

Views from the Pews: A Tribute to Prince Philip.

He was a refugee who, fortunately for the British, was rescued by his English relations and sent to a school which suited his character. There he ended as Head of School and demonstrated his leadership abilities. From there to the Royal Navy where he excelled. He always ran a “happy ship” and was admired by his ship’s companies.

He was someone who said it as it was and knew when he did not know. He managed his responsibilities with commonsense.

Perhaps one of his best achievements was the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award which gave a new meaning about life to unnumbered young people. Including members of our own congregation who were involved by participation and in management. To attend one of the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties for Award members and their families was a gift in itself, to see the look of pride in their achievements in the faces of the young and their parents and grandparents.

He took on many other leadership roles in military and civilian organisations. Not just as a figurehead but with a very “hands-on” approach.

Our greatest thanks go to him for the love and support that he gave to his first love and wife, Her Majesty the Queen. It cannot have been easy for someone of his forthright character to have been in support. Also, behind the scenes he did much to bring the Monarchy up to date, and like his predecessor Prince Albert made many innovations around the Royal Family’s homes and finances and other interests.

Last but by no means least he was, if the Archbishop of Canterbury is to be believed, a committed and practicing Christian.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

David Bailey

(who knew and met him on several occasions)