

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

The monthly newsletter of the Church of Ireland  
United Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee.

***Here everyone matters***

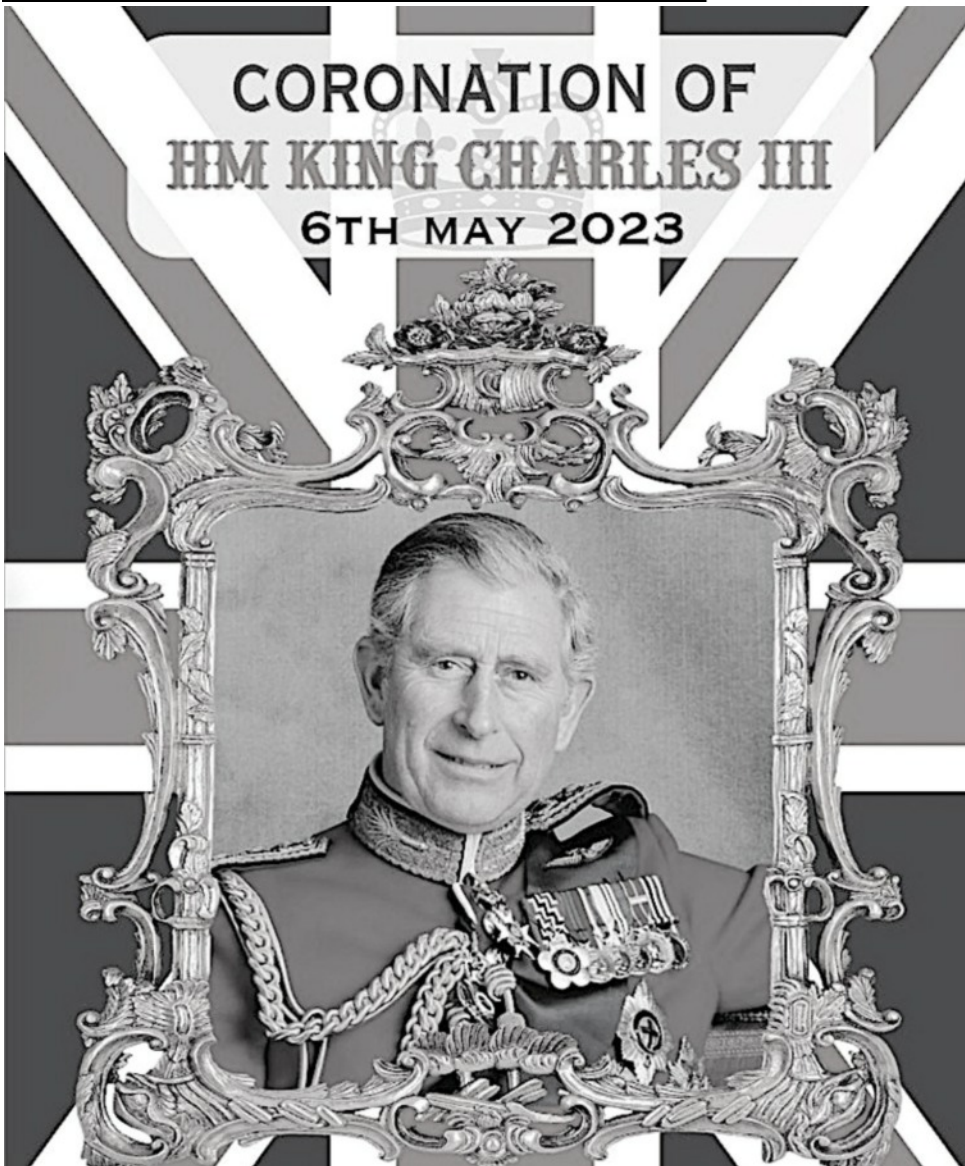
***May 2023***



**ST. PATRICK'S  
& ST. JOHN'S**

UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE

**CORONATION OF  
HM KING CHARLES III  
6TH MAY 2023**



## A message from our Rector

Easter has come and gone, well almost gone as we are still in the season of Easter. This annual and special remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is just what it says it is, an annual and special remembrance. It is important that we recognise that it is; because for us, as Christians, we need to remember that every Sunday is the weekly remembrance of the resurrection. The Easter morning Gospel readings start with; *“Early on the first day of the week . . .”*, this being the day that Jesus rose from the dead. We read that a week later they were gathered together again, on the first day of the week. In Acts 20:7 it says, *“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread,”* and in 1 Corinthians 16:1 it says, *“On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save”*. This first day of the week, as a day of meeting for Christians, was also mentioned by Roman historians.



Our weekly meeting, is important for a number of reasons.

It is important to gather to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ and all that that means to us. To give thanks for the gifts of forgiveness and salvation.

It is important that we gather to share our faith with each other and with our children. We do this to help to build each other up in faith, to encourage each other and to receive encouragement from others. We need to remember that this is a shared faith, we are not alone in our belief.

It is important that we gather to be able to work together for the benefit of others. There is so much that we can do by ourselves, but there is so much more that we can do together. We have just finished working together at the Lenten Lunches - providing a double benefit! We will benefit the charities that we are supporting and we are also benefiting the people that have come to share in our lunches by giving them a place to meet friends and relax together.

It is important that we are able to gather and to learn more about our faith, to hear the Bible read and see new ways that it applies to us and our daily lives. To learn new ways of expressing our faith in our daily lives. To learn how every part of our lives can be an expression of our faith, even in ways that we did not recognise before.

