

May 2023

Pentecost

Sunday 28th May

Tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and rested on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. *Acts 2:3-4*

SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

EASTER FLOWERS



Left and above: Easter flowers in Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

Photos by Gill Jones



Above and right: Easter flowers in St Mary, Hordley



And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

From the Sermon on the Mount Matthew 6. 28-29

EDITORIAL

May is the month of the Coronation of the King and in this month's Church Family News there is plenty to help us to reflect on its ancient traditions. Deborah Coatsworth (*page 5*) asks 'How do we approach the Coronation?' and offers some insights into the model of leadership that Jesus gives us, as a pattern for the King to follow. I have also included the Bishop of Lichfield's Easter message (*page 15*) because it reinforces Deborah's message about service being the pattern not just for the King, but for all of us to learn and put into action.

Being a Dementia Friendly Church is a continuous process of growing understanding and awareness. Sarah Thorpe, the diocesan enabler for dementia friendly churches writes (*page 11*) from her own experience about the things that helped her family to continue to connect with her father in advancing stages of dementia.

May is rich with significant days in the Christian calendar. This year practically the whole month falls in the Easter season, ending with Pentecost (Whitsun) on 28th May, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The daily Bible readings for this month (*page 20*) include many key passages from the letters of the New Testament - from Ephesians, I Peter, I John - which all explore the unfolding of grace that originates with the resurrection of Jesus.

It is fitting that our saints of the month (*page 21*) are John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist and Holiness movements, for whom the pivotal moment in their extraordinary spiritual journeys took place within the Moravian fellowship in 18th century London. The Moravian Church had, since its founding in the 15th century, borne witness to the *experience* of being filled with the Holy Spirit, which is such an important theme for Methodists, Pentecostals and the Holiness Churches - and indeed all Christians.

Finally, the yew tree in Hordley churchyard (*back cover and page 16*) speaks of continuity and change - a theme that runs through this month of May - Coronation, anointing, connections, nature and grace. I hope you enjoy this edition of Church Family News.

Roger Paul (Editor)

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

15th May 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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LETTER FROM THE CLERGY

Seventy years ago a young mother was crowned Queen with all the pomp and ceremony that our country expected. Despite persistent rain, a great procession of monarchs rode in carriages to her crowning, as the dignitaries of the Church of England performed ceremonies of ancient lineage. This month an ageing grandfather will go to Westminster Abbey to be crowned King, in a world very different from that of his mother, for age alone will not be the only difference.

How much has changed in seventy years! When Elizabeth was crowned it was only a decade since an Archbishop had been a force in causing her uncle to abdicate. Today less than half the population of the UK describe themselves as Christian, and the churches no longer have the position that once they held in Britain. Other faiths – and those of no faith – have increased as Christianity has dwindled.

Then, we had an Empire that stretched across the world; today, we are members of a Commonwealth. Then, Britain was both an economic and military force in the world: today, the balance of power, whether economic, military or political has changed hugely. Then, the majority of the nation were in favour of a monarchy: today, fewer people would hold to that view.

So how do we approach the coronation of Charles III?

Charles has had many decades to prepare for his role as a constitutional monarch. He has developed his own particular interest in ecology, and is concerned, it seems, to be an ambassador for Britain, to forge links with our allies in Europe and across the world, and, as his guest list for the ceremony shows, to include in the coronation fewer of the great and powerful and more local champions. He is even anxious to include other faiths in the ceremony.

For the Christian, our model of leadership has always been our own Lord and King, Jesus – not that we, whether as monarchs or bishops, have always acted in the way that Jesus did.

The model of leadership that Jesus gave us was one of **service**, not of naked power but of compassion and care: “I came not to be served but to serve,” he tells his friends. The annual service on Maundy Thursday, where King Charles gave out the traditional ‘Maundy Money’ is a reminder that he sees his role as one of service.

Secondly there is **dedication**. In his own time Jesus was seen as Messiah, which is a Hebrew word for “Anointed One” (which is what the Greek word

Christos also means). The archbishop is keen to emphasise this element of the coronation, having had a special anointing oil made in Palestine to an ancient formula for use at the service. What the general public will make of this ancient rite I cannot say; but for Christians the sense of being anointed is important – that God not only calls us to a role, but empowers us for it, anointing us not with oil but with his Holy Spirit, whether at confirmation or ordination.

