

Tony Thinking Aloud cxxiv

So often when I go to a funeral of someone who I knew very well, I still find out so much more about them that I did not know from the tribute or reflection of their life.

We did not know the Queen personally, but we do feel we knew her well, so much has been written about her over the years. However, aspects of her life have come to the forefront, and we know her more as a person than just a Monarch now.

Her faith was clearly a very strong part of her life. Like many she was in church every Sunday. Her prayers were wide and embracing I personally learnt a lot from the simple statement made recently about her - 'she prayed a great deal for Northern Ireland'. Her prayers were wide and meaningful.

The Queen made many of the arrangements about her funeral including the choice of hymns. A short reflection on some of the hymns at Westminster Abbey and Saint George's Chapel, Windsor.

'Praise my soul the King of heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring' from her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh as was the 'Crimond' setting of Psalm 23 – 'The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want' - both well known. This hymn and 'The day thou gavest Lord is ended' are hymns of confidence. The day given may have come to an end to us, but all days give birth to another – and 'the day' in the world to come. These hymns are summed up in another she chose, 'Love Divine all loves excelling'.

There were other hymns, but anyone's choice of hymns always makes us think. The Queen thought deeply about the choice of hymns, as all aspects of her prayer. She had confidence in God which is reflected in her choice of hymns.

A faith which she would show and share.... We reflect with her....

May she rest in peace... and rise in glory. Amen