

And
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FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S APPROBATION
AND SIGNATURE IF APPROVED

Your Majesty's letter to the General Assembly
Of the Church of Scotland to be read at the opening
Of the Assembly on 21st May 2022

A. O. Stupe
11 May 2022

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Elizabeth R". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the "R" across the page.

Right Reverend and Well Beloved, We Greet You Well.

We gladly renew on this Occasion Our pledge to preserve and uphold the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. In doing so, We acknowledge, with Gratitude to Almighty God, the Church's steadfast witness to the Christian faith and its services to our people in Scotland and in many lands overseas.

We are aware that throughout the last year the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to be a burden. It is good to hear how Scotland's churches and people of other faiths have been drawn together as they have faced the shared challenge of sustaining their own communities while continuing to care for their neighbours in need. We welcome too the strengthening of relationships between people of faith and those in local and national government.

We know that the Church of Scotland engaged closely with debate engendered by the meeting of COP26 in Glasgow and we are particularly conscious that the Church is seeking to play its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as a demonstration of your Christian concern for God's creation.

We continue to pray for the leadership of the Church as they consider the future of parish life, and make decisions regarding buildings and congregations. We ask for all those who carry these responsibilities the

gifts of wisdom and compassion as they seek to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit while bearing in mind the concerns of church members.

The tragic loss of life and the scattering of refugees as a result of the war in Ukraine has caused much distress. It is encouraging to know that the Church of Scotland has been able to offer support through raising funds and providing a welcome to the stranger. We all hope that peace will be restored and we continue to uphold in prayer those who are putting into practice the love which is at the heart of the Gospel.

May your faith and courage be strengthened in your deliberations during the week ahead and through the times to come. As We are unable in Our Own Person to be present at your Assembly this year, We have chosen Our Right Trusty and Well Beloved Counsellor, The Right Honourable Lord Hodge, to be Our representative being assured that Our choice will meet with your approval.

And so, praying that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace
this seventeenth day of May 2022
in the seventy-first year of Our Reign.

BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND

Neil Byrne
18 May 2022