But at the heart of Jesus' ministry was **self-sacrifice**: "*Greater love has this that a person lay down their life for their friends.*" The late Queen saw her role as one of dedication and sacrifice, a role that was rooted in her own Christian faith. And while some may envy the wealth, privilege and splendour of monarchy, they may not be so willing to take on the sacrifices involved in such a life, as a figurehead, as one constantly in public view, with all the hard work involved in preparing for and carrying out their public engagements.

So how do **we** prepare for the coronation?

A PRAYER FOR THE KING

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First, we can **pray for Charles and Camilla** as they prepare for the day and for the years ahead. The Church of England has issued a small booklet of prayers to help us pray for them. And we can continue to pray for them in the years ahead. Whether or not you agree with monarchy, there is no doubt that Queen Elizabeth did so much for our country by her dignity and dedication to her role. May Charles do the same in his own way in the years as king.

And secondly, we can look again at the example of the Lord Jesus – of service, dedication and sacrifice, and **offer ourselves to work with Him** for the up-building of our nation: that we in the United Kingdom may be a force for good, to bring healing and forgiveness, to welcome the stranger, and to care for those in need, to create a community that is compassionate, welcoming the stranger, caring for those in need, establishing justice in the land.

Deborah Coatsworth



THE
CORONATION

KING CHARLES
III
2023

**Services for the Coronation of King Charles III
within the Benefice**

Friday 5th May

7.30pm at All Saints' Baschurch

A Vigil of Prayer ahead of the Coronation

Sunday 7th May

9.30am at Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

A Service of Commemoration for the Coronation of
King Charles III

11am at All Saints Baschurch

A Service of Holy Communion and Commemoration
for the Coronation of King Charles III

HORDLEY NEWS

Our **Riding and Striding** fame continues! We have received the news that once again Hordley is in the top five parishes in the whole of Shropshire for the amount raised for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, through the Ride and Stride event last September. Together with Clungunford, Ratlinghope, Shelton-with-Oxon, and Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath we raised 21% of the total, which this year was £29,700. You may recall that Hordley raised an astonishing £830, half of which has been returned to us for church funds. We will enjoy the presentation of another certificate to mark our success. For keen participants we already have sponsorship forms for the 2023 event on the 9th September!

On Sunday the 7th May we shall be **celebrating His Majesty's Coronation** by getting together at a "Bring and Share" lunch at Sycamore House. This will take place by the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Edward Jones. Further details may be obtained from them on 01939 270243.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at the service on the 14th May. This is an opportunity to hear the various reports concerning the running of your church.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in April was Mrs Sheila Mackenzie with number 49.

In May, **Team Thomson** (Andrew, Mary, Jamie and Lorna) will be walking part of the Shropshire Way – a 30 mile stretch from Bridges to Craven Arms. Jamie will attempt the entire route barefoot, with Lorna accompanying him for most of the way. Andrew and Mary will, by the end of the walk, both be past their 83rd birthdays, and will walk shorter distances and provide the necessary transport and back-up.

If you wish to sponsor the walk, please follow the link below: www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-thomson-29. All money raised will go towards Severn Hospice.

HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

It has been good to see numbers increasing at our Drop in Cafés on the third Wednesday of the month. During the winter months we have been using the village hall. From April to October we will be going back to the church. The next one will be Wednesday 19th April from 10.00 to 12.00. All are welcome. Come and enjoy tea or coffee, cake and chat. Thanks to Jane and her helpers for the warm welcome and cakes.

Churchyard working parties will also resume in April, on the second Friday in the month from 14th April through to October. 10.00am until midday with a coffee break and chance to chat. New volunteers will be very welcome. April is probably the best month for flowers in the churchyard so do pop in if passing and see wild flowers like they used to be.

The congregation at Holy Trinity are delighted to be holding services in church again. We would like to say a big thank you to Baschurch for making us so welcome when we couldn't hold services in our own church. It is also good to worship again in a warm church.

The church has been well used since it reopened with a special service for Mothering Sunday which was well attended. The school put up prayers and praise for their Mums on the boards and the flower ladies did lovely posies which were given to everyone after the service, which had a caring theme.

During Easter week the church was open several days. The decorations for Easter Sunday were very good. The school did Easter Gardens and the flower ladies did splendid floral tributes to celebrate the risen Christ. The service was well attended and the organ music a lovely change from the sound system.

