

Leader's Update - Commemorative Edition

16 September 2022



In memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Following Buckingham Palace's announcement that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, died peacefully at Balmoral last Thursday afternoon, a period of National Mourning began. This will continue until the end of the day of the State Funeral on Monday 19 September.

Words do not capture how sad I feel. I wanted to mark this most poignant of moments by dedicating this edition of my Leader's Update to pay tribute and our respects to Her Majesty The Queen.

I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to Her Majesty's family during this difficult time. I know I speak for everyone in North Northamptonshire when I say that she will be sorely missed. Her Majesty has played such an active role in public life and her kindness, caring and dedication will remain an inspiration to us all.

Paying our respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Public buildings across the nation have been flying the Union Flag at half-mast and North Northamptonshire is no exception. For example, the Council's offices in Corby, Kettering, Thrapston and Wellingborough are flying Union Flag at half-mast and will continue to do so until 8.00am on the day after the State Funeral.



James Saunders Watson, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire and the King's representative in the county, said: "Her Majesty has been a huge part of our country's public life and it is with great sadness that we heard of her passing."

"I'm sure everyone will join with me in offering the county's condolences to her family and I would like to invite everyone to take a moment and remember her in their own way."

"The Queen visited Northamptonshire on numerous occasions during her reign and many of us remember the huge crowds that greeted her when she visited Corby for her 2012 Diamond Jubilee."

Cllr Larry Henson, Chair of North Northamptonshire Council, said: "Her Majesty has made a huge contribution to our country's public life and I know she will be sorely missed. We have made arrangements to ensure everyone has the opportunity to pass on their sympathies at this most poignant of moments. My thoughts are with Her Majesty's family at this very difficult time."

Looking back at Queen Elizabeth II's visits to North Northamptonshire

Over the years, The Queen has made numerous visits to the towns and villages that now make up the area of North Northamptonshire.

Local reporter and photographer Alison Bagley wrote a lovely tribute to The Queen, in the Northants Telegraph, reminiscing the regular visits The Queen made over her 70-year reign.

Picture tribute - Looking back at Queen Elizabeth II's visits to North Northamptonshire

Alison points out in her article that The Queen's visits brought joy and comfort to those lucky enough to meet her over the past seventy years. Alison comments that "From Corby to Kettering, Wellingborough to Higham Ferrers and villages in between, Queen Elizabeth II was cheered by crowds wherever she went."

