



Janet Reuter

January 2021

Queen Elizabeth II Christmas Speech 2020



This historic event was waited for with great anticipation at Christmas. This past year has been one of the most difficult in the lives of the current generation. It is a miracle that the people of Britain still have the Queen who really looked so remarkably well and spoke with such clearness at the age of 94. Incredible!

Queen Elizabeth II praised her nation for 'rising magnificently' to the challenges of 2020. Her Christmas message singles out young people for special praise, and speaks of **'hope in the new dawn'**. The Queen spoke of her great pride in the "quiet, indomitable" spirit of those who have "risen magnificently" to the challenges of 2020 in a Christmas speech that stressed: **"We need life to go on."** In her message capturing the extreme changes in life visited on the nation and the world through the "difficult and unpredictable" times of pandemic, she said, "Remarkably, a year that has necessarily kept people apart has, in many ways, brought us closer."

But she also spoke directly to those for whom "this time of year will be tinged with sadness: some mourning the loss of those dear to them, and others missing friends and family members distanced for safety, when all they'd really want for Christmas is a simple hug or a squeeze of the hand."

The Queen is safely sheltered at Windsor Castle with the Duke of Edinburgh, and separated from the rest of her own family who normally spend Christmas together at Sandringham, the Queen told those suffering loneliness or loss: "You are not alone, and let me assure you of my thoughts and prayers."

The broadcast was pre-recorded in the Green Drawing Room at Windsor Castle, and followed medical advice, with the three BBC camera crew allowed in to the room observing distance protocols. A photograph of Prince Philip was placed prominently on the Queen's desk. The couple celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary in November. This is also remarkable! So many years together!

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Queen's Speech continued

Britain is a multi racial society with different cultural and religious groups, many who originated from the countries of the Commonwealth. The Queen although stressing her Christian faith always refers to the other groups in British society.

The pandemic she said had seen people of all faiths “unable to gather as they would wish for their festivals, such as Passover, Easter, Eid and Vaisakhi. But we need life to go on,” the Queen said. She and her family had been inspired by stories of those volunteering in their communities. “In the United Kingdom and around the world, people have risen magnificently to the challenges of the year, and I am so proud and moved by this quiet indomitable spirit. To our young people in particular I say thank you for the part you have played.”

There was also a special mention for nursing staff who, like the nursing pioneers Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, had “shone a light of hope across the world,” she said. The nation owed a “debt of gratitude” to the frontline staff that “still shine that lamp for us – supported by the amazing achievements of modern science,” she added.

“We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that – even on the darkest nights – there is hope in the new dawn.”

Speaking about her own Christian faith, she referenced the parable of the Good Samaritan as a “wonderful story of kindness” still relevant today, and witnessed in those who had emerged across society “showing care and respect for all, regardless of gender, race or background.”

She had found personal inspiration, too, in the centenary commemorations of the Unknown Warrior, who as a symbol of “selfless duty and ultimate sacrifice” was, for her, a “source of enduring hope in difficult and unpredictable times”.

She concluded her message with a reference to the birth of Jesus, and the star guiding the shepherds and wise men. “Let the light of Christmas – the spirit of selflessness, love and above all hope – guide us in the times ahead,” she said.



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Queen Speech 2020 (continued)

A number of images from the **Hold Still** photographic exhibition, headed by the **Duchess of Cambridge**, were featured. These photos show people in all sorts of situations who are coping with and helping so much at this time of crisis.



They included those of **Captain Sir Tom Moore** who raised almost **£40m** for **NHS** charities by walking laps of his garden ahead of his **100th** birthday, and **five** year old **Tony Hudgell** who walked **10km** on prosthetic legs to raise more than **£1m** for the **Evelina London Children's** hospital.



Now known throughout Britain as the “courageous boy”, five-year-old Tony Hudgell actually raised over **£1.85 million** for the hospital by walking 10 kilometres on his prosthetic legs. Inspired by 100-year-old Captain Tom who walked one hundred times around his garden to raise money for the NHS, Hudgell wanted to raise money for the hospital that had saved his life. According to the online fundraiser page, the five-year-old suffered from ‘horrific abuse’ by his birth parents that resulted in both his legs being amputated in 2017. How horrible is this!!!!