Now we have the Coronation to look forward to and events to prepare for within the village.

Anita Weeks and Jane Ing

BENEFICE SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 6th May - Coronation Celebration *with live band* The Locals

7.00pm Weston Village hall £12

Sunday 7th May - Coronation Cream Tea 2 – 4pm All Saints Church

Scones Jam and Cream - Free Entry - Contact: Theresa

Saturday 8th July - Fete Various Activities *on Village Green*

Free Entry - Contact: Martyn and Mary

During the Summer Holidays Family Treasure Hunt

around Baschurch and surrounding area - Contact: Peter

**Saturday 23rd September - Benefice Harvest Meal
at Weston Village Hall**

Contact: Dawn Lake

Friday 6th October - Quiz Night at Baschurch Village Hall

Contact: Andy

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December

Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church, Baschurch

Saturday 9th December Christmas Social

7.00pm The Paddocks, Old Woods - Contact: Martyn and Dawn Lake

ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" WINNERS

April 2023

No 9

Julia Bennett

No 139

Helen Edwards

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Keeping connections through advancing dementia



Sarah Thorpe

My dad lived with dementia for the last 10 years of his life – and that involved a journey of the heart for our whole family, as we stayed in step with him. Through his advancing dementia, we found it helped to cross the bridge and meet him in his own world. Christopher Eccleston, whose father lived with dementia, said, “I eventually learned that, instead of trying pull people with dementia into your world, you have to enter theirs.”

What are the things that help us to cross the bridge, as dementia advances? If language is fraying at the edges, shorter sentences may help. Beyond words, there may be connection through pictures – on an iPad or in a magazine or a book. ‘Pictures to Share’ books are designed for people with dementia – and ‘Strength for the Journey’ from that series focuses on Christian faith. Or you might enjoy making your own scrapbook of pictures.

Music can make such deep connections too. Perhaps you can enjoy singing a favourite hymn or song together. I went to see my aunt one day, and I was waiting for her in the entrance hall of the sheltered accommodation where she lived. A woman was in the hall and it was clear we weren’t going to connect through a rational conversation. I wasn’t sure how to cross the bridge to connect with her. So I made a stab at finding a bridge of connection by starting to sing, “Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do”. Within a moment, we were both happily singing and dancing round the hall together.

My dad connected with dogs in a new way: they seemed to understand one another, without the need for words! Also, we loved playing with a beach ball together. For his 80th birthday, my brother gave my dad 80 seashells and there was complete, absorbing delight in arranging these. And a Memory Box of objects that bring joy can be a source of on-going connection. Also, touch can be so important –

simply staying in touch.

And of course God always keep connection with us, crossing the bridge to meet us where we are, even when we are in uncharted or unchosen territory. God is always alongside, asking, "Where do we go from here?" I love the words from Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Dementia Action Week runs from 15-21 May this year. I wonder whether your action might be to try crossing the bridge, meeting someone living with dementia where they are.

"Head to Heart: Shared family reflections on living through dementia" is a 30-minute video resource, sharing Sarah Thorpe's family's experiences, including sections on "Crossing the Bridge" and "New Ways to Connect". It's on YouTube, at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpKbHvSWJtxeszQX7GS6ryE2WhsrzdKuj> - or simply search "YouTube dementia head to heart".

Sarah Thorpe,

Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler for Lichfield Diocese



CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE 2023

In 2021 we started Churches Count on Nature, working in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha. The idea behind Churches Count on Nature is to encourage as many people as possible to visit, explore and enjoy their local churchyard, spotting wildlife and recording what they see. These records are then sent to Caring for God's Acre; via an online system such as iNaturalist or iRecord, by emailing us the list or by popping it in the post. These records then go to build up a picture of just how important churchyards are for biodiversity, information which we can then share more widely.



We decided to encourage all those involved with Churches Count on Nature to run some sort of nature spotting activity during Love Your Burial Ground week, a celebratory week which has been running for many years now involving those managing burial grounds of all types and denominations including our magnificent cemeteries. Many of you have taken part over the years and even more then joined in since 2021 via Churches Count on Nature. So far, we estimate that over 16,000 people have been involved in this initiative, some of them simply enjoying a visit to a beautiful and peaceful spot and listening to the bird song, others providing a full species list in Latin of the lichens and invertebrates they've found!

The good news is that we are running it all again from Saturday 3rd to Sunday 12th June, so please join in!

