



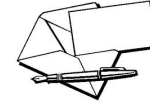
May flowers—a riot of colour

St. John's Methodist Church

Whitchurch

May 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Hello friends,

As we unfurl ourselves and make our way outside, May is often a time when we can celebrate simple pleasures, bare feet on grass, the sun warming your face, a bit of time to ourselves. For our teenagers its often a time of study and examinations, but the end is in sight.

Summer is often a time of restoration and relaxation with time to explore our hobbies and interests helped by the increased light levels and access to outdoor spaces and it all starts on May 1st.



May Day is the ancient festival marking the start of summer, which is often celebrated with the crowning of a May Queen and dancing around a maypole. This year however we will be celebrating with the coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort Camilla on the slightly later date of the 6th May.

On her coronation in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953, the late Queen Elizabeth II made promises before the congregation and before God that she would serve her country and those she governed, and towards the end of the ceremony she said “The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God.” The faith of the Queen was well recorded and despite the privilege of her position I have no doubt that at times she earnestly needed the help of God to keep the oaths she had made. A life of service can’t always be easy, especially one lived in the spotlight.

This coronation is the first opportunity for many of us to witness this ancient ceremony. Using the oil of Chrism pressed from Olives from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the Archbishop of Canterbury will perform the anointing, a duty which has been undertaken by the hold-

er of the post since 1066. It seems fitting that the new King will be anointed with fruits of the earth he has been campaigning to protect for over 50 years. It has been widely documented that he is passionate about the environment, sustainability, organic farming and halting deforestation. He is also an advocate of young people, founding the Prince's Trust. He is a patron of the Arts and is a published author himself, showing a creative spirit, and is passionate about inclusion in our multi-cultural Britain. Charles III is also a man of faith, like his mother, our late Queen, his life is underpinned by a belief not in his own human Kingship but in the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was the Servant King, who encouraged the young, spoke up for the marginalised and served those who were 'outsiders' in society. Jesus was the King who, at the beginning of time saw creation in its new and perfect state and weeps as we spoil it. Jesus is the King who died for those he came to serve and rose again so that we could have life everlasting. Jesus is the King who is forever the bridge by which we can one day be with God. Perhaps, by working to protect the environment, encouraging the young and speaking up for the marginalised, our new King is seeking to live out his faith by following in the footsteps of Jesus, but through it he will need the help of God, like we all do in our journey of faith.

That weekend, there is sure to be a lot of pomp and ceremony, the traditional balcony photo and perhaps a glass or two raised to the new King. In Whitchurch we have a joint service at St. Alkmund's and a whole host of events in the community planned and lots of celebrating.

Celebration is a wonderful expression of joy and community, it's not always expressed on a national level - most often it's personal or family-sized. But with each celebration there is an outpouring of happiness and a desire to share time with those important to us and mark it in some way.

So, aside from the coronation celebration what will you be celebrating this May? The warmer days? The delights of a garden heading into summer? A family wedding or a long-anticipated holiday? Are

you an open water swimmer just waiting to peel off the wetsuit or a painter longing for blue skies and blousy blooms? We each have our own celebrations, some grand and some less so.

So whether you are celebrating the crowning of our King, the wedding day you'll never forget or the arrival of your first home grown tomato, enjoy the moments, record them and share them as we stroll into summer and the new Carolean era*.

With blessings

Rev Donna

**The Coronation of King Charles III heralds the return to the Carolean age, a term that originates from the Latin for Charles – "Carolus".*

A message.....

Gwen would like to let everyone know how good it has been to play the piano for services in the Guild Room - and to tell them how well they sang while services were moved to the back premises for warmth during the colder months.

She also noted that the informal setting of the Guild Room seemed to be a welcome change for preachers, too. So, although she finds it good to be playing the organ in the main church building again, Gwen would like to suggest that we perhaps continue to occasionally vary the location of services.

