www.onewayuk.com)
The National Anthem
'Praise to the One' (Songs for EVERYbody www.outoftheark.co.uk)



6 Messy meal suggestions

Consider Queen Elizabeth's favourite foods: shepherd's pie, scones, bread and butter pudding, and ice cream!

Also the Queen enjoys afternoon tea of scones;

thin cucumber sandwiches with the crusts cut off; potted shrimps; and strong tea with a dash of milk.

Or make some jelly (royal Jelly!), Queen of Puddings or Queen Cakes (small sponges with sultanas)



7 Messy take-away sheet ideas

Families love to know what is happening, where to go and not to be embarrassed by having to ask a stranger. No matter how hard we try to welcome families into our churches, we can easily be sidetracked and miss opportunities to welcome families with God's loving and open arms. Lots of Messy Churches now share and use Take Away sheets to give to a family as they first arrive at each session. This sheet could contain:

- the session programme
- list of crafts available
- biblical theme
- Bible quote
- Bible story
- colouring/activity on the theme

- your Messy Church contact person
- future Messy Church dates
- church website
- Messy Church logo
- ideas for the family to try together in between Messy Church dates
- family-friendly services, events
- opportunity for feedback

And so much more, but your pages may already be packed, so choose carefully!

You may wish to add the Diamond Jubilee Emblem, which is freely available for use and can be downloaded at: www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Symbols/DiamondJubileemblem.aspx



8 Become a Messy Champion!

Could you become a Messy Champion? By becoming a Messy Champion, your monthly gift could make a big difference in helping us secure the £158,000 a year that we need to fund Messy Church. Visit www.messychurch.org.uk/champions/ to find out more. You can contact BRF on 01865 319700 or email messychurch@brf.org.uk to request a leaflet with details about Messy Champions. BRF is a charity and depends on the generosity of its supporters.

Another celebration!

BRF celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2012. Messy Church is only one of its many ministries. Visit www.brf.org.uk to discover more.

And yet more ideas from HOPE

HOPE exists to provide churches of all shapes and sizes throughout the UK with a fresh opportunity to work together across their communities—www.hopetogether.org.uk. The Diamond Jubilee is a great opportunity to equip churches as they seek to serve and celebrate together.

HOPE has provided free resources for communities and schools to make the Diamond Jubilee a major moment to remember. Take a look at what is available:

www.hopetogether.org.uk/Articles/291893/HOPE/Big_Jubilee_lunch.aspx

Scripts for plays in our schools resources

Specially-written Diamond Jubilee plays by Saltmine Theatre Co, School Assembly and lesson

plans to use in schools or children's clubs produced by Youth for Christ.

1. [Primary School Assembly Plan \(.pdf\)](#)
2. Primary School Powerpoint presentation (.ppt)
3. [Secondary School Assembly Plan \(.pdf\)](#)
4. Secondary School Powerpoint for Assembly (.ppt)
5. [Secondary School RE lesson plan \(KS 3\) \(.pdf\)](#)
6. Secondary School Powerpoint for RE lesson (.ppt)
7. [Raise your Glass—Jubilee Sketch \(.pdf\)](#)
[Raise your Glass—Drama workshop/ notes \(.pdf\)](#)
[The TV Box Boy—Jubilee Sketch \(.pdf\)](#)
[The TV Box Boy—Drama workshop and notes \(.pdf\)](#)

The Children's Prayer for Queen and Country

This idea from Fusion allows children to write prayers for the Queen, our country and for their own family.

[Prayers for Queen, Country and family—community involvement suggestions \(.pdf\)](#)

[Children's 'My Prayer for Queen, Country and family' sheet \(.pdf\)](#)

And here's one more...

www.diamondjubilee.churchofengland.org