

Distinguished Guests, Councillors, Ladies and Gentleman,

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 Wotton Under Edge of the beginning of our new King’s reign.

I call upon Councillor Martin Tucker, the Mayor of Wotton Under Edge, to read the Accession Proclamation.