(They say that variety is the spice of life. Ed)

Whitchurch Fairtrade Group

As you will no doubt know, 'Traidcraft PLC' ceased trading in January this year.' Whitchurch Fairtrade', our local Churches Together fair trade group, has obtained most of its products from 'Traidcraft PLC' in the past, so the news could have seen the end of the group in Whitchurch.

However, this is not the case as Judy Bellingham, who does the ordering, is keen to continue and to find other fair trade suppliers of goods we can sell on the stall and the other church reps are keen to sell those goods.

We are asking that you continue to buy from us to support the hard-hit farmers and artisans who produced goods for Traidcraft and who will now be trying to sell their goods via different fair trade companies. You can either buy from the market stall on Fridays or when the stall comes to your church on a Sunday.

Thank you

Helen Trigg, Judy Bellingham, Brenda Aumeer, Eileen Livesey, Briony Myles-Hook (Whitchurch Fairtrade Group)

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May."

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



INVITATION TO WATCH THE CORONATION

THE WATERGATE CENTRE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY 6TH MAY FROM ABOUT 10AM FOR THE LENGTH OF THE SERVICE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH THE CORONATION WITH US AND ENJOY THE EXCITEMENT AND WARMTH OF A COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE ON THIS JOYFUL OCCASION.

WE HAVE A LARGE TELEVISION MONITOR (AND A TV LICENCE!)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED AND YOU MAY ALSO LIKE TO BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH.

CIVIC SERVICE FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES

A CIVIC SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST ALMUND'S ON SUNDAY 7TH MAY AT 10AM LED BY REV DONNA AND JANE RYLANDS. THE ARCHDEACON OF SALOP WILL BE PREACHING.

*"The world's favourite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May."*

Edwin Way Teale (1899-1980) American naturalist, photographer
and writer

Christian Aid Week



£508 was collected for Christian Aid at the Lent Lunches. Although the lunch at St Johns was cancelled due to snow, £63 was raised through donations.

Christian Aid Week is 14th-20th May this year

Gifts will help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for their crops and build happier futures for their children. During Cyclone Freddy, Malawi experienced a year's worth of rain during the 4-week cyclone. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. £10 could pay for a 2kg bag of seeds to plant pigeon peas – a hardy, drought-resistant crop to help families build back as the flood water recedes.

The Churches Together **Christian Aid service** will take place on **Sunday 14th May** at 10.30am. It will be hosted by Beacon Church at the Watergate Centre. There will be envelopes at St. John's for your gifts and you can place these in the collection at St. John's or the Beacon.

There will be a **Street Collection outside the Civic Centre on Friday 19th May 10am- 2pm**

And we will be leading an Assembly at Whitchurch Junior Academy during the week.

Thank you for your support.

Brenda, Briony & Helen



BBT@St Johns

Bumps Babies and Toddlers provides a friendly welcome to children and their carers. Between 15 and 20 attend each week for craft, toys and coffee with singing, stories and prayers in the church when it's warm enough. If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota..

There will be no BBT on 1st May, 8th May or 29th May due to Bank Holidays .

	Leader	Set- ting up	General & Craft	Tea	Open up
1 st May	<i>No BBT May Bank Holiday</i>				
8 th May	<i>No BBT Coronation Bank Holiday</i>				
15 th May	Kathryn Donna	Briony	Dot	Sarah	Briony
22 nd May	Kathryn	Avril Bren- da	Brenda Dot	Sarah	Pete
29 th May	<i>No BBT Half Term Bank Holiday</i>				
5 th June	Donna Briony	Mike	Briony Sarah	Hazel	Mike



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those known to us who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely, bereaved or in any other kind of need.

St John's

Pray for the people who hold responsibility for the running of St. John's, and ask that they will enable us all to move forward in unity of goals and vision at this critical crossroads period in the history of the church.

Our Town

Give thanks for the work of Churches Together in Whitchurch and pray for the joint work, especially during Christian Aid Week.

Our nation

Give thanks for the wonderful examples of heroism, kindness and care we see all around us in what often seems a dark world.

Pray for wisdom for our country's leaders.