Our weekly gathering should be a priority for us, as it was for those in the early church. I know that often there are other things that can get in the way of our Church attendance. Some of these things are very important, but some are not so important. Some are things that do not need to be done on a Sunday morning, they could equally well be done in the afternoon or at a different time.

The priority we place on our worship speaks volumes about our faith, not just to God but also to others. If we are seen, by our friends and others, to place a high priority of gathering for worship each week they will know that it is important to us. They will realise that this is something that we feel strongly about and are not so willing to miss out on. This, in itself, is a strong witness for our faith. It is a way that we can share our faith without having to say what we believe and why. It is an unspoken testimony of what Jesus has done, and is doing, for us - and for most of us this is far in a way the easiest testimony about our faith that we shall ever give.

Gathering together to worship is not all one sided. It is not something that neither the individual (you, me, us - as individuals) nor the Church, as an organisation of the body of Christ here on earth, are the sole beneficiaries of. Both the individuals and the organisation benefit. The individuals benefit by being part of something bigger than themselves, giving more ability to do things and more power to get things done. The organisation benefits by having people to do the things that need done and by having the power to get those things done. We can look at poverty in our own land and as individuals we can band together and help those in need, and as an organisation we can advocate for those in need and support them.

There is a huge amount of good that the Church, as the body of Christ, can do. But it can only do it when it is supported by those who are the body of Christ, the individuals who make up the church. We don't just come together to do good deeds, we come to support and encourage and feed each other; to be a community of believers. That all starts on a Sunday as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and carries on from there. It needs us all to be a part of that celebration, a part of that community. It needs us all to gather together, even if it is difficult at times, to be the body of Christ here on earth.

I hope that you can come and share with us over the coming months as we gather to worship together. Every blessing, *Mark*.

# May Services & Readings

**Worship and services** - As well as our Sunday morning services there is a service on Wednesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for just under 30 minutes and a service on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. for a similar time. If a Sunday morning does not suit you, or you are unavailable please consider either of these options to come and share in worship with others.

**Readers** - please read the first reading from the "Sunday Readings" lists

## **Wednesday in St Patrick's**

11:30 a.m. The Litany/Matins/Prayers

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

11:00 a.m. United Service Holy Communion Two

After this united service there will be a Coronation Tea - to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

Sunday Readings - Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14

Reader for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Joy Kerr

7:00 p.m. Compline

Weekday Readings: Proverbs 23:19-24:34; 30,31:10-31; Psalms 57 - 64; Luke 7:36 - 9:17

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:30 a.m. **Messy Church** in the Parochial Hall

12 noon Morning Prayer

Sunday Readings Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-18; John 14:15-21

Readers for first Lesson - Heather Cupples / Jim Reid

7:00 p.m. Compline

Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 5 - 8; Psalms 65-67; Luke 9:18 - 50

## **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day**

7:30 p.m. Holy Communion Two

Ascension Day Readings - Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

Weekday Readings: Ezekiel 1:28-3:27, Psalms 68-70; Luke 11:1- 23,

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension Day**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Two  
12 noon Morning Prayer Two  
Sunday Readings - Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; John 17:1-11  
Readers for first Lesson - Alison Higginson / Maureen Reid  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Ezekiel 4, 7, 12, 18, 34, 43; Psalms 71 - 77; Luke 9:51 - 10:42

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Family Service  
12 noon Family Service  
Sunday Readings - Acts 2:1-21  
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-5:33, Psalms 78 - 83; Luke 13 - 15

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Two  
12 noon Holy Communion Two  
Sunday Readings - Genesis 1:1- 2:4a; Psalm 8: Matthew 28:16-20  
Reader for first Lesson - Jane Robinson / Bill Rafferty  
7:00 p.m. /Compline  
Weekday Readings: Deuteronomy 11:1 - 13:11, 16, 17, 29; Psalms 84 - 89; Luke 16:1 - 18:30

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity 1**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10:30 a.m. **Messy Church** in the Parochial Hall  
12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings  
Readers for first Lesson -  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings:



To anyone who knits.

The baby bank are in urgent need of baby blankets large enough to cover one year olds to 18 months also blankets for new born for baby hampers.

The baby bank support Mums of all ages especially those who have either been in safe care due to domestic violence and young mums without family support.

Thanking everyone in advance

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## Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?

In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question *'where did Jesus go?'* Peter says Jesus *'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.



At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is *'exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand"'* (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven ie eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

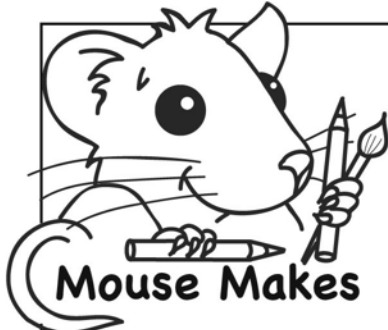
When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, *'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'* (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

*The Bible also tells us that 'Christ Jesus who died....is interceding for us.'* (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

*'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.'* (Tom Wright).





Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and ascended into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?

Find the answers in the word search

What did Jesus say to the Apostles?

a \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 1:9

Where was Jesus taken up to? \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to?

Acts 1:12



READ  
Acts 1 4-17

\_\_\_\_\_ to be Jesus' witnesses.

Acts 1:8

Who appeared to the Apostles?

Two \_\_\_\_\_ and what were they dressed in? \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:10

Where is Jesus seated?

