



Civic services gave thanks for the Queen

WORSHIPPERS from across our diocese thanked God for the life and Christian faith of HM Queen Elizabeth at a series of civic services.

Civic and military dignitaries, worshippers and ecumenical representatives came to services of commemoration and thanksgiving in Portsmouth, Havant, Fareham, Gosport, Petersfield and the Isle of Wight – each held on the weekend before her State Funeral.

In **our cathedral**, the music included *We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God*, originally written for her wedding in 1947 to Lt Philip Mountbatten. Choristers Noah Hemmings, 11, and Evelyn Cowhig, 13, were the soloists for *Pie Jesu*.

Community representatives, including the Lady Mayoress Marie Costa, police superintendent Clare Jenkins, and cathedral choristers Fraser Ndihiro, 12, and Sky Reader, 17, lit candles as they each thanked God for a different aspect of HM Queen Elizabeth's character.

In his sermon, the bishop spoke about HM Queen Elizabeth's Christian faith, drawing it together with Portsmouth's motto to conclude that: 'Heaven's light was her guide'.

"Without reckoning on Queen Elizabeth's life of prayer, we miss the key to her lifetime of service, her unswerving duty, wisdom and compassion," he said. "All these enduring things flowed from her Christian faith and prayerful devotion to the way of Jesus Christ: a way open to each one of us and only ever a prayer away."

Dignitaries including MP Suella Braverman and the Lord Mayor of Fareham, Cllr Mike Ford, gathered for a civic service at **St Peter and St Paul, Fareham**. Twelve-year-old Sea Scout Grace Flatman was among those invited as Fareham Young Citizen of Honour.

There was also a civic service at **Holy Trinity, Gosport**, led by the Revs Ray Driscoll and Godfrey Chigumira. The sermon was given

by the Ven Peter Sutton, former Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight. The service was followed by a vigil and the observing of the national one-minute silence at 8pm.

The Rev Allie Kerr, acting Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, led and preached at a service at **Newport Minster**. Dignitaries from across the island, including the Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, and the High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, Kay Marriott, attended the service.

Worshippers gathered at **St Peter's, Petersfield**, for a service of thanksgiving for HM Queen Elizabeth, which included prayers for the Royal Family and our nation. It was led by the acting Archdeacon of the Meon, Canon Will Hughes.

And the civic service at **St Faith's, Havant**, was followed by an observation of the one-minute National Silence in the churchyard. Worshippers held candles as they paused to remember the life and service of HM Queen Elizabeth II.