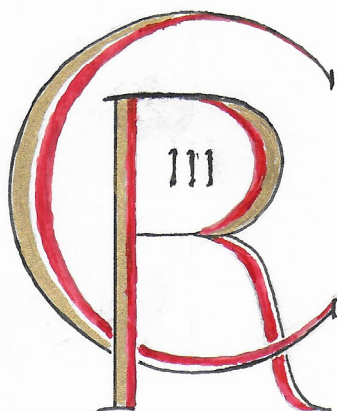


# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



6<sup>th</sup> May 2023



May 2023

Price 50p



# Who's who at St Oswald's

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## The Parochial Church Council April 2023-2024

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Elaine Houghton,  
Linda Iverson, Simon Thomas, Chris Ward, Angela Williams

*Ex officio:* Anne Coomes, Anthea Wilkinson

*Deanery Synod:* Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

# Letter from Nancy

Dear All,

This year May starts with the coronation and ends with Pentecost.

As part of the coronation celebrations, King Charles has asked people to volunteer in service in their local communities. In his coronation King Charles promises the remainder of his life to serve God and serve the people. At the heart of the coronation service is anointing, a recognition of humility that he serves not in his strength alone but with God's help and strength, praying for the power of the Holy Spirit to flow upon him to enable and empower him to fulfil the role he has been called to. Praying with humility for the Holy Spirit to empower you to action in serving God and serving people is praying for the power of Pentecost in your life.



At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was sent by the risen Christ to flow down on his followers to enable and empower them to actions that they wouldn't have thought they were capable of. The acts of the apostles were so powerful, so life-giving, so full of the Holy Spirit, that lives were changed, and the early Church of God grew and grew.

I would encourage you all to pray earnestly about the call to volunteer. Pray "God, use me" about what actions God wants you to do that would serve God and serve people. What is your unique calling? It will be completely different for everybody; it could be to befriend the friendless; to teach in some way; to heal and to care; to show hospitality to the community; to take responsibility for something on behalf of others; it could be to be part of a background prayer powerhouse for the church.

When you've worked out what it is for you, and although "to be crowned King" is taken, there will be something God has that is unique to you, your next step is to pray for the power of Pentecost, for the Holy

'Pray "God, use me" about what actions God wants you to do.'

Spirit to flow down and empower you so your actions are enabled to serve God and serve people.

These two prayers, “God, use me” and “Spirit, empower me” are the humble prayers of Pentecost, prayers for the spiritual gifts needed to fulfil your calling in Christ. In my experience, add “today” onto the prayers and it always gets them answered – every day there is an action that God has for us, something needs prayer, something needs doing, or someone needs help.

And in my experience, God is faithful and will be with us to help, to give us the words and actions, to give us the strength we need. This is how God uses the actions of our everyday faith to change the world for good.

Every blessing.

Nancy x

\*\*



## May, the month of the Coronation

*Brian Reader comments on the front cover*

The crown with the new royal Cypher reminds us, if we needed reminding, that this month we will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III.

It is sometimes easy to forget, with all the pomp and pageantry, that it is in essence a very serious and symbolic occasion, when the King promises before God that he will serve his country faithfully.

But it also reminded me of previous coronations. I well remember the coronation of the late Queen, when I had the honour to be one of those chosen to line her processional route. We were listening to the service through loudspeakers and a great cheer went up when it was announced that she had been crowned. Throughout her long reign the Queen always kept those promises she had made to God and country at that ceremony.



6th May 2025



She also helped the Empire to evolve into the Commonwealth of Nations as countries regained their independence.

I can also remember the coronation of her father, King George VI, in 1937. At that time I was living in Carshalton, a leafy suburb south of London, and there were fireworks and big parties for the children and we were all given commemorative mugs.

Many years ago, I met the King when he was Prince of Wales, and he made a very good impression. I believe that since his mother's death he has settled down well into his new role. One of the maxims of the family has been 'Never complain, never explain', which I believe he has followed despite provocation.

So I wish him good luck, and will proudly say 'God save the King'.  
(And I also wish him better weather than his mother had for her coronation!)

\*\*

## 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>)

\*\*

## Did you know 10 Facts about King Charles III?

1. He was born at 9.14pm on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1948, to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, at Buckingham Palace in London.
2. He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old.
3. He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree. From 1967 to 1970 he studied history at Cambridge University.
4. He can speak Welsh. He spent two months learning the language in 1969, as he prepared to become the Prince of Wales. He still speaks it today.
5. He is a qualified pilot and diver. While serving in the military in the 1970s, he trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and became a confident diver.
6. He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author, and a music lover, who played the cello at Cambridge. He has done some TV: making a guest appearance on Coronation Street, and presenting the BBC weather forecast.
7. As Prince of Wales, he founded nearly 20 charities. Together, they raise £140million each year for good causes. He is passionate about the environment, speaking out against plastic pollution as early as 1970. He has planted many trees during royal engagements.



