

Operation London Bridge Protocol

This protocol sets out the action to be taken in the event of the death of H.M The Queen (codename Operation London Bridge) and shall only be implemented when an official announcement is made by Buckingham Palace.

A 10-day period of state mourning will commence and the State Funeral shall be held at Westminster Abbey on the 10th day; unless this falls on a Sunday in which case the funeral will be on the Monday. The Clerk will be the lead for this protocol in the event of the Royal death, in liaison with the Chairman of Kilmington Parish Council and Wiltshire Council. The following actions will be undertaken to mark the occasion.

Cancellation of meetings/business

Meetings pre-arranged to be held anytime within the 10 days of mourning must be cancelled/rescheduled. Unless falling on a Saturday, the date of the state funeral will be a public holiday and no business should be transacted.

Words of Condolence

From the first day after death, the prepared message from the Chairman and members of the Parish Council will be posted on the Home page Parish Council's website, along with a photograph of the Queen. The same message will be placed on the village noticeboard.

Condolence Book

A Book of Condolence will be opened at St Mary's Church, Kilmington. The church will be open during daylight hours, on each of the 10 days of mourning for parishioners to write their messages of condolence from the first working day after the day of death, until the day after the state funeral has taken place. An external link to the Buckingham Palace e-book of condolence (www.royal.gov.uk) will be made available on our website. This link will be removed at the end of the day following the day of the funeral.

Area for Laying of Floral Tributes

Floral tributes may be laid by the War Memorial; all flowers will be removed the week after the funeral has taken place (or once the flowers have died). Weather conditions will have an effect on the above but decisions will be made giving forethought and sensitivity to the needs of the community.

Flag Flying

On the formal announcement of death, the England flag of St George, will be lowered to half-mast at St Mary's Church until 08.00 hrs on the morning following the funeral.