



MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 13th June 2016

Our Queen and Our Community

On Sunday, 12th June, Marlborough marked the Queen's 90th birthday at a well-attended Civic Service at St Mary's Church followed by celebrations at the Town Hall. It was all arranged between Churches Together and the Town Council with a focus on the Queen as well as reflecting on how the town has changed during those 90 years. Lots of local community groups went along as well as the Mayor, his fellow Councillors, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Richard Handover, CBE and Town Mayors from across the county.

A recording of the speech by the then Princess Elizabeth on her birthday on 21st April 1947 was played and the sermon, delivered by Team Curate, Dr Janneke Blokland, focused on the importance of how the Church, Town Council and local community are dedicated to working for the benefit of Marlborough.

Special gifts were given to two members of the congregation, Vinnie Harris and Bill Soames who, like the Queen, are celebrating their 90th birthdays this year. Representatives from various groups were presented with a special commemorative booklet – *The Servant Queen*.

Afterwards the whole congregation moved across to a bunting clad Town Hall for a glass of Bucks Fizz and a royal cupcake where new Town Cryer, Mike Tupman, MBE asked everyone to raise a glass with three cheers for the Queen. Then the Mayor wielding a telescopic selfie stick took a selfie to commemorate the occasion. As many people as possible squeezed behind him to create this modern memory.

Mayor, Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton, said: "This has been a fantastic event and the Town Council and Churches Together have worked hard to make it a success. Our thanks go to all those who helped and especially to those who came along to help mark this special celebration for a very special lady, Her Majesty the Queen."

During the event, everyone had a chance to look round a small exhibition of Marlborough memories with newspaper clippings, old photographs, Church Registers and the old Council Minute Books from 1926, 1953 and 1977 – all significant royal dates. Running on the screen throughout was film footage of Queen Elizabeth's life – as a small child, her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh, the 1953 Coronation, her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee years and more. Everyone was able to take away a copy of *The Servant Queen*.

For more information, please contact the Town Clerk, Mrs Shelley Parker, at
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