

THE FREE CHURCHES

including

THE GENERAL BODY OF PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS OF THE THREE DENOMINATIONS, Presbyterian, Independent and Baptist:

THE BODY OF PROTESTANT DISSENTING MINISTERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN DENOMINATION:

THE DISSENTING DEPUTIES representing the Laymen of the Three Denominations:

THE FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL, including representatives of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church denominations.

To The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your Majesty's dutiful subjects representing the Free Churches, humbly assure Your Majesty of the continued loyalty of the members of the Free Churches to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We have observed with gratitude and, we respectfully add, with admiration the lively interest displayed by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales in a wide range of national activities, the selfless exertions by which His Royal Highness pursues those interests, and the constant readiness of His Royal Highness to participate by all means at his disposal, including frequent appearance on television, both in the work and in the leisure of Your Majesty's people.

We therefore heard with joy the announcement of the betrothal of His Royal Highness and the Lady Diana Spencer, the daughter of a noble house conspicuous for service to the State and in particular for a notable part in the development of the Parliamentary and democratic institutions of Your Majesty's realm.

We humbly offer to Your Majesty and to Your Majesty's Royal Consort, The Duke of Edinburgh, our heartfelt congratulations upon the marriage of His Royal Highness. We pray that Almighty God may grant to His Royal Highness and his bride the Divine gifts of lifelong happiness and Grace sufficient for their peculiar responsibility in the life of this Nation and Commonwealth.

We assure Your Majesty of our prayers that the blessing of God, our Heavenly Father may rest upon Your Majesty, upon His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and upon all the members of Your family.

For the General Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations:

Douglas C. Sparkes, Chairman.
D. M. Main, Secretary.

For the Body of Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Presbyterian Denomination: in and about the Cities of London and Westminster:

Kenneth Twinn, Chairman.
James McClelland, Secretary.

For the Dissenting Deputies of the Three Denominations:

J. G. Le Quesne, Chairman.
D. M. Main, Secretary.

For the Free Church Federal Council:

W. Morris S. West, Moderator.
Richard J. Hamper, General Secretary.

T. F. Wilson, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

John A. Newton, President of the Methodist Conference.

Martin H. Cressey, Moderator of the United Reformed Church.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:

The Duke of Edinburgh and I are very happy to receive the congratulations of the Free Churches upon the approaching marriage of The Prince of Wales and the Lady Diana Spencer. We deeply appreciate the generosity of your tribute to our dear son and pray wholeheartedly with you that he and his future wife will be bestowed by God with lifelong happiness.

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THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

May it please The Queen,

As representatives of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, we wish to offer our good wishes on the occasion of the engagement of The Prince of Wales and the Lady Diana Spencer.

We welcome the start of a new marriage, and are grateful for the example You and Your husband have given of a sustaining, loving partnership in a world of changing values. You have emphasised the need to extend the concept of family beyond the immediate circle of relatives, and we share with You this sense of involvement with all people.

All parents hope that succeeding generations will inherit a more peaceful world. But dependence on armaments and the risk of nuclear war threaten its very existence. Great inequalities in the distribution of resources create hunger, poverty, anger and despair. At home community tensions deepen and unemployment undervalues so many people. These things challenge us to work for greater justice and equity, without which true peace cannot exist. We believe that the human spirit which is responsive to the leadings of God can discover new hope even in the most difficult circumstances and can inspire creative action.

Throughout their lives, Your son and his wife will have an important contribution to make.

Already The Prince of Wales has travelled widely and come to know personally many parts of the world family. He has shown awareness of the contribution that appropriate technology can offer, and much concern for the needs of young people. The Lady Diana has knowledge of the stability and stimulation needed for the well-being and development of children.

It is our hope that out of the strength and happiness of an abiding love and commitment, they will be led to encourage imaginatively the ways of peace; continue to be courageous in testifying to the rightness of a proper sharing of the world's resources; and that at all times they will seek the will of God for all humanity.

We pray that God's blessing may rest upon them both.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting for Sufferings, the standing representative committee of the Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain:

Christopher B. Jennings, Clerk

July 1981.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:

I thank the Religious Society of Friends for their good wishes on the occasion of the engagement of The Prince of Wales.

I am most grateful for your kind references to my husband and myself. We share your prayers that with God's blessing, the marriage of our dear son and the Lady Diana Spencer will like ours, be a very happy one and support them in their future work.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

To The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty

Most Gracious Sovereign,

May it please Your Majesty,

We, The Chancellor, Court, Senate, Teachers, Graduates and Students of the University of London, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, widely drawn from the length and breadth of Your Realm, beg leave to express to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh our heartfelt congratulations on the betrothal and approaching marriage of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to the Lady Diana Spencer.

Our joy and pleasure at this news is compounded by its coincidence in time with the election of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne as our Chancellor, in succession to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, so greatly beloved throughout the University, who has brought so much happiness to us all by Her gracious fulfilment of the duties of that office. We look forward to similar good fortune under the guidance of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.

We note with pride that His Royal Highness The Prince Charles honoured us by accepting the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from this University in 1974, thus strengthening our treasured link with Your Illustrious House. The more, therefore, do we share the universal