

Do Great Things for God

# Queen Elizabeth II



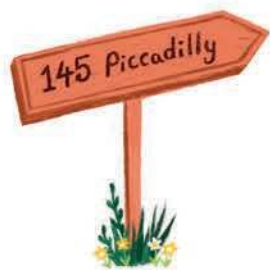
*The Queen Who Chose to Serve*

Alison Mitchell

Illustrated by Emma Randall



When Princess Elizabeth was born, nobody thought she would become queen!



Growing up with her sister, Margaret, she lived in a big house, but it wasn't a palace.

Elizabeth loved animals. She played with her father's corgis and was given her first horse, a Shetland pony named Peggy, when she was four.



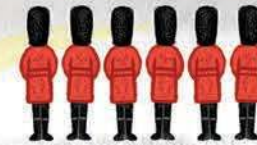
It was a happy way to grow up. But then, when she was ten, everything changed...



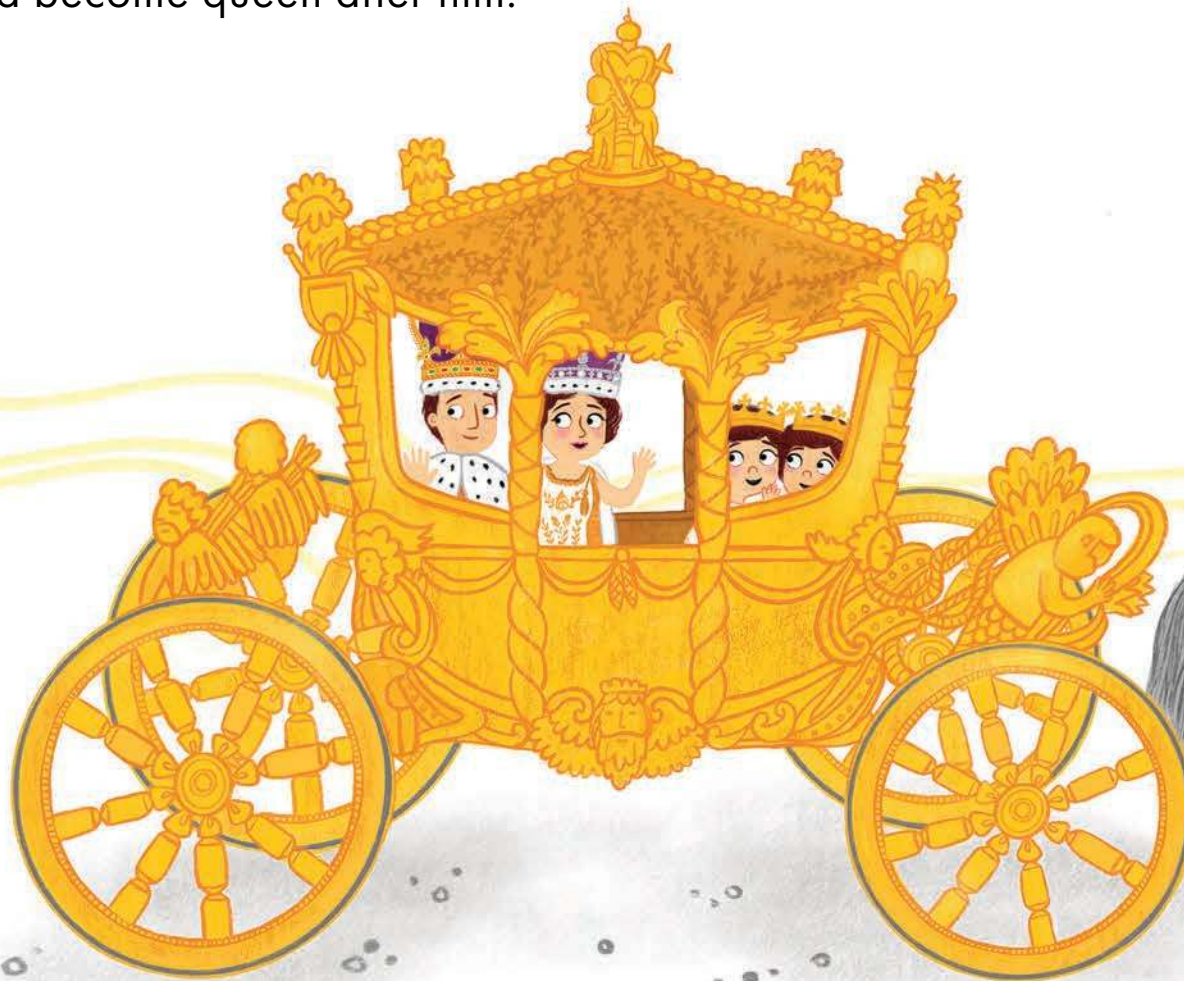


Elizabeth's uncle, King Edward VIII, decided he didn't want to be king anymore.  
The whole country was astonished!

Suddenly Elizabeth's father was the king — King George VI — and Elizabeth knew she would become queen after him.