However, despite his tragic past, Hudgell remained a confident boy who ‘loves life’. After watching Captain Tom on the television who walked with the help of his walking frame, the five-year-old, who had just recently learnt to walk on his ‘new legs’ with crutches took on the challenge to walk 10 kilometres to raise money. Evelina is the same hospital that has treated Hudgell throughout the years. His adoptive mother Paula Hudgell said that he received the prosthetic limbs in February. Since then, from learning to walk at all is he covering hundreds of metres every day. The five-year-old has inspired millions on social media including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Captain Tom and Tony Hudgell although separated by many years of age are truly in my opinion the real heroes of 2020!

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Queens Speech (continued)

The chart-topping **Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir** performed the carol **Joy to the World**, from **St. George's Chapel Windsor Castle**, which I visited with my ladies some years ago, at the end of the speech. This choir has given joy to so many people throughout the year.

As always The Queen chose her brooch very carefully for the occasion and wore a diamond and mother of pearl shell brooch for the broadcast, which was designed by **Lord Courtauld-Thomson** in **1919** and left to the **Queen Mother** in **1944** by his sister. The Queen Mother wore it throughout her lifetime, including on her **100th** birthday, and the Queen wore it on her diamond jubilee.

And here is: **The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 2020**

Every year we herald the coming of Christmas by turning on the lights. And light does more than create a festive mood —light brings hope.

For Christians, Jesus is 'the light of the world', but we can't celebrate his birth today in quite the usual way. People of all faiths have been unable to gather as they would wish for their festivals, such as Passover, Easter, Eid, and Vaisakhi. But we need life to go on. Last month, fireworks lit up the sky around Windsor, as Hindus, Sikhs and Jains celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights, providing joyous moments of hope and unity — despite social distancing.

Remarkably, a year that has necessarily kept people apart has, in many ways, brought us closer. Across the Commonwealth, my family and I have been inspired by stories of people volunteering in their communities, helping those in need.

In the United Kingdom and around the world, people have risen magnificently to the challenges of the year, and I am so proud and moved by this quiet, indomitable spirit. To our young people in particular I say thank you for the part you have played.

This year, we celebrated International Nurses' Day, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. As with other nursing pioneers like Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale shone a lamp of hope across the world.

Today, our front-line services still shine that lamp for us - supported by the amazing achievements of modern science - and we owe them a debt of gratitude. We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that - even on the darkest nights - there is hope in the new dawn.

Jesus touched on this with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The man who is robbed and left at the roadside is saved by someone who did not share his religion or culture. This wonderful story of kindness is still as relevant today. Good Samaritans have emerged across society showing care and respect for all, regardless of gender, race or background, reminding us that each one of us is special and equal in the eyes of God.

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Queens Speech (continued)

The teachings of Christ have served as my inner light, as has the sense of purpose we can find in coming together to worship.

In November, we commemorated another hero – though nobody knows his name. The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior isn't a large memorial, but everyone entering Westminster Abbey has to walk around his resting place, honouring this unnamed combatant of the First World War — a symbol of selfless duty and ultimate sacrifice. The Unknown Warrior was not exceptional. That's the point. He represents millions like him who throughout our history have put the lives of others above their own, and will be doing so today. For me, this is a source of enduring hope in difficult and unpredictable times.

Of course, for many, this time of year will be tinged with sadness: some mourning the loss of those dear to them, and others missing friends and family-members distanced for safety, when all they'd really want for Christmas is a simple hug or a squeeze of the hand. If you are among them, you are not alone, and let me assure you of my thoughts and prayers.

The Bible tells how a star appeared in the sky, its light guiding the shepherds and wise men to the scene of Jesus's birth. Let the light of Christmas — the spirit of selflessness, love and above all hope — guide us in the times ahead.

It is in that spirit that I wish you a very happy Christmas and a great 2021.

It is also in this spirit that I want to thank you all for your Christmas messages, cards and presents. 2020 was a difficult year but we managed to stay together for a lot of the time with distance or with Skype.

Let us hope that we can continue to do so in 2021.

We must try to stay healthy, optimistic and keep our SENSE OF HUMOR

Happy New Year!

[News about and for the English ladies](#)

Birthdays in January

Brigitte Deutschmann

Evelyn Whone

Happy Birthday Ladies !!