At the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Mark 16:19

W G A C J S A P O S T L E S D C M P  
I A B L E S S E D H E A V E N H E R  
T T I O S M C P O W E R E T U R N A  
N H W U U J E R U S A L E M T I J Y  
E E H D S K N L O O K I N G A S O E  
S R I W O R S H I P P E D O K T Y R  
S E T Y D R I G H T H A N D E L S Y  
E D E K E F O R T Y D A Y S N L A E  
S K Y S B H N H O L Y S P I R I T R

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING  
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT  
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

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## Letter from Church Mouse

*Hello everyone,*

A few days ago I was just going about my normal business when lots of people started arriving at the church so that it became full and I thought it was going to be a very sad occasion because it was our Rector Mark's Mother's funeral. But I was wrong because I heard all about the wonderful life that Elly lived.



I wonder, if like me, Elly's funeral made you stop and think of all the beauty around us. The beautiful flower arrangements, the single stem of a tulip or open lily and the light shining through the stained glass windows of the church giving a jewel light glow.

The words of the eulogy and address beautifully described a life that found its joy in being, doing, making and above all love and friendship.

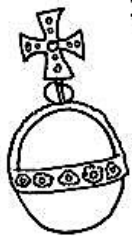
The singing of the hymn, 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', reminded us that the Lord God loves us all. And we can certainly see that he does love us all when we take time to look around, listen, taste and feel all the good things that God has given us. Elly's funeral provided an abundance of all those senses, as she did in life.

So, in the everyday rush of life let's take a moment to savour the goodness of God amidst us and share that with others.

Vicky x

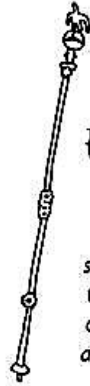
Church Mouse

**Riddle** It meets every guest at the door, but utters neither word nor sound. What is it? **Answer on page 39**



**Sovereign's Orb**

The cross reminds us that Jesus died for the sins of the world.



**Rod of Equity & Mercy**

The new sovereign is to rule with compassion and kindness.

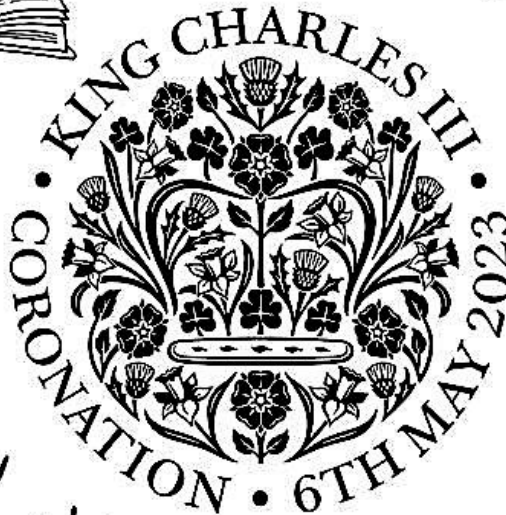
**"God save the King!"**

The National Anthem speaks of two kings: our new King, Charles III, and Almighty God, the King of Kings.



**Holy Bible**

"The most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God."



**St Edward's Crown**

The cross shows that above our new King reigns a greater King, Jesus.

**The King of Kings**

Jesus invites people from every nation to come to Him and belong to the kingdom of heaven.



**Sovereign's Sceptre**

A symbol of power with a cross on the top showing that the King's authority is under God's rule.



**Westminster Abbey**

## ***Countdown to the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort.***

**On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May the Coronation will take place.**

It is based on a solemn religious ceremony which has remained largely unchanged for more than 1000 years. For the past 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.



King Charles III will be crowned, and then in a similar, but simpler ceremony at the same service, the Queen Consort will also be crowned.

***From 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Big Lunches*** will be held up and down the UK, and also across the Commonwealth.

***On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May a Coronation Concert*** will be held at Windsor Castle, with iconic locations across the UK lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

***On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May*** there is a special Bank Holiday, giving everyone the opportunity to join in with their communities and good causes through Big Help Out activities. (More details at: <https://thebighelpout.org.uk>)

# **The Coronation of King Charles III**

*By Canon Paul Hardingham*

On 6<sup>th</sup> May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

For God's presence - to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about 'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England - the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'

For God's wisdom - as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.' (1 Kings 3:9).

For God's love - to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

For God's purpose - to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: 'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'

---

## ***A Prayer for the new King:***

*Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Coronation Union Jack Cake Recipe

Serves : 12. Difficulty level : Intermediate

*Get ready to dust off your apron and start baking for King and country. It's time to prepare for the Coronation of King Charles III and plan how you'll be celebrating.*



## Ingredients

### For the cake

200g butter at room temp  
200g caster sugar  
3 large eggs  
1tsp vanilla extract  
225g self-raising flour  
Generous pinch of salt  
3 tbsp milk

### For the decoration

100g butter at room temp  
200g icing sugar at room temp  
Halved Fresh strawberries  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
Fresh blueberries  
Fresh raspberries

## Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/Gas 4. Line the base of your tin with baking paper.
2. Beat the butter for a few seconds in a large mixing bowl to soften it, then add the caster sugar. Beat well until light and fluffy, using a hand-held electric mixer or wooden spoon. Add and beat the eggs one at a time, beating well between each addition. Stir in the vanilla extract.
3. Sift the flour and salt into the bowl, then fold it in gently using a large metal spoon. Do not beat the mixture at this stage. Add the milk and stir it through gently.
4. Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface with a palette knife or the back of a spoon. Bake in the centre of the oven for 35-38 minutes, until risen and springy when touched lightly. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and remove the lining paper. Leave to cool completely.
5. For the buttercream, beat the butter in a large mixing bowl until creamy, then gradually beat in the icing sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in the vanilla extract, then spread over the top of your cooled cake.
6. Use a cocktail stick to mark out the lines of the flag before topping with your fresh berries.

