

We come together this afternoon following the passing of our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth the Second. Our sadness at this time is shared by people across the globe, as we remember with affection and gratitude the lifetime of service given by our longest-reigning Monarch.

But the basis on which our monarchy is built has ensured that through the centuries the Crown has passed in an unbroken line of succession.

Today's ceremony marks the formal Proclamation to the people of Evesham of the beginning of our new King's reign.

Yesterday the Accession Council met at St. James's Palace to proclaim our new Sovereign. The flags which had flown at half-mast since the Queen's death were raised briefly to their full height to mark the start of His Majesty's reign.

The Accession Council also made an Order requiring High Sheriffs to cause the Proclamation to be read in the areas of their jurisdiction. The High Sheriff of Worcestershire discharged that duty earlier today and now, with my humble duty, I bring the words of the Proclamation to the residents of Evesham.

Ladies and Gentlemen. The Proclamation of the Accession.