Pray for those hardest hit by the cost of living rises and inflation

Our world

Pray for those caught up in the crisis in Sudan

Pray for the people of Ukraine as they continue to try to live amongst the chaos and heartbreak of invasion by Russia. Pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones there.

Pray for a change of heart for Vladimir Putin and Sudanese leaders General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.



Whitchurch Foodbank – The Future

The Trustees and the management team of WFB invite you to an information evening on:

Wednesday 10th May at Bargates Hall @ 7:30 pm

There will be an opportunity to hear about the work of the Foodbank in Whitchurch over the last 10 years, be informed of the present situation and the needs and some of the challenges. There will also be an opportunity to explore how individuals and churches might get more involved if this would be appropriate.

We would sincerely value your attendance and any interest shown.

Refreshments will be served at 9pm and there will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

Please let Avril, Mike, Hazel, Briony or Andrew know if you are interested in attending so there are sufficient refreshments.

Eco Church

A District Zoom meeting took place in March with representatives from churches that have registered an interest in becoming an Eco Church.

No one from St. John's was able to join, so I asked Rob Glassonbury, who is District Administrator and PA to Revd. Helen Kirk and convened the meeting, to summarise what happened.

He said "We had a good meeting with 26 Zoom windows. Much of the time was in breakout rooms, so people could discuss what they already do and what extra help they think the district could provide. Each of the groups reported back similar things, such as solar panel installations, being green with toilet rolls, cleaning products, reducing plastic, efficient lighting and heating, and replicating such things at home.

It was recognised there is no quick fix, and churches are implementing things as and when they can. We hope to have another Zoom in June or July to see how people are doing. If there's anything you think the district can help with, we'll be pleased to hear. "

I am hoping to join the June/July meeting.

Helen Trigg

Steward's Rota for May

7th May – Joint service with St. Alkmund's

14th May – Joint service with the Beacon

21st May – Andrew Fawcett

28th May – Dot Charlesworth

Sunday Services for May



7th Rev. Donna Broadbent-Kelly

- Coronation Service at St. Alkmund's

14th Christian Aid Service at Beacon Church

21st Graham Dimelow

28th Rev. Brian Acty

Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea 24th June

We will be holding a Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea on Saturday 24th June at Church. We're hoping to make it a traditional event with entertainment and something for the children. Please put the date in your diary and let us know if you can help to make this event a success.

Sue Acty & Dot Charlesworth

Zoom Service

You are very warmly invited to share in our zoom services. Please contact Avril for the time, date and the link in May

*"Now the bright morning-star, Day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip and the pale primrose.
Hail, bounteous May, that dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire!
Woods and groves are of thy dressing;
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long."*

John Milton (1608-74) English Poet
- 'Song on a May Morning'

"The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In fullgrown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh."

The Trees - Philip Larkin (1922-85) English poet, novelist,
librarian and jazz critic.

Steward's Letter



Isn't nature wonderful? As spring unfolds around us and God's wonderful world shows us a new miracle each day, the fresh green appears on the trees and on the hedgerows where it seems last week, or even yesterday, they were brown. I don't know about you but it always fills me with surprise and delight, every single year. Bob and I are spending more time in our new garden lounge now that we have a warm roof on the old conservatory. (I thought I would miss the glass roof but I haven't missed it at all!)

We can watch the birds more and see the trees change through the seasons. All this certainly reminds me of how we need to do our best to look after our lovely world for future generations. Recycle, reuse, renew and remake to avoid landfill and waste and poisoning this beautiful planet.

I so enjoy our monthly Recycled Sewing Bee, a big thank you to anyone who has donated anything to help make this venture work, we now have 3 working sewing machines, an iron and ironing board, in addition to all the materials and haberdashery. Our next one is this coming Saturday, as I write, and it'll be the first time for me that I won't need to take my sewing machine and ironing board along. I love to see the variety of items people make and it's something quite special to see something old becoming something new. I'm very pleased to say that we have a man booked in this month with his own sewing machine so that'll be something new for us. If you would like to sew, knit or crochet, or even just want to come along and see what we do you are all very welcome whoever you are.