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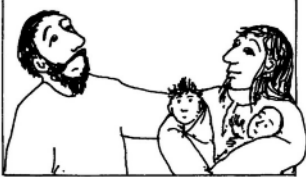
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch. 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('Grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...

Esau is older but Jacob will be more important.



The boys grew up...

Esau liked to go out to hunt, but Jacob stayed at home.



When Isaac was old and blind he told Esau



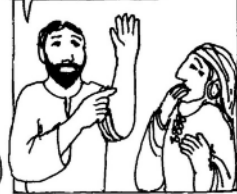
I want to give you my special blessing; first catch me some food.

But Rebekah went to find Jacob



You could have that blessing

But Esau is hairy and I am not.



Use goat skin to cover your arms and wear Esau's clothes



Here is your food, Father



Are you really Esau? Come nearer.

Jacob was tricked by the goat skin and Esau's clothes.



May God bless you richly, my son.

Then Esau returned



I'm sorry, I already blessed your brother

You must run away or Esau will kill you. Go to my brother Laban's home.



Jacob!



t	h	o	m	e	i	s	l	d	n	g
i	r	u	y	r	d	w	l	a	n	w
s	w	i	j	a	c	o	b	i	r	y
a	l	m	c	g	r	a	s	p	e	r
a	s	p	d	k	l	s	z	h	b	m
c	l	o	t	h	e	s	a	u	e	n
g	o	r	n	l	u	d	u	w	k	b
f	o	t	b	l	i	n	d	o	a	o
d	h	a	i	r	y	h	t	r	h	y
r	u	n	t	v	b	i	a	r	m	s
o	i	t	w	i	n	s	k	i	n	n

clothes

Laban

hunt

Esau

twins

away

Grasper

skin

boys

run

home

Rebekah

important

Hairy

arms

old

tricked

Jacob

food

blind

son

Isaac

blessing

goat

## The Anointing of the King's at his Coronation

*When the King's coronation takes place on 6 May 2023, it will include three significant ceremonies: his taking of oaths, his anointing and then the crowning. It is the anointing which is the most sacred moment.*

*Why? Because it signifies God's blessing being conferred on the King during the ceremony. While water, used in baptism, signifies the washing away of sin, sticky oil represents the 'sticking' or lasting nature of a blessing.*

*The Chrism Oil which will be used to anoint His Majesty The King on 6th May 2023 was consecrated in Jerusalem in March this year. Chrism means a mixture of balsam and olive oil and comes from Latin, Greek and Hebrew words meaning to anoint.*



*The idea of creating a new oil for the Coronation was initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, partly to honour the King's personal connections with Jerusalem and partly to highlight the links between the Coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land.*

*The Coronation oil was consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum, in The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, one of the most sacred sites in Christianity.*

*It has been created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene and the Monastery of the Ascension. The Monastery of Mary Magdalene is the burial place of His Majesty's grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece. The olives were pressed just outside Bethlehem.*

*The Coronation Oil is based on the oil used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the formula of which has been used for hundreds of years. The oil has been perfumed with essential oils - sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin and amber - as well as orange blossom. The oil will also be used to anoint the head of Her Majesty The Queen Consort.*

*The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "I am honoured and grateful that His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III and Archbishop Hosam Naoum have consecrated the oil that will be used to anoint His Majesty The King."*

*"Since beginning the planning for the Coronation, my desire has been for a new Coronation Oil to be produced using olive oil from the Mount of Olives. This demonstrates the deep historic link between the Coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land. From ancient kings through to the present day, monarchs have been anointed with oil from this sacred place. As we prepare to anoint The King and The Queen Consort, I pray that they would be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit."*

*The holy oil is at the heart of the most sacred part of the Coronation ceremony—the anointing—which happens before the investiture and crowning. The Royal Collection Trust describes how the Archbishop of Canterbury pours the oil onto the Coronation Spoon and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. "The tradition goes back to the Old Testament where the anointing of Solomon by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet is described," the RCT explains. "Anointing was one of the medieval holy sacraments and it emphasised the spiritual status of the sovereign. Until the seventeenth century the sovereign was considered to be appointed directly by God and this was confirmed by the ceremony of anointing. Although the monarch is no longer considered divine in the same way, the ceremony of Coronation also confirms the monarch as the Head of the Church of England."*

*The anointing was the one moment of Queen Elizabeth's 1953 Coronation that was not shown on television, with a canopy held over the new Queen instead.*

*King Charles's Anointing is not expected to be televised in the same way his mother's wasn't due to it being the most sacred and intimate moment of the Coronation..*