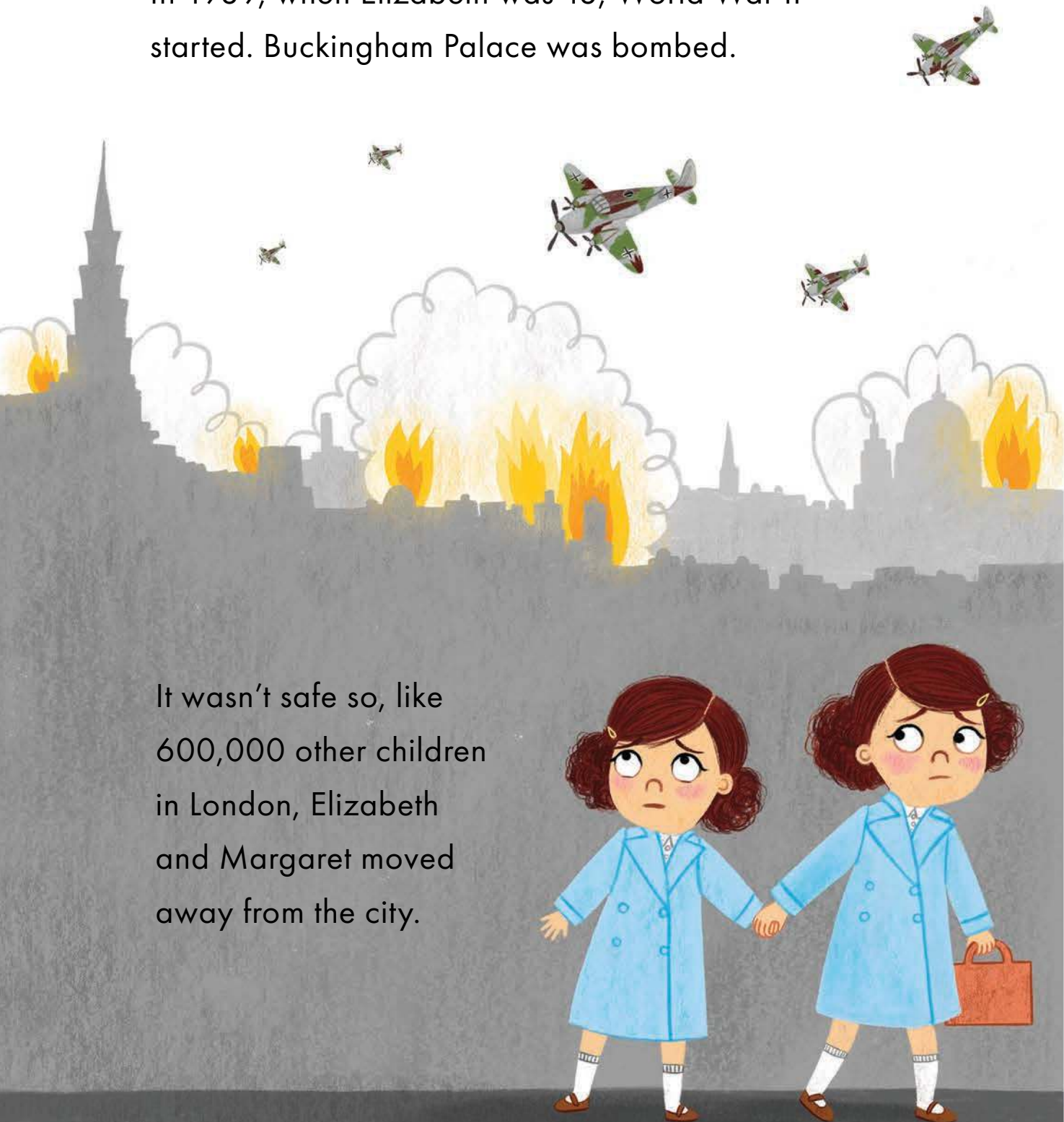


And now they did live in a palace — Buckingham Palace in the middle of London.





In 1939, when Elizabeth was 13, World War II started. Buckingham Palace was bombed.



It wasn't safe so, like 600,000 other children in London, Elizabeth and Margaret moved away from the city.

Princess Elizabeth knew how scared many children must be, so in 1940 she gave her first public talk, on the BBC's *Children's Hour* on the radio.



"God will care for us," she said.



When she was 18, Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, where she trained to be a driver and mechanic. That was such a surprising thing for the future queen to do that the British newspapers called her

**“Princess Auto Mechanic”.**



When the war finished, Elizabeth and Margaret wanted to join in with the celebrations in London, so they slipped out of the palace to join the crowds. Elizabeth pulled her cap down low — and no one recognised them!



In 1947, Elizabeth married Philip. They were visiting Kenya a few years later when everything changed again. Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died — so, aged 25, Elizabeth was queen!



On 2nd June 1953, Elizabeth was crowned. There were over 8,000 guests at the service, and huge crowds lined the streets as she went past.

Elizabeth was given the crown jewels to wear. But they weren't the most precious thing she was given. At one point in the service she was given "the most valuable thing that this world affords\*".



What was it? A Bible — God's word.

