A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Right Reverend and Well Beloved, We Greet You Well.

We gladly renew on this Occasion Our pledge to preserve and uphold the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. In doing so, We acknowledge, with Gratitude to Almighty God, the Church's steadfast witness to the Christian faith and its services to our people in Scotland and in many lands overseas.

We are aware that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is still being felt by the people across the country. Many have suffered illness and bereavement whilst others have lost their businesses or employment.. The Church, which is so often a pillar of strength within the community, has not been immune. We pray for the whole of the Church of Scotland as in the General Assembly, Presbytery and Kirk Session as she seeks to discern God's will in challenging times.

We have been pleased to learn how the Church has developed deeper relationships within the Christian family, with neighbours of other faiths and with those who hold responsibility in government and parliament. These new bonds have been forged in times of emergency but they will serve us all well in the future as the United Kingdom seeks to rebuild and reshape community life.

Knowing that the Church has long had a concern for the care of God's earth we are heartened to know that she is engaging in many ways with the discussions and events which will be brought to Glasgow for COP26. As stewards of creation, Christians have much to offer to the shared task of ensuring that we bequeath to our children a planet which will continue to be a good place to live.

May your faith and courage be strengthened in your deliberations during the week ahead and through the times to come. As We are unable in Our Own Person to be present at your Assembly this year, We have chosen Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Grandson, His Royal Highness The Prince William Arthur Philip Louis, Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn, KG, KT, PC to be Our representative being assured that Our choice will meet with your approval.

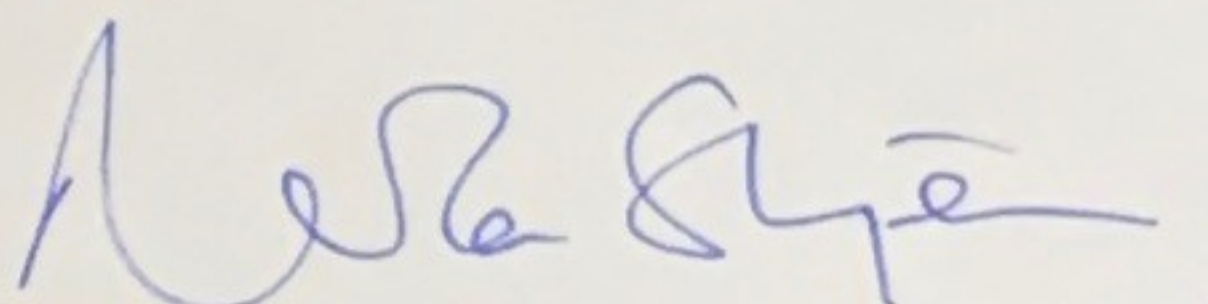
And so, praying that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations, We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at Windsor

this Sixth day of May 2021

in the seventieth year of Our Reign.

BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND

  
17 May 2021