## Book Review

**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.



# Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden

Design tips for a calm green space



## Kneelers by George McNeill

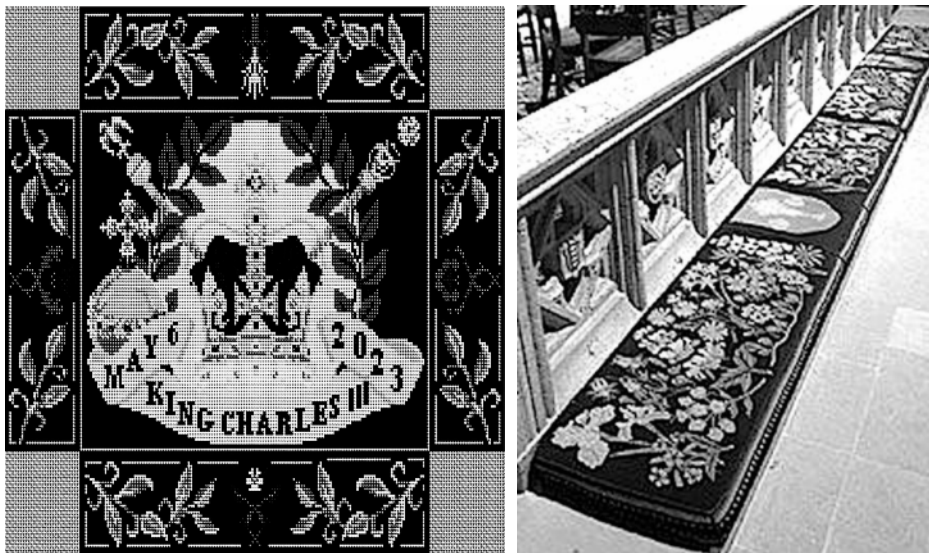
I recently came across the book, *Kneelers: The Unsung Folk Art of England and Wales*. It is described as 'a charming and witty history of the quirky - but widely-practised craft of embroidering kneeler cushions'.

I remember in the 1980s attending a church where the congregation were invited to buy an embroidery kit to cover the existing kneeling cushions. People set to and covered the ancient maroon velvet of each kneeler into something of beauty and interest. Interest because the designs often reflected the local community.

When I visit churches it's always a pleasure to look at the kneelers and their designs, typically animals, occupations, pastimes, commemorations, the abstract, and the everyday.

This art was widely practised but not anymore, probably because few of us now kneel, especially, if like me, creaking bones get the better of you!

This book, recent reflections on the late Elly Taylor's skills in embroidery and now a Coronation year made me think that maybe we could turn our hand to covering the kneelers at the altar in both our churches. That's where most of us do kneel when we take communion, so covering the red velvet with some creative embroidery designs reflecting our community would be a fitting way to mark this Coronation year. What do you think? If you would like to know more then please register your interest with the Rector.



## Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer



### The Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer

*By Canon Paul Hardingham*

An important spiritual discipline is *prayer*, where we can both listen and talk to God. However, it's not always easy, and as Pentecost tells us, we have the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

*'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.'* (Romans 8: 26,27)

*The Spirit helps us in our weakness*

We often don't know how to pray for a person or situation. The Holy Spirit is alongside to help: *'He bears the burden with us'*. He enables us to connect with God and assures us that He loves to hear our prayers: *'And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'* (Romans 8:15).

*The Spirit helps us in our ignorance*

When we don't know what to ask in prayer, the Spirit prays for us with a perfect understanding of God's will. The Spirit pleads on our behalf in *'wordless groans'*, which go beyond mere words. We are never alone when we pray, since the Spirit takes our words and brings them to the Father.

*The Spirit helps us in our requests*

The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. He translates the prayers we can't articulate or the requests we get wrong, so that they come to God in accordance with His will. In prayer we attune ourselves to the Spirit with our words or groans. Reading the Bible alongside our prayer is helpful, so that we can pray in agreement with God's Word.

When we pray, let's confidently ask: *'Come Holy Spirit.'*



## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## Prayer requests this month

The people of Syria and Turkey as they recover from the recent Earth-quake Disaster

The people of Ukraine and Sudan as they struggle to survive a terrible war.

The people of Taiwan as they face the terrible threat of war

All who have experienced a recent bereavement and we especially remember the Spearman family

Those who are ill at this time. We pray for Brian and Paddy particularly who are both members of our church family

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## The Hidden Symbolism in King Charles and Queen Camilla's Coronation Invitation

Recently, Buckingham Palace revealed the invitation to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, which will take place on May 6, 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

The original artwork, created by Andrew Jamieson, was hand-painted in watercolour and gouache. Jamieson is a heraldic artist and manuscript illuminator, and part of the Art Workers' Guild. Those who receive the invite (around 2,000 guests) will get it on recycled card with gold foil detailing.

The illustration is extremely thoughtful, so here is a break down of all the symbolism hidden in the invite the Green Man to the British wildflowers:

- Central to the design is the motif of the Green Man, an ancient figure from British folklore, symbolic of spring and rebirth, to celebrate the new reign. The shape of the Green Man, crowned in natural foliage, is formed of leaves of oak, ivy and hawthorn, and the emblematic flowers of the United Kingdom." The Green Man may also be a nod to the coronation location of Westminster Abbey, which also features a carving of the symbol on top of the quire screen facade within the building.

The border features a British wildflower meadow, including the following flowers:

