

## The Loyal Address by Reverend Michael Heaney, Moderator of the Free Churches Group

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

As representatives of the Free Churches, including the bodies of protestant dissenters enjoying the ancient and highly valued privilege of personal access to the Sovereign, we offer Your Majesty our loyal congratulations on the 60th anniversary of your succession to the Throne. We thank God that we have a Christian monarch and express our profound gratitude for your constancy and your unstinted service to the people of this realm and of the whole Commonwealth.

At this time we thank Your Majesty for your Accession Day message: we do indeed feel the power of togetherness and rejoice in the strength of family, friends and good neighbourliness. Ours are mostly gathered churches, experiencing friendship and care among ourselves, but at the same time seeking to be good neighbours in the way that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us by word and example – seeking to share his love in our rich and increasingly diverse society. We also give thanks for the growing depth of love and understanding that exists between the many different Christian denominations within your realm.

We are glad to have taken part in the mutual support and commitment among believers of every kind in the face of threats and insecurity. We value the liberty we enjoy to worship according to our consciences and the freedom to proclaim the Gospel. We share with others a vigilant concern for the tolerance, freedom and mutual care we have enjoyed in Great Britain throughout the years of your reign.

May the celebration of this Diamond Jubilee be a signal example of this United Kingdom coming together in celebration and an opportunity for many to demonstrate to Your Majesty our appreciation for your service and your encouragement of service of every kind.

May the blessing of almighty God continue to rest upon Her Majesty the Queen.

