

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's: A place of worship where all are welcome

## Church Services in May

### 7th May:

10.30am Coronation Service (CW)

### 14th May:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
& Sunday Club

6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

### 21st May:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
& Youth Club

### 28th May:

9.00am Matins (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

## Contacts

### Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272  
vicar@ashtonhayes.church

### Readers:

Alan Downen 01829 751174  
alan@ashtonhayes.church  
Philip Goodall 01829 752130  
philip@ashtonhayes.church

### Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086  
margaret@ashtonhayes.church

### Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453  
Diane Eldridge 01829 751282

### Church Bookings:

Linda Morley 01829 759029  
bookings@ashtonhayes.church

### Safeguarding Issues:

Phil Weston 01829 752272  
Margaret Papworth 01829 759086  
safeguarding@ashtonhayes.church

## A View from the Vicarage

God save the King! On Saturday 6th May the nation will celebrate the Coronation of our new monarch, King Charles III. For many of us, this will be the first Coronation of our lifetime, an event we'll be sure to remember for years to come. A whole weekend of celebrations and commemorative events is planned across the nation, not least here in Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth.

The Coronation itself is a religious service, in which Charles will be formally consecrated as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Not only does the Coronation take place in a church (Westminster Abbey), but the whole service is rich with Christian symbolism. The new king will be presented with various objects designed to remind him of the Lord to whom he is ultimately accountable, and from whom he can receive guidance and inspiration to rule well. They include:

- St. Edward's Crown – made of solid gold and weighing over 2 kilos, this sign of the new king's authority will be placed on his head by the Archbishop of Canterbury. But at its centre is a Cross, a symbol that even King Charles is under the authority of God.
- The Rod of Equity and Mercy – the new sovereign is to rule with justice and compassion. This echoes the description of Christ's rule found in Isaiah 9:7 "He will reign with justice and righteousness forever."
- The Sovereign's Orb – a cross above a golden globe, a visible reminder of Christ's crucifixion for the sins of the world. Whether we are a prince or a pauper, we all need the forgiveness that Jesus' death secured.
- The Bible – finally, a copy of Holy Scripture is presented to the new Monarch with the words; "Here is the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom, this is the royal law, these are the lively oracles of God."

Above King Charles III, and over each of us, stands the King of Kings - the risen and ascended Lord Jesus. He is the supreme Sovereign to whom every knee will one day bow, so let us be sure to honour our 'High King of Heaven', as well as our new king here on earth.

God bless,  
Phil Weston

## Congratulations

Holly Scourfield, of Station Road, Mouldsworth, was christened at St. John's on Sunday 16th April. Congratulations to her and her parents Carl and Zoe.

## Notices

**Christian Aid Week** — Please support Christian Aid using the envelope provided to make a donation which will help turn hunger into hope for so many people who have nothing. Envelopes may be deposited at the Community Shop, at Church on Sundays, or at the Vicarage, by Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bishops' Visit** — On Monday 17th April we were delighted to host the Bishops of Chester, Birkenhead and Stockport at St. John's. Our episcopal guests had the opportunity to meet representatives of our PCC and community organisations, and were given a tour of our reordered church building.



### 100 Club

The winning numbers in  
March's draw were  
**39 29 35 54**

## St John's 0-90's Café



Our all-age café will be open to welcome you again on Thursday 18th May, from 2.30 to 4.30pm. All are welcome to join us for free drinks, chat, play and cake!



## Pause for Thought by Alan Downen



**Jehoiada [the priest] brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, 'Long live the king!'. 2 Kings 11:12**

After 70 years of singing "God save the Queen" it still feels rather odd to be praying for the health and longevity of a king, in fact, I am still likely to trip over the words in our weekly church services if they are not written out in front of me. But kings have been part of global history for millennia.

The above extract describes the start of the reign of Joash. He was stolen away as a baby from among the other royal princes, who were all being murdered (*echos of the princes in the tower?*), and he was hidden during the six years of Queen Athaliah's reign... before she was 'put to the sword'.

King Charles hasn't had to be in hiding, he has had a very public presence, but during his Coronation he will be anointed and will swear an oath similar to that of his mother, our late queen. In 1953 she promised to govern her peoples according to their respective laws and customs, to execute law and justice with mercy, and do her utmost to maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel. She then sealed her covenant with God, which she kept, with the words: "The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God," and Charles will now accept and feel a similar heavy weight on his shoulders.

Then they shouted, "Long live the queen," and we will shout, "Long live the king!"

## In Concert!

**Kelsborrow Choir** and **Ashton Sings** will be performing a concert to raise funds in aid of Ashton Hayes' Village Defibrillators.

**Saturday 20th May @7.30pm**  
**In St John's Church, Ashton Hayes**  
**Tickets: £10 Children £5**

During the evening there will be a raffle and refreshments will also be served

### For tickets contact:

elaine.campey1@gmail.com or  
 christine\_tickell@hotmail.co.uk

## Food for Thought

OPAL will be introducing a new service in Ashton Hayes for people who are over 60, interested in food and cooking and meeting others who share similar interests.

Each meeting will be stimulating, whilst remaining relaxed and friendly. The sessions will be held fortnightly on Wednesdays 11am-1pm, from May 3rd at The Pavilion Café, Queen Elizabeth II playing fields, Ashton Hayes. The cover charge will be £5 per person and lunch will be provided

Contact: Lynda Briody (07779 283591)  
 lynda.briody@opalservices.org.uk

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## Coronation Service



On Sunday 7th May at 10.30am we will be having a special service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. All are welcome to join us for this historic occasion, which will be followed by refreshments — including a Coronation cake!

## Contact Us

**Website:** [www.ashtonhayes.church](http://www.ashtonhayes.church)  
**e-mail:** [contact@ashtonhayes.church](mailto:contact@ashtonhayes.church)



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