Whatever you do this May make time to look around and enjoy the beauty of God's wonderful world.

Dot Charlesworth

Tea and Coffee Rota for May

7th Brenda and Nancy
14th Elizabeth and Pete
21st Sarah and Avril
28th Marion and Anthony



Sound System Operators for May

7th May Andrew Fawcett

14th May Sarah Lunt

21st May Brian Acty

28th May Mike Nimmo



If your date doesn't fit give me a ring to sort it out (Mike Nimmo)

*I thought that spring must last forevermore;
For I was young and loved, and it was May."*

From 'May Morning (1916)' by Vera Brittain (1893-1970)
English journalist, writer, feminist and pacifist.

*Ask of Her, the mighty Mother.
Her reply puts this other
Question: What is Spring?-
Growth in every thing*

*Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass and green world all together,
Star-eyed strawberry breasted
Throstle above Her nested*

*Cluster of bugle blue eggs thin
Forms and warms the life within,
And bird and blossom swell
In sod or sheath or shell."*

From 'The May Magnificat'
by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-99)
English poet and Jesuit priest

*"Since thy return, through days and weeks
Of hope that grew by stealth,
How many wan and faded cheeks
Have kindled into health!
The Old, by thee revived, have said,
'Another year is ours;'
And wayworn Wanderers, poorly fed,
Have smiled upon thy flowers."*

- William Wordsworth (1770-1850) English Poet
'To May'

May Dates for your Diary:

BBT Mondays 9:30-11am (not 1st, 8th or 29th in May)

MORE+ every Monday 1-4pm (not 1st May)

6th - 10am Coronation Screening at Watergate
Centre

7th - Coronation Civic Service 10am
St. Alkmund's

10th - Foodbank Meeting at Bargates 7.30pm

14-20th - Christian Aid Week (collection outside Civic
Centre 10am-2pm on 19th)

18th - Ladies Coffee 2pm

24th **June** - Summer Fair and Strawberry Tea

June Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for
the next Newsletter by 18th May.

**BENJAMIN'S CAFÉ &
DELI**



Delicious Breakfasts,
Lunches & Brunches at
good prices.

We offer freshly prepared food
from our deli, to eat in our café
or to take out.

3 High Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1AW

Tel: 01948 664726



WHITCHURCH
PHOTOGRAPHY

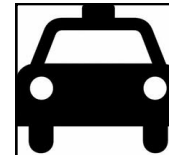
**FOR ALL YOUR
PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS!**

01948 664 664

**Weddings, Passports,
Studio Photoshoots,
Printing, Framing and
Canvases**

whitchurchphoto@gmail.com

Taxi for May



The following drivers are available to transport you to
the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

7th Hazel Nimmo

14th Hazel Nimmo

21st Pete Shingler

28th Pete Shingler

BARLOWS

Your Local Electrical Retailer

View our full range of
products online at
barlows-electrical.co.uk

**FREE
Local
Delivery**

Pop in and speak to us at:
25 High Street
Whitchurch
SY13 1AX
01948 662463

 **euronics**

Galaxy Computer Services

**Your local computer
experts**

Computer sales, support
and repair



Call Will or Matt 01948 665855

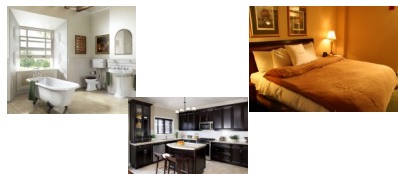
Top of the High Street
Whitchurch

SPLISH SPLASH

“Olde Worlde Charm”

A Family run
Bathrooms Bedrooms &
Kitchens Business based at 46a High
Street Whitchurch

Speak to Vincent about your new
project! Or re-vamp your existing
kitchen, bathroom or bedroom



**The Most Famous Bread
& Cake Makers in
Whitchurch!**

WALKERS