To take part, have a look on our website for information and inspiration, plan your activity, register it with us and request your free Starter Guides plus a Field Studies Council fold-out chart. Visit our website page **Be Involved**. Involvement can be very low key – a few friends listing wildflowers - or can be larger including perhaps your neighbouring school or Messy Church group. If you're unsure about what to do or who might be interested then start small, previous years feedback suggest that you may be pleasantly surprised at the level of local interest.

We're hoping for a bumper year in 2023, perhaps the start of local action inspired by Sir David Attenborough and the Wild Isles television series?

We look forward to reading about all the actions taking place across the diocese.

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

ELLESMERE REPAIR CAFE

On the first of April, Ellesmere Town Hall opened its doors for the first Repair Café.

At a preliminary meeting of interested people some weeks before, volunteers had offered their various skills for one afternoon each month. Doors were to be opened at 1 pm and ten minutes before that time the first hopeful people arrived, bearing an assortment of damaged, broken or non-working items.

During the afternoon, over fifty people brought items for the volunteers to repair if it was possible. A table was allotted to each repairer and these included electrical, woodwork, glass, machine and hand sewing, bicycle repairers and solving computer problems. Large or complicated items that couldn't be repaired on site could, by agreement, be taken to a workshop. People arrived with an astonishing variety including clothing to be patched, mended or altered; a vacuum cleaner to be unblocked; tables and chairs with wobbly legs; broken cuff-links, to name but a few. Any electrical items were PAT tested before being allowed off the premises.

An array of home-made cakes, tea and coffee was freely available throughout the afternoon. Buckets on each table invited donations towards the inevitable costs such as hire of the hall, purchase of basic essentials etc.

The event was well organised by another team of helpers which ensured that visitors were checked in, allotted to the relevant repairer, and records kept.

The afternoon proved a success with the friendly, cheerful atmosphere adding to everyone's enjoyment.

The next Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday 3rd June from 1 – 4 pm and thereafter will take place on the first Saturday of each month. If any readers wish to avail themselves of this facility, which encourages repair rather than disposal, they will be welcome.

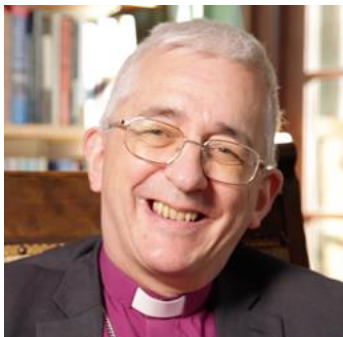
Mary Thomson

THE GREATEST AUTHORITY THROUGH THE HUMBLEST OF SERVICE

For the first time in most of our lifetimes, Easter this year will be celebrated with a king on the throne of our country. Not only that, but on the twenty-eighth day of the fifty days of Easter (Saturday, 6th May) His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned as monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We do not as yet know the exact wording of the Coronation service, but we can be sure that, as has been the case through the centuries of our history, it will make clear that the King's authority, great as it is, is subject to the higher authority of God the ruler of all. When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953, the Archbishop delivered to her the Orb (a golden sphere representing the world on which a cross is mounted), and spoke these words: 'Receive this orb set under the cross and remember that the whole world is subject to the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer.'

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, which his people joyfully celebrate at Easter, is the story of the vindication of one who exercised the greatest authority through the humblest of service. As such, it sets the best possible pattern for Charles our King at the outset of his reign. But it also speaks to all in our world and our society who are called to govern, to show leadership, to shape public opinion, to influence others. Too often our reality is otherwise: we see those in power trying to crush opposition, to silence dissent, or to attack those whose views differ from theirs. However, Easter shows us that the final triumph lies with one who followed a very different way – the way of the cross, the way of service, humility and love. This is a lesson which we need to learn again in every generation, and this prayer from the Church of England repeats it on behalf of our monarch and us all:



'Sovereign God, who called King Charles to be a ruler among his people: give him grace to be their servant; and help us, following our Saviour Christ in the path of humble service, to see God's kingdom set forward on earth and to enjoy its fulness in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

*Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave
Bishop of Lichfield*



THE YEW TREE IN HORDLEY CHURCHYARD

A fine yew tree stands in Hordley churchyard, dominating the area to the west of the church. It has a most beautiful form, as shown in the photograph of the tree on the back page (*top left*), taken from the west end of the churchyard. The close up of needles (*middle right*) shows that it has some healthy spring growth, with the inconspicuous flowers forming on the underside of the branch. These will bear the characteristic red fruits, loved by birds.