*Photo: Chris Jackson*

8. Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history. He became King on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.
9. As head of the Commonwealth, King Charles III is monarch of each of the 14 Commonwealth realms: Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. As King, he's also the only person in the UK who can travel abroad in the Commonwealth without a passport and drive without a licence.
10. King Charles III has two children, Princes William and Harry, and five grandchildren. Prince William is next in line to become King and was named the Prince of Wales in 2022.

## How shall we pray for King Charles III?

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.*





## Notes from 'The Counting House'

*Finance report from our Treasurer Richard Raymond*

Just two things to focus on this month. Firstly, those of you who were at the APCM will have heard my report about the church finances. To recap, we are not in a particularly happy situation as our income is not matching our expenditure. The major item that we pay is the Diocesan Parish Share and this is a figure set by Chester for each parish to cover the provision of a vicar and all the support services that the parish might require in terms of advice.

Significantly, there is also an element in the Parish Share which goes towards supporting other parishes who are finding it hard to 'pay their way' in this system. It is a source of some concern that Bollington is now one of those parishes where we are not able to pay our Parish Share in full, and are therefore being supported by other parishes. For those of us who use the church regularly and for those people who value its presence as the Parish Church of this community, we have to find a way to reverse this situation.

Secondly, last month I mentioned two fundraising initiatives that St Oswald's are signed up to. These are :

Easyfundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>)

and The Giving Machine (<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>).

Both of these websites will send us a percentage donation every time you make an online purchase from one of the online shops who are part of these schemes. All you have to do is to register with Easyfundraising and/or The Giving Machine. Then, when you go to one of the online stores that are in the scheme you will be asked whether you would like that store to initiate the donation to us. By clicking yes, you have nothing more to do and we get the donation. Please try it!!

Meanwhile, our bank account name is '**The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC**'. Our account number is **39536416** and the sort code is **01-05-41**. If anyone wishes to talk to me in private about any sort of donation, I am happy to be contacted.

# My Royal Memories

*By Brian Reader*

In 1953, I had the privilege of witnessing the Coronation procession while part of the Royal Air Force College contingent lining the route around Parliament Square in London.

It rained all day, and while we were at the present or shoulder arms for an hour and a half, we saw our highly polished bayonets turn rusty. Prior to the parade a decision was made to remove the white Blanco from our webbing belts and replace it with matt white emulsion paint which looked just as smart. This was not affected by the rain, while the blanched buck skin belts worn by the Cadets of Sandhurst and Dartmouth ran in white streaks down their uniforms.



We all got very wet, but only a few very lucky ones got the Coronation Medal!

All those present remembered the radiant smile on the Queen's face and the larger than life Queen Salote of Tonga who rode through the rainy

streets of London in an open carriage during that parade - refusing to close the top of her carriage as a sign of respect for the new monarch.

Someone asked, "Who was the small man sitting beside her?" "Probably her lunch!" came the reply.

In 1976, Prince Charles came to open a new Operations Room at the Kent Constabulary HQ in Maidstone. He had obviously got his sense of humour from his father! In his opening statement he said that in the previous few months he had been to open several establishments only to find that they had already been running successfully for some time. As the Police ops room had already been open for some six months he wondered if he should announce it closed, and then reopen it again properly!

At the buffet reception later, he recognised the Royal Air Force College tie I was wearing and spoke for some time about the College where we had both earned our pilot's wings. In fact he spent such a long time talking to all the staff that he forgot to eat, and the Chief Constable quickly prepared a doggy bag for him, so that he would have something to eat as he was driven to his next engagement.

I retired from the Royal Air Force as a Flight Lieutenant, but the Chief Constable introduced me to Prince Charles as Wing Commander Reader. I said nothing, as I was not going to correct the Chief Constable in front of the Prince; and anyway I probably thought that the Chief Constable was a better judge of men than the RAF!

Several years later, I also was 'the Porridge Man' during a Queen's visit.

I had arrived at RAF Kinloss in Scotland in August, 1961, to take up the post as Adjutant, with a two week hand over period.

I soon found that preparations were in hand for a visit by the Queen and all normal service life had been suspended. I attended all the planning meetings and as I had no role to play, asked my Wing Commander on the eve of the visit, what he wanted me to do on the DAY! "You, Brian, will be the Porridge Man!"



When I asked him what he meant, he explained – "You know everything that has been arranged for the visit, so you will act as the mobile prompt to ensure that no one makes a 'porridge' of anything!" And so it happened.

I got quite close to the Queen many times during that day, but always in the background. All went according to plan and my intervention was never needed. I enjoyed that Royal visit, but I regretted the absence of a handover to a very demanding job!

# What happened at the Ascension?

As we celebrate the Ascension 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). The New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing.

