

Platinum Jubilee reception

Guildhall Art Gallery

Friday 3rd June 2022

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London

Alderman Vincent Keaveny

Your Royal Highnesses, your Excellencies, my Lords, ladies and gentlemen...

As Lord Mayor of London, I am delighted and extremely honoured to welcome you all to Guildhall to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The City of London Corporation has had the privilege of hosting numerous royal events over our history – indeed, Her Majesty the Queen came here for a banquet to celebrate her coronation in the Great Hall.

So I hope you will feel very much at home here.

I am the 693rd Lord Mayor of London, and the 70th Lord Mayor of Her Majesty's reign.

It is not often I get to do something truly unique, but this is.

I feel very fortunate to be Lord Mayor at the time of this extraordinary celebration – a Platinum Jubilee; not so much a once-in-a-lifetime as a once-in-our-history occasion.

When Great Paul, the largest church bell in the country, rang out at St Paul's Cathedral earlier, it marked a special moment not only in the life of the Queen but in the life of this nation.

Her Majesty has been a Freeman of the City for 75 years, and we are very grateful for her support – and the support of the whole Royal Family – for the City of London.

But most of all, we are immensely grateful for her 70 years of service to the United Kingdom and to the Commonwealth.

She has been a great example of duty and public service for all of us.

She is one of the most widely recognised and respected people in the world.

And for seventy years she has provided continuity, stability and unity.

There could be no better ambassador for this country and for the Commonwealth.

All of us here are very grateful for the service she has given and the way she has served as head of state – with dignity, devotion and deeply rooted faith.

Your Royal Highness, please do convey our deepest thanks and best wishes.

I hope you all enjoy the reception, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the happy and glorious celebrations this weekend – from coronation chicken to Platinum Pudding.

God save the Queen!