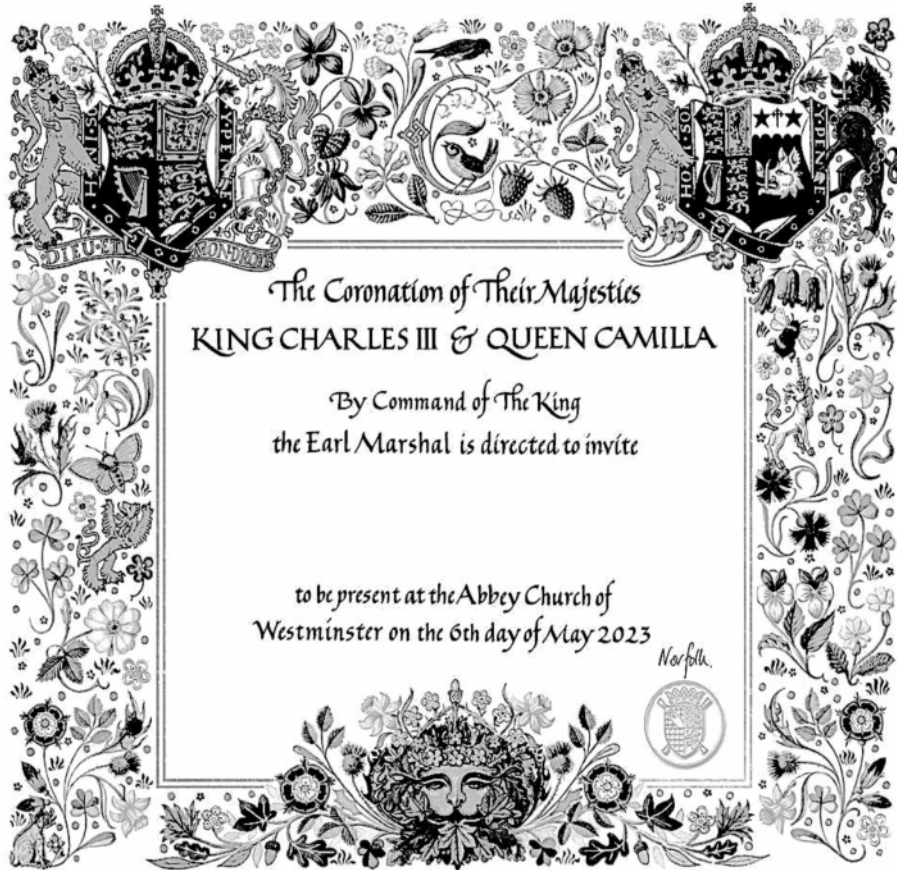
- Lily of the Valley, Queen Elizabeth's favourite flower, for the return of happiness
- Cornflowers, for hope and anticipation
- Wild strawberries (part of a beloved royal dessert strawberries and cream)
- Dog roses, for love, pleasure, and beauty
- Bluebells, for humility, constancy, and gratitude
- A sprig of rosemary, for remembrance harks back to the Queen's funeral, where the wreath on top of her coffin contained the remembrance plant

Also featured in the pattern are the four national flowers of the UK:

- The thistle, the national flower of Scotland
- Clovers, also called a shamrock, a symbol of Northern Ireland
- Yellow daffodils, the national flower of Wales
- The Tudor Rose, the national flower of England. The Tudor rose in itself is symbolic of unity after conflict, as it was designed when the warring houses of York and Lancaster found peace and merged.

Throughout the border, five wildlife appear:

- A bee
- A butterfly
- A ladybird



- A wren. Typically, the wren symbolises rebirth, immortality and protection and could be considered a nod to King Charles's beloved mother, whose legacy lives on.
- A robin. The robin and the wren, which sit on the golden 'C' at the top of the invitation in the centre, are symbols of rebirth and immortality, but they also could be considered a tribute to lost loved ones. Similarly the robin is often considered a sign that those who have passed away are still with us, serving a 'messenger' function. In addition the robin on the invitation could also be a sign of optimism for the future, with the bird also known as a symbol for happiness.

Other creatures in the design:

- The lion is the symbol of England, a symbol of courage, strength, and royalty. The lion appears on the royal coat of arms.

- The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland, and appears on the royal coat of arms.
- The boar, from Camilla, Queen Consort's coat of arms, is from the crest of her father, Major Bruce Shand.

#### The C

- At the top of the invite is a C, and another C in the form of vine is right inside—perhaps for Charles and Camilla.

#### Coats of Arms

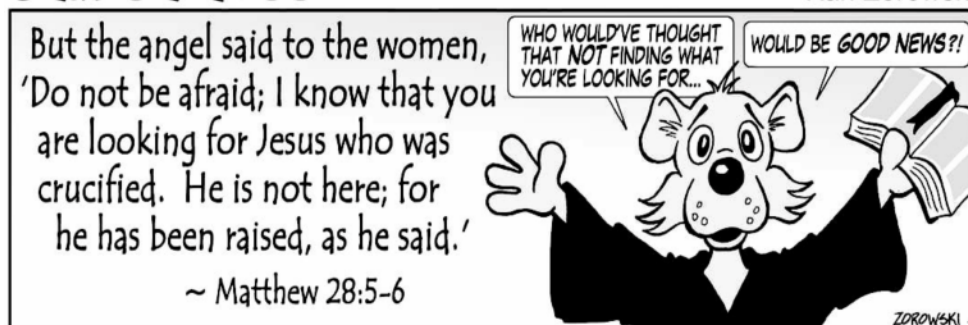
- The top left features King Charles's coat of arms. Clockwise from top left, the arms features the three Lions for England, a Lion rampant for Scotland, the three Lions again, and then a stringed Argent for Ireland.
- Camilla's coat of arms, featuring the royal lion and her father Major Bruce Shand's bear. New to Camilla's arms are the Garter, following her installation as a Royal Lady of the Order of the Garter in June 2022.

Throughout the pattern, flowers appear in groupings of three, "signifying the King becoming the third monarch of his name," per Buckingham Palace. King Charles I reigned from 1625 until his execution in 1649, and King Charles II from 1660 until 1685. The acorns at the bottom of the invite could possibly be a nod to Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales. Acorns feature on her coat of arms.

As the organizer of the coronation, the Coat of Arms of the Dukes of Norfolk, the Earl Marshal, can be found on the bottom right corner of the invite. The Earl Marshal, currently Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk, is responsible for organizing major ceremonial state occasions.

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## A reflection on Messy Church.