\*"affords" means "gives"



Elizabeth was not just the queen of the UK.  
She was also the head of over 50 other countries.  
In the past, many of these nations had been part of  
the British Empire. These countries are now part of the  
Commonwealth of Nations, and the queen is its head.



The Commonwealth is very special to Elizabeth.  
She has visited almost all of the countries.



As well as visiting a lot of countries, the queen has met a lot of people.



John F. Kennedy



Margaret Thatcher



Winston Churchill



The Beatles



Kwame Nkrumah

She also knew the Bible teachers Billy Graham and John Stott.



Barack Obama



Tanni Grey-Thompson



David Beckham



The Spice Girls



Boris Johnson

She has met 14 British prime ministers and 13 American presidents — as well as pop stars, athletes and actors from across the world.

But Elizabeth has met even more people who weren't famous at all...



During her life, the queen has been “patron” of over 600 charities and organisations. Just as Elizabeth loves to serve others, so do the thousands of people she has met who are part of these charities.



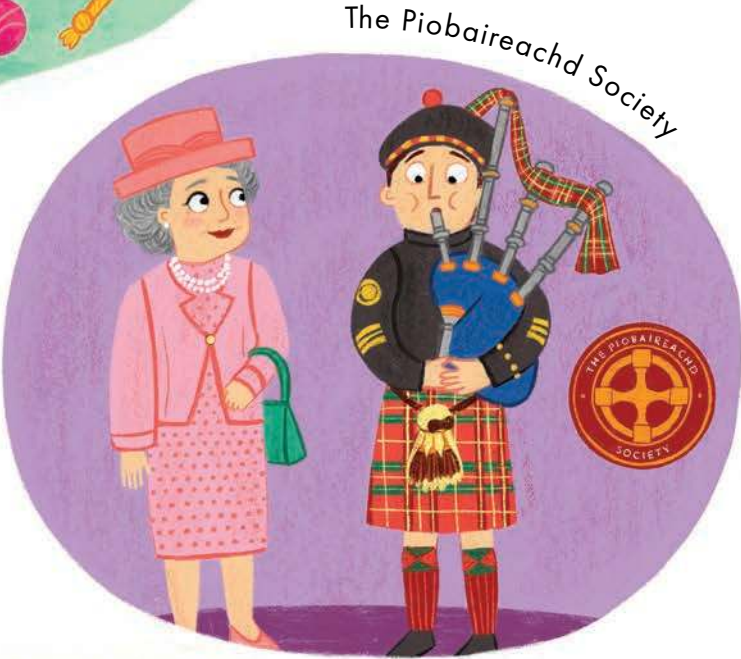
Cancer Research UK



Girlguiding and Scout Association



Battersea Dogs and Cats Home



The Piobaireachd Society



The National Horse Racing Museum



The Bible Society

Scripture Union



Being a queen must be wonderful in lots of ways, but it can also be hard. Queen Elizabeth is watched everywhere she goes, and people write all kinds of things about her and her family.



In 1992, so many hard things happened that Elizabeth called it her “annus horribilis”, which is Latin for “horrible year”. Her grown-up children were going through lots of difficulties. And there was a huge fire at her home in Windsor Castle. Over 100 rooms were destroyed.



But whether it's been a good year or a bad year,  
there is one thing that the queen has always done.  
Every Christmas Day, at 3pm, she has given a speech,  
and millions and millions of people in the UK and  
Commonwealth have turned their TVs on to watch.



Queen Elizabeth gave her first Christmas message in  
1952. She sat in the same chair that her father, King  
George VI, and grandfather, King George V, had used.

"Pray for me," she said, "... that God may give  
me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn  
promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully  
serve him and you, all the days of my life".





The queen has often talked about her Christian faith in her Christmas messages. Here are some of the things she has said:



"I rely on my faith to guide me ... I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right ... to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God." (2002)



"God sent into the world a unique person — neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) — but a Saviour, with the power to forgive." (2011)



"This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only Son 'to serve, not to be served'." (2012, quoting Mark 10 v 45)



"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life." (2014)



In 2015, the princess who never expected to be queen became the longest-ruling British queen or king, ever.

For Queen Elizabeth, Jesus Christ has been her "Saviour" and her "anchor". She has chosen to serve him all of her life.





# Queen Elizabeth II

**1926** Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born on the 21st of April. Although her grandfather was King George V, her father was the king's younger son, meaning Elizabeth was never expected to become queen.

**1936** Elizabeth's uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated. Suddenly, Elizabeth's father became King George VI.

**1939** When Elizabeth was 13, World War II broke out. In 1940, Buckingham Palace was bombed, so Elizabeth and her sister, Margaret, were evacuated from London. Their parents stayed in Buckingham Palace to show solidarity with those living through the London Blitz.

**1944** Elizabeth joined the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) when she turned 18. She trained to be a driver and mechanic.

**1947** Elizabeth married Prince Philip on the 20th of November. They lived in Malta for two years while Philip served as an officer in the Royal Navy.

**1952** King George VI died on the 6th of February, and Elizabeth became queen. Her coronation on the 2nd of June 1953 was attended by 8,000 guests, with crowds of 3 million