The Queen pictured at a visit to Kettering town centre in 2001

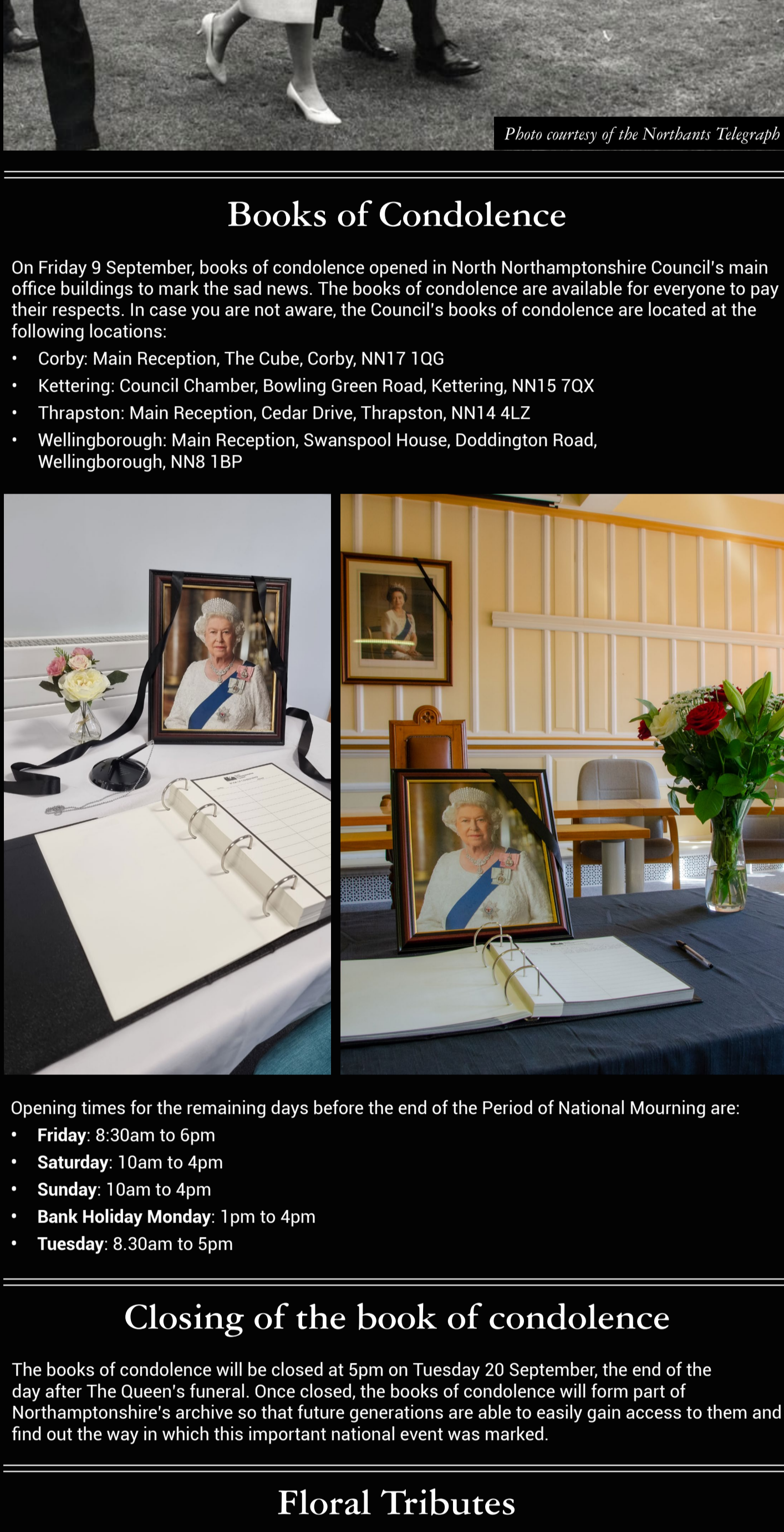


Photo courtesy of the Northants Telegraph

The Queen visits Corby International Swimming Pool and Corby Cube in June 2012



Photo courtesy of the Northants Telegraph

The Queen visiting Corby in 1961

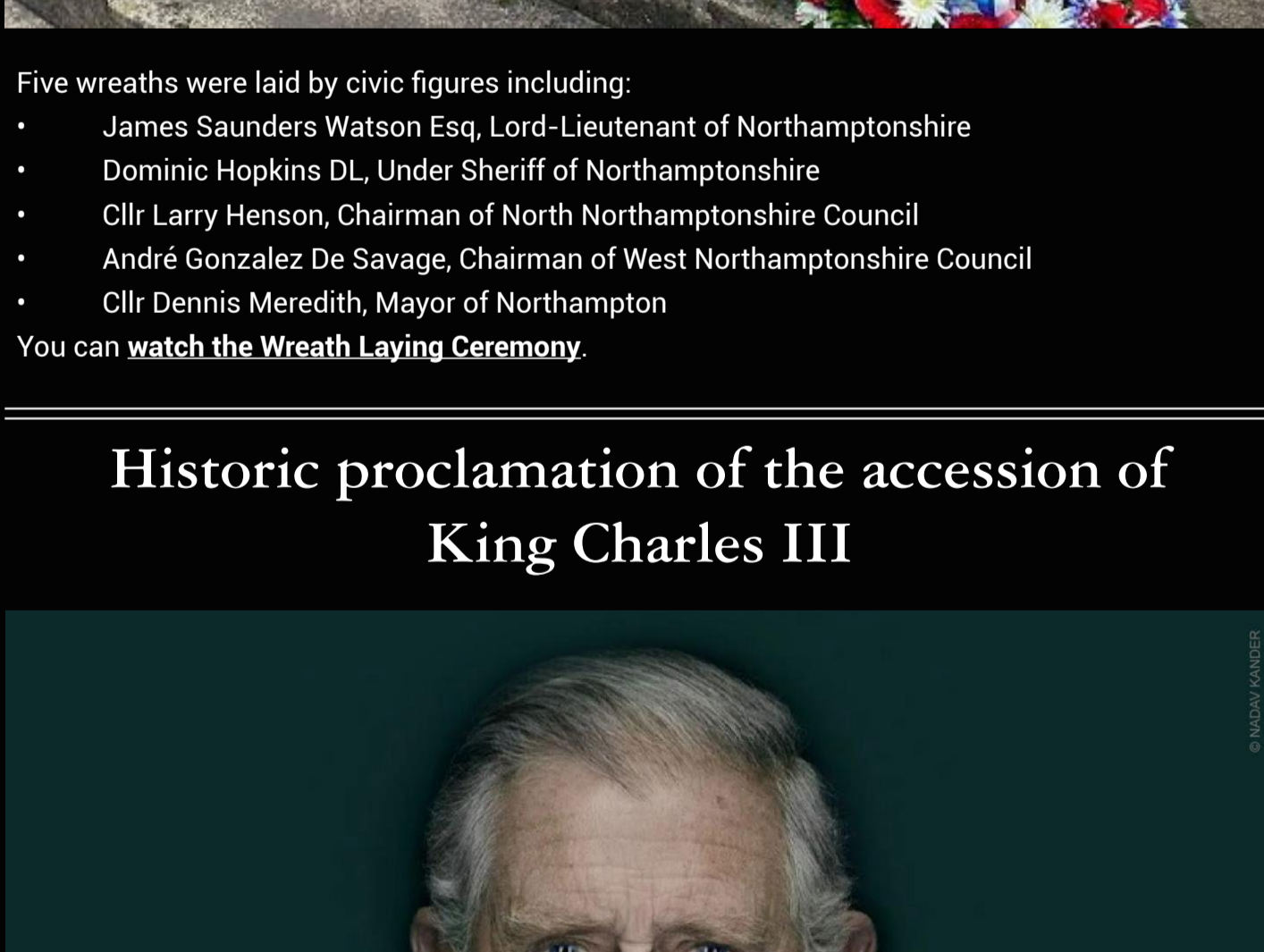


Photo courtesy of the Northants Telegraph

Wellingborough School with headmaster Mr Sugden during royal visit on July 9, 1965

Share a memory

Would you like to share a memory you have of The Queen? Whether it was receiving a Silver Jubilee coin whilst at school, meeting The Queen at a Community Centre or at Buckingham Palace, or something completely different, I would be delighted to hear about it. Please let me know by email at: Leadersupdate@northnorthants.gov.uk

Wellingborough School with headmaster Mr Sugden during royal visit on July 9, 1965



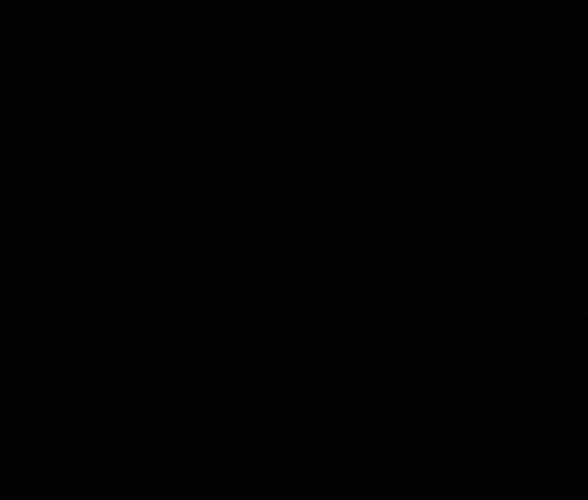
Photo courtesy of the Northants Telegraph

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Books of Condolence

On Friday 9 September, books of condolence opened in North Northamptonshire Council's main office buildings to mark the sad news. The books of condolence are available for everyone to pay their respects. In case you are not aware, the Council's books of condolence are located at the following locations:

- Corby: Main Reception, The Cube, Corby, NN17 1QG
- Kettering: Council Chamber, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX
- Thrapston: Main Reception, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ
- Wellingborough: Main Reception, Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1BP