Yews are notorious for being poisonous, particularly the needles, but like some other poisonous plants, it is also a source of a useful drug. Once visiting Warwick Castle, where there are many yew hedges, one of the gardeners told me that they sent the freshly cut leaves to a pharmaceutical company to extract a drug used in the treatment of cancer. The drug (*docetaxel*) is now made synthetically.

The trunk of the Hordley yew is particularly interesting. The columnated structure of the trunk - where the trunk appears to be formed of columns fused together - is particularly pronounced, as shown in this photo. The bark is thin and flaky. The heartwood of yew is a rich reddish brown, which contrasts with the much lighter coloured sapwood. Yew wood is prized for its beauty, strength and flexibility. Ideal for traditional long bows—some fine examples of which were found in the wreck of the *Mary Rose* in Portsmouth Harbour.



It looks as if there has been some serious tree surgery done on the Hordley yew in the past, in which at least two stems of the trunk have been removed, exposing areas of bare wood. Over the years, these areas have been hollowed out by the action of insects, and wa-

ter ingress. The top right photo on the back page shows one of these hollows. It is like an Aladdin's cave, with beautiful colours (probably due to fungal action) and wonderful shapes showing the contorted grain of the wood. The bluish area towards the bottom of the hollow appears to be the web of a resident spider. The bottom right photo shows the exit holes of boring insects, perhaps beetle larvae. Here the wood is relatively soft due to rotting.

When you look closely at natural forms, they often reveal patterns and shapes that look like sculptures. The bottom right photo on the back page is one I couldn't resist. Is it a portrait of a pig or some other animal? The snout and eye are so clear. It looks as if it is emerging from the trunk with a startled expression on its face.

Yew trees can live for over a thousand years but I would not want to hazard a guess at the age of the Hordley yew. There are more ancient yew trees in the UK than in any other European country and many of these are in churchyards. Some of the most ancient yew trees in churchyards go back to pre-Christian times. Yew trees seem to be associated with pre-Christian sacred sites, such as burial grounds, which were taken over by early Christians as sites for churches. In some respects, this represents a break with the past, but the presence of yew trees is one expression of continuity between our pre-Christian past and the present, and this continuity deserves our respect.

There are many stories that offer an explanation of why so many churchyards have yew trees—some are more plausible than others, but they all need to be taken with a pinch of salt. The great thing is, that these wonderful, majestic and fascinating trees can continue to grow safely and flourish within the protection of God's acre. Their longevity contrasts with the brevity of human life and expresses continuity with the ancient past.

We shall be returning to the subject of yew trees another time, taking a look at yews in Weston and Baschurch churchyards.

Roger Paul

SERVICES IN MAY 2023

Friday 5th May

7.30pm A Vigil of Prayer ahead of the Coronation of King Charles III – All Saints' Baschurch

Sunday 7th May

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am A Service of Commemoration for the Coronation of King Charles III - Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am A Service of Holy Communion and Commemoration for the Coronation of King Charles III
- All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 7:55-end & John 14:1-14

Sunday 14th May

9.15am Worship for All and APCM – St Mary's Hordley

11am Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 17:22-31 & John 14:15-21

Thursday 18th May – Ascension Day

7.30pm A Deanery Service of Holy Communion for Ascension Day at St John the Baptist, Ruyton XI Towns

Readings: Acts 1:1-11 & Luke 24:44-end

Sunday 21st May

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Holy Communion - Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship for All - All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 1:6-14 & John 17:1-11

Sunday 28th May – Pentecost

9.15am Holy Communion – St. Mary's Hordley

11am Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 2:1-21 & John 20:19-23

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms:

2nd April – Palm Sunday

Aoife Jane Power at All Saints' Baschurch

9th April – Easter Day

Thanksgiving, Dedication and Blessing of

Louis Alexzander, Antoni Stoneham

Funerals:

