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With the world – and some would say a British monarchy – in turmoil the figure of the former Kate Middleton, now the future Queen of England, stands serene in the tumult.

With three young children and a devoted husband – Prince William – the Duchess of Cambridge combines beauty with not putting a foot wrong. Greatly helped by having three engaging and extremely photogenic children, the royal couple present a picture of family life often held up by the popular press as a model for a divided Britain searching for identity.

Prince Harry, once the most beloved member of the British Royal family, is now in Los Angeles with his wife Meghan Markle. The pair are now officially separated from the British monarchy. Prince Phillip is 99 and possibly ailing. The Queen of England remains the centre of royal dignity and attention. But the Queen herself is 94 and, like Prince Philip, has been confined to Windsor Castle for the duration of the Covid-19 virus.

It is Kate Middleton and Prince William who are leading the British monarchy out of a period of considerable difficulty. They are close to all members of the Royal Family, none more so than to Prince Charles. Notwithstanding press reports to the contrary it is understood that they remain in touch with Prince Harry. The disputes with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex may be serious but they may not be permanent.

With their wide concern for mental health and the welfare of the British people generally, Kate and William are taking the lead in many areas of British life – often difficult and often problematic. They have shown a sure touch.

It is here that the influence of the young woman once known as plain Kate Middleton, brought up in an ordinary family, gives the modest and confident touch and empathy that allow her to reach out to what is regarded by many international observers as a troubled nation, bedevilled by the virus and divided by the issue of Brexit.

This remarkable new programme, made by the producers of more than 50 acclaimed royal documentaries and literary programmes, throws new light on a remarkable woman making her way in a difficult and troubled world with grace, assurance and dignity.