Opening times for the remaining days before the end of the Period of National Mourning are:

- Friday: 8.30am to 6pm
- Saturday: 10am to 4pm
- Sunday: 10am to 4pm
- Bank Holiday Monday: 1pm to 4pm
- Tuesday: 8.30am to 5pm

Closing of the book of condolence

The books of condolence will be closed at 5pm on Tuesday 20 September, the end of the day after The Queen's funeral. Once closed, the books of condolence will form part of Northamptonshire's archive so that future generations are able to easily gain access to them and find out the way in which this important national event was marked.

Floral Tributes

There are a number of official places where floral tributes can be laid if you wish to do so. North Northamptonshire Council has made the following locations available for floral tributes:

- Corby: Floral tributes lawn area on the lower-level flower terrace closest to the bus shelter at George Street
- Kettering: Floral tributes may be laid on the grass in front of the flagpole on Bowling Green Road
- Thrapston: Floral tributes to be laid by the flagpole at East Northants House
- Wellingborough: Floral tributes to be laid in front of the fountain directly in front of Swanspool House at the corner of London Road and Doddington Road.

Some town and parish councils have also designated a space for floral tributes in their areas. Please check their individual websites and social media channels for details.

What happens to all the flowers when they are removed?

We have been giving this careful thought. We want to treat them with the respect they deserve. We are planning to collect them together and to turn them into compost. This can then be used in a special memorial garden area that we are planning for the Chester House Estate.