29th March 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch

India Alexander aged 20 years

4th April 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch

Helen Porter aged 60 years

12th April 2023 at Emstrey Cemetery

Samantha Marie Williams – infant

13th April at Emstrey Crematorium

John Kynaston aged 86 years

19th April at Emstrey Crematorium

Geoffrey Lawrence aged 89 years

New Testament Daily Prayer Readings for Morning Prayer in May

| DATE | READING | DATE | READING |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | James 1:1-12 | 17 | 1 Peter 5 |
| 2 | Ephesians 4:17-end | 18 | Hebrews 7:26-end |
| 3 | Ephesians 5:1-14 | 19 | 1 John 1:1-2:6 |
| 4 | Ephesians 5:15-end | 20 | 1 John 2:7-17 |
| 5 | Ephesians 6:1-9 | 21 | Revelation 21:1-8 |
| 6 | Ephesians 6:10-end | 22 | 1 John 2:18-end |
| 7 | John 5:19-29 | 23 | 1 John 3:1-10 |
| 8 | 1 Peter 1:1-12 | 24 | 1 John 3:11-end |
| 9 | 1 Peter 1:13-end | 25 | 1 John 4:1-6 |
| 10 | 1 Peter 2:1-10 | 26 | 1 John 4:7-end |
| 11 | 1 Peter 2:11-end | 27 | 1 John 5 |
| 12 | 1 Peter 3:1-12 | 28 | Acts 10:34-end |
| 13 | 1 Peter 3:13-end | 29 | Romans 1:1-17 |
| 14 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end | 30 | Romans 1:18-end |
| 15 | Acts 2:37-end | 31 | Mark 3:31-end |
| 16 | 1 Peter 4:12-end | | |

Saints of the Month

John & Charles Wesley, evangelists & hymn-writers (24th May)

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church College, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a 'Holy Club' while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned

The Moravians

The Moravian Church has its origins in Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic). It was founded in 1457, one of the first churches of the reformation.

During the early 18th century, refugees from Moravia were allowed to settle on the estate of Count Zinzendorf in Saxony, near the Polish border, in a settlement known as Herrnhut.

From here, members travelled all over the world as missionaries. Some of these stopped off in England on their journeys to the New World, and formed themselves into local settlements.

One of these, Aldersgate, in the City of London, was where John and Charles Wesley experienced their conversion. The Moravian Church in this country is still very active, and world wide has a membership of about 1 million people.

The Christmas custom of giving Christingles, originates with the Moravians, just one of the many gifts that they have given to the wider Church.

Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among first nation peoples in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: "I went to America to convert the Indians (*sic.*); but, oh, who shall convert me?"

Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this

‘true’ conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God ‘chased away the darkness of my unbelief.’

Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John’s turn. As he wrote in his journal:

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.”

John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing so, they turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners.

His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small ‘societies’ attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.’ In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

Charles Wesley
a verse from ‘**And Can It Be**’

BOOK REVIEWS



Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden

Design tips for a calm green space

Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: Design tips for a calm green space

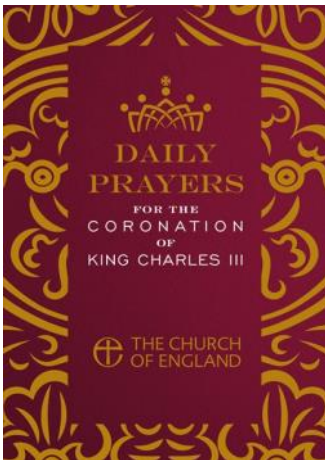
By Various authors, Bible Society, £6.50

In September 2021, Bible Society entered a garden based on Psalm 23 into the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The garden was designed by Sarah Eberle, who had previously won 17 gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows.

If that wasn't enough, the Psalm 23 Garden won another gold medal as well as awards for Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction Award!

Therefore, the garden contains vibrant greenery and a peaceful water feature. This book contains full-colour photographs of features of the garden, and tips and advice on creating your own beautiful garden.

Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III

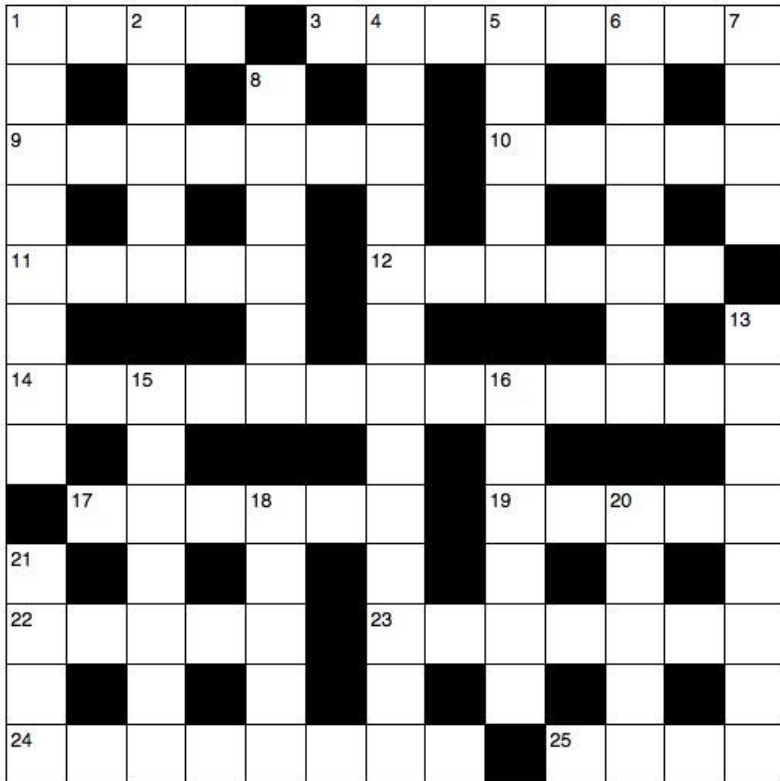


To mark The Coronation of King Charles III, the Church of England has compiled this series of Daily Prayers. This booklet provides a daily theme, reading, reflection and prayer for use by individuals, churches or groups who wish to use these days to:

- pray for The King, our nation and the world
- * explore the symbolism of the Coronation service
- * reflect on Jesus, the Servant King.

It also includes prayers for The King and the Royal Family for use in years to come. Copies are available in the churches of the benefice.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Clues Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

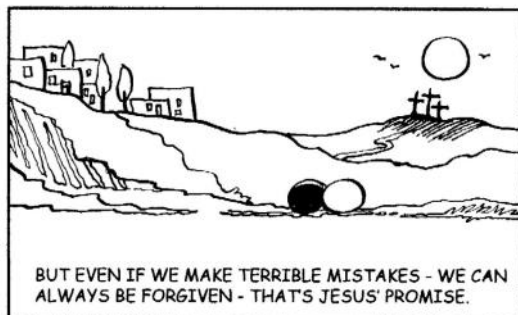
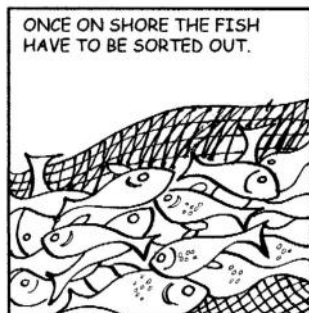
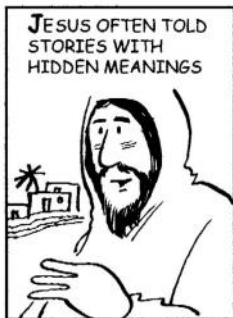
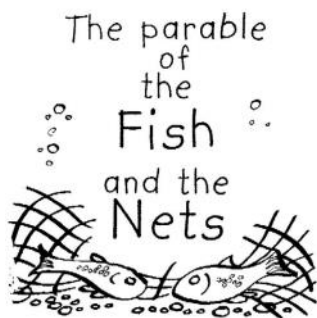
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Clues Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Answers on page 27

PICTURE PARABLE



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Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Pu-teoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

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A BIRD IN MY GARDEN.

There was a thump on my kitchen window at about 7:30 one evening towards the end of March and when I looked out there was a bird lying face-up on the ground. I should say that the size was between a blackbird and a pigeon. The only sign of life was in the eyes. I picked it up and asked Mary to fetch my camera.

While she was away the bird woke up, gave my hand a sharp and rather painful grip with one of its talons and flew off, but still in my garden and not very far away. I was able to get quite close to it and take a few photographs. The light was poor but the pictures have come out quite well.

The first photo was taken from quite a distance; subsequent ones were taken from a progressively closer distance until the bird finally recovered from its stunning and flew off.

I sent the picture on this page to Shropshire Wildlife and RSPB. The verdict from these experts told me that it was a sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*).



Male Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Thankyou to Andrew Thomson for sending in this photograph and the story about how it came to be taken.



**Views of the Yew Tree in
Hordley Churchyard**