

# Persevering in Good Works

*Sir Peter Bottomley MP*

*Worthing Herald Article*

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Her Majesty The Queen's signature followed the words 'your servant' when she wrote at the weekend about the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of her father George VI that made her Queen Elizabeth. The Accession Collect includes the hope that under her this nation may be wisely governed and that she might be persevering in good works all her life. We give thanks that she has. Her ministers have not been as wise at all times.

Another collect mentions us being in the midst of many and great dangers, recognises the frailty of our nature, our inability always to stand upright, while asking for strength and protection in all dangers and help through all temptations.

With many colleagues of most parties represented in parliament, I serve just this year as a vice chair of the all-party group for the Platinum Jubilee. Peers and MPs have contributed to a jubilee memorial of ornate lamps that will be placed between previous jubilee memorials at the north entrance to the Great Hall first built in the 1090s by William II.

The symbolism is the light, leadership and service of The Queen since 1952. Some constituents may like me have filed past the coffin of her father in Westminster Hall. Most will recognise that in her national role and with her special character and example, she has been the focus of so much continuing voluntary service, civil and public service, together with the military services.

What is the opposite of The Queen's example? Take your pick. When I look in the mirror, I see one of 650 imperfect MPs serving the public and the national interest together, while competing vigorously at election time for the greatest possible support, hopefully with good humour and restraint.

The protestors who turned thuggish when David Lammy MP was walking with Sir Keir Starmer should be shamed if they are not ashamed. The truckers who are disrupting Canada's capital Ottawa should have left after making their initial point. We used to have a sensible provision that demonstrations did not take place within about half a mile of the Palace of Westminster.

Extinction Rebellion and its offshoots need to learn in a democracy that sustained interruption to ordinary life will prompt effective action to restore normal life to ordinary people.

This weekend I was at the quiet inspection of unwanted unacceptable house building plans at the horticultural nursery north of the A 259 opposite Ferring. The Conservation Group will remonstrate peacefully by democratic means.

Later in the village hall, I showed the yellow umbrella badge recalling the protests in Hong Kong. I said that when justified protest there turned to violence, they were going too far. I feared they could provoke near total loss of Hong Kong's system, now within China.

Next weekend, I shall be trying to find the Valentine card I intended for Virginia a few years ago. If I try to hide something from her, I do it so successfully that I fail to find it myself.

Earlier this week, I thanked neighbour Andrew Griffith for heading the No 10 Policy Unit. I trust him. On Monday on health and hospital care, I said it was not an unusual day, in that a constituent wrote saying she had nothing but praise for the hospital treatment she was getting. The double impact of Covid on patients and staff have extended waiting times but not to the crisis levels of the late 1990s.

Dentistry is in crisis. In an evening debate I quoted the serious articles in the Worthing Herald and the Littlehampton Gazette stating that finding a dentist was like searching for the haystack needle. I asked for cooperation with the British Dental Association.

I sign as your servant, Peter Bottomley.