Just like primary school, Sunday school is very different nowadays. Our Messy Church uses craft activities along with children's hymns and prayers to teach about Bible stories and also about caring for others and our world. The Rector and his wife Frances put an enormous amount of work into the preparation of each new subject and are assisted by a happy band of volunteers. As I watched and listened to the families enjoying the March presentation learning about Nepal with CMS Ireland, it was a joy to hear their happy chatter and see their enthusiasm for the fun activities. No phones or devices in sight - just relaxed and pleasant time together and like our popular Lenten Lunches, great food is guaranteed! One of the best things about it all? - it is in the heart of OUR church, in OUR hall, alongside OUR morning prayer. Please support, encourage and pray for Messy Church and these young families - our future as a parish depends on them.

By Valerie Kincaid



# **Pentecost**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, or Whit Sunday, is a Christian observance that takes place fifty days after Easter. The word πέντε (pente), in Greek, is the number five and πεντήκωστή (pentekoste), means fiftieth, hence the fiftieth day after Easter.



Pentecost is a special day for the Christian community and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and upon all those who follow Jesus Christ. It is called Whitsunday/Whit Sunday as traditionally it was the day for baptisms in the church, when those coming for baptism wore white.

It has its origins in the Judaic “Festival of the Weeks”, which was an agricultural festival which marked the beginning of the wheat harvest. The celebration occurs on the 50th day, or seven weeks, after the sheaf offering of the harvest celebrated during Passover. It is the second of the “pilgrim festivals”, when every one who can, should travel and worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. Often people came to Jerusalem for the Passover and stayed for Pentecost - especially if they lived a long way from Jerusalem.

## **What Is Pentecost In The Bible**

The Bible tells us that Jesus rose from the dead after his Crucifixion. He then spent forty days with his Apostles, reminding them of all he had taught them about the word of God before ascending to heaven. Before his ascension he told his disciples that they would be visited by the power of the Holy Spirit .

In Jerusalem, the apostles had gathered to commemorate the Feast of the Weeks (the harvest celebration), when the Holy Spirit descended upon the house where they were eating and into each one of them. They began to tell others in the streets about Jesus and this resulted in many people believing in Jesus. Thus the tradition of Pentecost in Christianity was born.

Many see this instance, the first Pentecost, as the foundation or birthday of the church as we know it. It was because of the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus' disciples were able to spread the word of God through different countries.

## **Three things that happened during Pentecost**

According to the Bible, during Pentecost the following happened:

1.The Holy Spirit descends onto the disciples: On the day of Pentecost, the disciples and other followers of Jesus were gathered together when they heard a sound like a rushing wind and saw tongues of fire that rested on each of them. This was the Holy Spirit, which empowered them to speak in other languages and communicate with people from all over the world who were gathered in Jerusalem.

2.Peter preached to the crowd: After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter preached to those who had gathered, explaining what had just happened. He told the crowds that Jesus, who had been crucified and raised from the dead, was the Messiah and that if they believed in him, they would receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

3.The birth of the church: These events are seen as the birth of the Christian church. The followers of Jesus were given the confidence to preach the message of Christianity to people from all nations. According to the Bible, about 3,000 people were baptized and added to the church that day.

#### ***How Pentecost is Observed Today***

The main symbol for Pentecost is the colour red. Altars are adorned in this colour, and Church Ministers in many churches, including our own, wear vestments of the same colour. The red symbolizes the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit, as well as joy.

## **VICTORIANA FLORAL**



## **The Language of Flowers**

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**Phone 07740721799.**

**Website: [www.victorianafloal.com](http://www.victorianafloal.com)**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June - communities will count wildlife in ‘undisturbed’ churchyards**

Parishes across England and Wales are registered to participate in Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people visit churchyards and record the plant and animal species they encounter.

The biodiversity survey, supported by environmental charities *A Rocha UK* and *Caring for God's Acre*, as well as the Church of England and the Church in Wales, will take place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of June this year.

In the last two years, 900 counting events took place across churches in England and Wales, and over 27,000 wildlife records were submitted. Churches across all denominations take part in the count each year.

The data will be used to determine where rare and endangered species are located in the country, and also to aid churches of all denominations to increase biodiversity on their land.

This year, species on some of the 17,500 acres of churchyards in England alone will be mapped, with a further 1,282 acres of churchyards in Wales.

As graveyards and church land are usually undisturbed, they can be host to a great variety of wildlife not seen in other green spaces. Old churchyards like ours at St John's Church in Islandmagee have fantastic flowery and species-rich grasses not to forget our visiting badgers. Churches Count on Nature is part of Love Your Burial Ground Week. The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, who is the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: "Hundreds of thousands will have watched Sir David Attenborough's new documentary on wildlife in the British Isles. Registering for this initiative is a brilliant way for churches to encourage a local response and help to restore the natural habitats on our doorstep."

*Editor*

*Although we cannot join the Church of England churchyard nature count, it would be great to do our own species and plant count at St John's Church and to record the rich diversity that exists, here in this magazine.*

*If anyone is interested in taking part do contact the Editor or Rector.*



## Pentecost Prayer

*How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him... (Luke 11:13b)*

Heavenly Father,

In these troubled times we need your help, just like those first disciples did when Jesus came back to you after his resurrection. They must have wanted him to stay with them. They must have felt puzzled and bereft – and wondered how to go on.

But you, Lord, knew a better way. You sent them a helper, the Holy Spirit to fill them with your life. We thank you so much that the same Spirit will be our helper too, if we are willing to ask you for him. We will be able to face each day, each challenge, with your Spirit living in us to guide and empower us, to enable us to carry on even when we don't understand.

So, we pray, *come Holy Spirit, fill us, encourage us to carry on sharing your love and life and truth, in the name of Jesus.*

Amen.