Wreaths laid in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On 10 September, wreaths were laid by civic leaders in the Memorial Gardens at All Saints Church in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

- Five wreaths were laid by civic figures including:
- James Saunders Watson Esq, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire
 - Dominic Hopkins DL, Under Sheriff of Northamptonshire
 - Cllr Larry Henson, Chairman of North Northamptonshire Council
 - André Gonzalez De Savage, Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council
 - Cllr Dennis Meredith, Mayor of Northampton
- You can watch the [Wreath Laying Ceremony](#).

Historic proclamation of the accession of King Charles III

On Sunday 11 September, towns and villages across the area, led by their parish and town councils, read the Proclamation of the King.

In Northampton, the county town, I joined others to gather outside All Saints Church for an historic ceremony. The Holy Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Crispin Holbarow DL, formally proclaimed the beginning of King Charles III's reign to the people of Northamptonshire.

It was truly moving to see the number of other towns and villages across Northamptonshire who also read out the local proclamation.

Watch the historic proclamation of the [accession of King Charles III](#) in Northampton.

Local ceremonies in the area over this weekend

Northampton

Those wishing to attend the Service of Remembrance at All Saints Church in Northampton on Sunday 18 September, are advised that they can arrive at any time after 10am and must be seated by 10.40am at the latest. A ceremonial procession will progress from the Judge's Lodgings in George Row, arriving at the church where dignitaries will be guided to their seating ready for the service to start at 11am.

Kettering

Those wishing to attend a ceremony to be held on Sunday 18 September at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Kettering, to commemorate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, are welcome to do so. A sermon will be delivered by Bishop Jonathan, Hon Assistant Bishop of Peterborough. The event will start at 3.30pm and run to approximately 4.30pm. Please arrive by 3.20pm to be seated.

Wellingborough

On Saturday 17 September, representatives of different faiths will come together in memory of Queen Elizabeth II at an invitation only event in Wellingborough. The event is being supported by the Wellingborough District Hindu Association and the Northamptonshire Lieutenantcy for religious and community leaders to offer memorial prayers.

On Sunday 18 September, there will be a public service at All Hallows Church in Wellingborough at 6.00pm. Please arrive 15 minutes early to be seated.

Other ceremonies

There are likely to be lots of other ceremonies taking place across the area over the weekend. It is advised that you check local sources of information such as Facebook groups, and parish and town council websites and notice boards in your local community for further information if you wish to take part.

National Moment of Reflection, Sunday 18 September

The government has announced a **National Moment of Reflection** on Sunday evening at 8.00pm which will include a one-minute silence. This is in addition to the National Two Minute's Silence which will be observed at the end of the State Funeral Service on Monday 19 September at approximately 11.55am.

Are you planning a moment of reflection?

If you are a town or parish council and you are planning to hold a Moment of Reflection event on Sunday 18 September, we have provided the guidance on how to do it below.

A Moment of Reflection on the Eve of the Funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

By 19.55 members of the community will gather at their agreed location.

At 19.58 the convenor of the event will say:

Thank you all for gathering here this evening for this brief vigil on the eve of the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In a few moments we will join with people across the United Kingdom in a Moment of Silent Reflection. The start and end of the Minute here will be marked by a whistle. During the Minute we will have an opportunity, in silence, to reflect on the lifetime of service which Her late Majesty devoted to the United Kingdom, the Realms and Territories and to the Commonwealth.

The Queen was sure in her faith and steadfast in her duty, bringing constancy through 70 years of change. We will remember Her late Majesty with affection and gratitude and silently give thanks in our hearts for her unswerving devotion to us and to our Country.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now approaching 8.00 p.m.

At 20.00 a whistle sounds
Silence will be kept

At 20.01 the whistle marks the end of the Silence
Applause

[In those places where it has not been read, the Proclamation of The King's Accession may be read]

The vigil concludes with all present saying:

God Save The King
and the singing of the National Anthem

State Funeral

The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September and is expected to commence at or around 11am. Prior to the State Funeral, The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects.

You will have no doubt seen on the news that queues have both formed and expected to continue. The Government has made information available to anyone thinking of visiting London to **pay their respects in person**. I really would recommend that you read the guidance before you set off if you are planning to make the trip.

Bank Holiday - Monday 19 September 2022

As Monday will be the day of the State Funeral, a Bank Holiday has been declared for the day. The Council will operate in a very similar way to that of other Bank Holidays, continuing to provide its most important services.

We have provided information on our website about the **impact of the bank holiday** on services provided by the Council and its partners operating from its premises.

Closing remarks

I am sure we will all find time in the coming days to remember Her Majesty The Queen in our own way. However you choose to do that, I am sure you will join me in offering our most sincere condolences to her family.

Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council

