

Kirchenamt

Kirchenamt der EKD • Postfach 21 02 20 • 30402 Hannover

09.09.2022

The Most Reverend & Right Honourable
Dr Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury
Lambeth Palace

Unser Zeichen:
AZ: 5115B/5.

The Most Reverend & Right Honourable
Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York
Bishopthorpe Palace

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In copy:
The Right Reverend
Dr Jonathan Gibbs
Bishop of Huddersfield
Co-Chair of the Meissen Commission

by e-mail

Your Eminence,
Dear Archbishop Justin Welby,

Your Eminence,
Dear Archbishop Stephen Cottrell,

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. –
1. Cor. 15, 57*

On behalf of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) and the Meissen
Commission we would like to express our condolences to the Church of
England and the people of Great Britain on the death of Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II.

This very year we have gratefully and with great respect and appreciation
observed the platinum jubilee of Her Late Majesty's accession to the

throne also in Germany and as the Protestant Church in Germany. She has devoted her long life to the service of her task as Queen. This has also earned her a great deal of sympathy and trust in Germany. We join you in thanking God for what has been achieved through her in your country and your Church.

At the Synod of the Church of England 2021, in the time of the Corona pandemic, she spoke how during the difficult times of the last few years the Gospel of Christ has brought hope, as it has done throughout the ages. The Gospel, her faith, has sustained her. And in this faith and confidence she has encouraged people, has herself brought hope. Her television address to the British public in the midst of the Corona pandemic was also seen in Germany and was perceived as an encouragement beyond Great Britain.

Queen Elizabeth II became Queen a few years after the end of the Second World War and the devastating crimes that emanated from Germany. We thank her that reconciliation was able to take place and that Germany was once again accepted into the community of nations in Europe. During her visits to Germany, she was always greeted and accompanied with a great deal of affection and also enthusiasm.

Her Late Majesty was Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and your Church was a perceptibly real and important concern to her. In her addresses to your Synod, she also spoke up for the ecumenical life of the churches, which we together in the Meissen Commission cultivate and strive to advance.

Together with you, we are united in trusting that death does not have the last word, but that Christ has overcome death. We trust that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is also now, as in her earthly life, safe and secure in God and his love. We wish the Royal family to find comfort in this assurance. And we wish that the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II. continues to work and bear fruit in the Church of England.

With warmest regards and in deep communion



Ralf Meister
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover
Co-Chair of the Meissen Commission