The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren  
**Beware those modern choruses**



I am afraid we shall have to agree to disagree on yet another topic – although I suspect the list of items that we agree to agree on would be considerably shorter. I

like to think my appreciation of hymns resembles a connoisseur of fine wines savouring a grand cru claret, yours seems to resemble ‘New Age’ Travellers at Glastonbury Festival.

We at St James the Least are more than happy with *Hymns Ancient & Modern* – the original 1861 edition, naturally - the later editions display a dangerous tendency towards modernism. Sadly, St. Paul was not able to sing ‘*Onward, Christian soldiers*’, but I am sure he regretted the fact that it had yet to be written. The hymns our grandparents pretended to sing when they were in church are quite good enough for the ones we pretend to sing when we sit in the same pews.

At least when we come to the last verse, we know that we can then sit down, mission accomplished. The last time I attended your church, just as I saw the last words and therefore the finishing line of one of your choruses coming into sight, we were told it would be splendid to sing the thing another three times. At least it gave me another analogy to use when I next preached on eternity in hell.

And your method of singing would plunge our congregation into an existential crisis. What do they do with their hands when they don’t have books to hold and are obliged to look at a screen? To be deprived of being able to hold a book in church is like a smoker who is trying to give up being unable to grasp a cigarette when in the pub.

The ladies do not know whether to clasp their handbags, which then makes it look as if they suspect the rest of the congregation of theft, or to hold some flowers, which looks a little too matrimonial. The men experiment with putting hands in pockets, which they then realise

looks scruffy, so they try to hold on to the pew in front, which is inevitably too low, so they have to adopt some form of half crouch, which makes them look as if they have recently had hernia operations.

Your choral tradition – if I can flatter it with such a description – also seems to require half an hour before the Service spent singing for our congregation, that time is more usefully spent discussing Government incompetence, livestock prices and why Miss Threlfall always wears a red felt hat with her tangerine coat.

Should we ever have a joint Service, I can't imagine how we'll all get through the first hymn together.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



Changing the name from 'St. Patrick's Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

## **Parish Announcements**

***The Easter Select Vestry meeting will be held  
on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm in the  
Parochial Hall***

---

### **Counters for May**

1<sup>st</sup> May Trevor Peoples

8<sup>th</sup> May Bert Thompson

15<sup>th</sup> May Sandra Thompson

22<sup>nd</sup> May Valerie Kincaid

29<sup>th</sup> May Brian Moore

5<sup>th</sup> June David Robinson

---

### **Sunday Refreshments Rota**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May Select Vestry Members

14<sup>th</sup> May Messy Church

21<sup>st</sup> May Evelyn Powers

28<sup>th</sup> May Scotty Heyes

5<sup>th</sup> June Judith de Fleury

12<sup>th</sup> June Messy Church

Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle -Tel 07787561517

## **May Fellowship Activities**

### **Together in Faith Group**

Monday 1st & 15<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

We will be commencing study of the Book of James

Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall at St Patrick's Church.

### **Book Club**

Weds 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm

Reading 'The Paris Library' by Janet Skeslien Charles

(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 028 93372439 for venue )

### **Wednesday Morning Fellowship Group** (Monthly)

Next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 11am  
in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship .  
'We will be looking this month at our own personal faith?'

### **'Power in Prayer' Group** (Monthly)

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Boucher Room

Join us and see how powerful prayer can be .

### **Also Every Week the following 2 groups meet:**

**Circus Skills Class Tuesdays @ 10.30am - Parochial Hall**

**Indoor Bowling Club Tuesdays from 7pm - Parochial Hall**

**New people always welcome to join in**



We would love to see you.  
Why not join us at 10.30am on Sunday

## You Are Welcome Here

No matter:

- Where you've come from or are going;
- What you believe or doubt;
- What you are feeling or just not feeling;
- What you have or don't have; and
- No matter whom you love!



CHANGING ATTITUDE  
IRELAND

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### *Dear Reader*

It is lovely to see so many of you now attending church regularly on a Sunday. For a long while after covid it seemed that we would never return to how we were before. But in fact things are better than before in many ways. Not least our Messy Church which is now regularly attracting lots of young families. Our Youth Fellowship has also re launched and the Lenten lunches brought more people into the church than ever before! We have much to celebrate together this month beginning with Ascension Day at the start of the month and Pentecost at the end of May.. And of course there is the Royal Coronation of King Charles III and The Queen Consort on the 6th.

Do join us for these special Sundays and for our Royal Coronation Tea in the Church Hall following the united 11 am service in St Patrick's on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. But let us know you are attending by contacting Inez Moore or Priscilla by Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April.

One other bit of news is that we are thinking of having a church outing one Sunday during the summer to Portrush on the steam train.. Please let Austin Jenkins or the Rector know if you and friends or family would like to join us for the outing which promises to be a fun day out.

*In closing thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Church Matters. Please keep the articles coming in.*

***Stay well and God Bless***

Riddle Answer from page 10: \_\_\_\_\_ A doormat

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH**

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<b>Rector's:</b>	<b>Jo Pawson</b>	<b>Pauline Riddle</b>
<b>People's:</b>	<b>Mabel Allen</b>	<b>William Rafferty</b>

### **GLEBEWARDENS**

**St. Patrick's- Trevor Peoples    St. John's - Jim Reid**

### **SELECT VESTRY (includes Churchwardens & Glebewardens)**

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**Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer    07912478331**

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Valerie Kincaid;    Maureen Reid;    George McNeill;

Priscilla Carlisle;    Bertnel Thompson;

Austin Jenkins -Graveyard Manager St John's

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**Safeguarding Trust** Evelyn Powers 9337 2535    Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

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