



Janet Reuter

January 2020

Here is a full transcript of Queen Elizabeth's Christmas speech 2019

This speech is always shown in Britain by the BBC at 14.00 on Christmas Day



As is tradition, Queen Elizabeth II addressed her people sharing her annual Christmas message. This year I waited with great interest to hear what her Majesty would say, I think much more than any year before.

Her message comes after a year of intense political debate over Brexit, as well as a number of very serious personal events affecting the Royal Family. Both these subjects have caused a great deal of media interest which was very often very negative. To the rest of Europe and maybe throughout the world the Brexit debates have been like a never ending comedy series.

Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh was very much in the news for his reportedly most unsympathetic reaction to a car crash in which a woman and child were involved.

The most recent scandal involving her son Prince Andrew has provided a lot of bad press not helped by a catastrophic TV interview.

The Queen is now 93 and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh who is 98, left hospital on Tuesday after four nights for a "pre-existing condition". This must all be very stressful for them both at their extreme old ages.

However, the Queen, remained very sedate and said "small steps" and not giant leaps bring about the most lasting change.

She also acknowledged that 2019 had been "**quite bumpy**", a mild way of describing the year, and referred to past events rather than current issues.

"As a child, I never imagined that one day a man would walk on the moon. Yet this year we marked the fiftieth anniversary of the famous Apollo 11 mission. As those historic pictures were beamed back to earth, millions of us sat transfixed to our television screens, as we watched Neil Armstrong taking a small step for man and a giant leap for mankind and, indeed, for womankind. It's a reminder for us all that giant leaps often start with small steps."

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Queen's Speech continued

"This year we marked another important anniversary: D-Day. On 6th June 1944, some one hundred and fifty-six thousand British, Canadian and American forces landed in Northern France. It was the largest ever seaborne invasion and was delayed due to bad weather. I well remember the look of concern on my father's face. He knew the secret D-Day plans but could of course share that burden with no-one.

For the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of that decisive battle, in a true spirit of reconciliation, those who had formerly been sworn enemies came together in friendly commemorations either side of the Channel, putting past differences behind them. Such reconciliation seldom happens overnight. It takes patience and time to rebuild trust, and progress often comes through small steps. Since the end of the Second World War, many charities, groups and organisations have worked to promote peace and unity around the world, bringing together those who have been on opposing sides. By being willing to put past differences behind us and move forward together, we honour the freedom and democracy once won for us at so great a cost.

The challenges many people face today may be different to those once faced by my generation, but I have been struck by how new generations have brought a similar sense of purpose to issues such as protecting our environment and our climate.

My family and I are also inspired by the men and women of our emergency services and Armed Forces; and at Christmas we remember all those on duty at home and abroad, who are helping those in need and keeping us and our families safe and secure.

Two hundred years on from the birth of my great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria, Prince Philip and I have been delighted to welcome our eighth great grandchild into our family. Of course, at the heart of the Christmas story lies the birth of a child: a seemingly small and insignificant step overlooked by many in Bethlehem. But in time, through his teaching and by his example, Jesus Christ would show the world how small steps taken in faith and in hope can overcome long-held differences and deep-seated divisions to bring harmony and understanding. Many of us already try to follow in his footsteps. The path, of course, is not always smooth, and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy, but small steps can make a world of difference.

As Christmas dawned, church congregations around the world joined in singing '**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**'. Like many timeless carols, it speaks not just of the coming of Jesus Christ into a divided world, many years ago, but also of the relevance, even today, of the angels' message of peace and goodwill.

It's a timely reminder of what positive things can be achieved when people set aside past differences and come together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation. And, as we all look forward to the start of a new decade, it's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.

And so, I wish you all a very happy Christmas."

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"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", is a 1849 poem and Christmas carol written by **Edmund Sears** (1810-1876), pastor of the Unitarian Church in Wayland Massachusetts, USA. Sears wrote a number of theological works influencing the liberal Protestant movement of the 19th century. He originally wrote this poem as a melancholy reflection of troubled times in which he lived. Poverty, war and generally a lot of human suffering. It was only later that it was adapted as a Christmas carol and set to the music of a traditional English song by Arthur Sullivan.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing!

Still through the cloven skies they came
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er it's Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long,
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

All ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look, now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing !

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„Ring Out Wild Bells“ is a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

For centuries, shortly before midnight on New Year's Eve campanologists have made their way towards many of Britain's parish churches where, on the stroke of midnight, they begin the ancient ritual of ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. The sentiments expressed in Tennyson's poem written in 1850 **Ring Out, Wild Bells** still have a meaning almost two hundred years after it was first published. The poem speaks of bringing relief from grief, about casting aside everything that was sad and bad about the year that has passed, and makes fervent wishes that the better aspects of human nature will emerge in the future. Isn't that what most people hope for when the New Year brings a symbolic opportunity for a new beginning ?

Happy New Year

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

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News about and for the English ladies



Danny (Danniel Mays) is a music executive who travels to Cornwall on a stag weekend with a bunch of his shallow London music PR mates, joining in with their pointless activities just to soothe his secret loneliness and he's pranked by them into offering to sign the local sea shanty singers, led by Jim (James Purefoy). But of course something in the music speaks to Danny's romantic soul and he starts to fall in love with Jim's single-mum daughter Alwyn (Tuppence Middleton) and he makes it his mission to bring the Fisherman's Friends and

their music to the world. **Corny** it may be but this gentle, sweet-natured comedy has warmth and is helped by big-hearted performances from a cast including Daniel Mays and Tuppence Middleton. It's inspired by the true story of the Fisherman's Friends, an all-male a-capella folk singing group from Port Isaac in Cornwall who in the nineties became an unexpected hit for their authentic sea shanties. It was filmed on location in Port Isaac and it is more than worth seeing just to enjoy the scenes in this beautiful small Cornish fishing village minus tourists which is of course never the case! Coming to cinemas here soon.

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Live performances from around the world:

Sleeping Beauty by the Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House, London shown at Kinopolis Cinema, Sulzbach (16.01.2020).

La Boheme, Royal Opera House, London shown at Kinopolis, Sulzbach (29.01.2020)

Birthdays in January

Brigitte Deutschmann

Evelyn Whone

Happy Birthday Ladies !!