*Sitting:* At Pentecost Peter says 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 i.e. eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

*Standing:* When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he cried 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 has a bigger plan and purpose for our lives than we might imagine (including the difficulties), and we are called to trust Him daily.

*Praying:* *'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also 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).

# The Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer

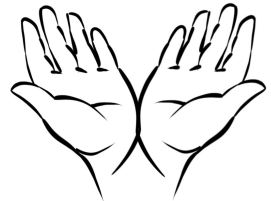
*We continue our series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith. It will run throughout this year.*

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.'*

## All in the month of ... May

It was:

250 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1773 that Britain passed the Tea Act, which led to the Boston Tea Party, which led to the American Revolution, and the establishment of the USA.

150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1873 that David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer of Africa, died.

100 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May 1923 that the first Le Mans 24 hours endurance motor race was held.

90 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933 that the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the Inverness Chronicle.

80 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 1943 that the RAF made the famous 'Dambusters' Raid', which caused huge flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

75 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 1948 that Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine ended. Next day the Arab-Israeli War began when Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq invaded Israel.

70 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953 that New Zealander Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first to reach the top of Mount Everest.

50 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1973 that the Watergate hearings began in the US Senate and were televised nationally.

40 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1983 that the journal Science reported the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

25 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998 that in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

# Remembering David Livingstone

– missionary and explorer

It was 150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1873, that David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, died. He was best known for his search for the sources of the Nile, and for going missing (and being found by the American journalist Henry Morton Stanley) in the wilds of Africa.

Livingstone was born in Blantyre, near Glasgow, and died of malaria and dysentery in what is now Chipundu, Zambia. He was the first European to cross the African continent from west to east and to discover the Zambesi River, the Victoria Falls and many major lakes.

His mother and father were both strict Christians, and the family was poor: he was one of seven children brought up on the top floor of a tenement. But he felt called to be a medical missionary in China; so he spent two years studying to become a doctor and was accepted by the London Missionary Society.

But the political situation in China prevented his going there, and a meeting with Robert Moffat, a well-known Scottish missionary in southern Africa, persuaded Livingstone that he should go to Africa instead. He arrived in Cape Town in 1841.

He felt that Christianity, commerce and civilisation were destined to open up Africa, and he was strongly against slavery, often clashing with the Boers and Portuguese because of their treatment of the Africans.

He was awarded a gold medal and money by the British Royal Geographical Society for the first European sighting of Lake Ngami, now a birdlife conservation area in Botswana.

He also found fame through the publication in 1857 of his *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*, which sold more than 70,000 copies, bringing a vastly improved lifestyle for his wife Mary (Moffat's talented daughter), who had put up with his repeated absences.

## When Children and RE mix...

*When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable. As in these hilarious answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE....*

- ~ The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.
- ~ The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home.
- ~ Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife, leave a note for her on the table.
- ~ Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.
- ~ Some of the seed from the sower was carried off by Satan.
- ~ The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person.
- ~ Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.
- ~ An altar is a stall for candles.
- ~ An example of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.
- ~ An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

## Mark

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

## Lesson

A nervous Head boy was reading the New Testament Lesson in School Assembly for Pentecost: "Here beginneth the first Actor of the Chaps."

## Blessing

It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's out-stretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead.

The boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it *on my head!*"



# Book of Remembrance for May

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Elsie Johnson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Alfred Cantrell
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Alice Edna Hooley
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Dan Woolley
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Raymond Foster
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Barbara Collings
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Revd Michael Whetter  
*(Vicar of this parish 1991-2000)*
- 12<sup>th</sup> - John Williams
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Paul Withington
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Oliver Heathcote
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Kenneth George Wilcox
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Maggie Chadwick
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Dennis R Bennett
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lily Gaskell
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jessie Brocklehurst
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Jack Lloyd
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Richard Owen Ridley
- 28<sup>th</sup> - William Henry Stanesby
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Frank Spooner
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Bertram Wardle
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Francis Owen Wharton Wilkinson



*Would you like to include the name of a departed loved one? An entry costs £10. Please contact Ann Stringer on 01625 574325*

## From the Registers

- Burial of Ashes    2<sup>nd</sup> April - Melvyn Gerald Heaps
- Funeral            4<sup>th</sup> April - Valerie June Garforth
- Baptism            16<sup>th</sup> April - Rupert Christopher Kitchen

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**Get the magazine:** please ring Ann Stringer on 01625 574325.

**Deadline:** Material for the June issue to reach Anne by 20<sup>th</sup> May.

# Worship at St Oswald's in May

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	9.15am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Worship
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am Parish Communion
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Ascension Day Talk by Father Michael Winstanley at St Gregory's R C Church, 11.15am
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	10.30am All Age Communion
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am Parish Communion



## CORONATION SPECIAL EVENT

**BRING AND SHARE LUNCH**  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon.

Come and celebrate with us  
the Coronation of  
King Charles III –

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.30am  
Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion