



Celebrating the Coronation with the Church of England

**Information pack for
church communities**





A message from
**The Archbishop of Canterbury and
The Archbishop of York**



Dear sisters and brothers,

The Coronation will be a historic moment in the life of our nation, a time to reflect on our history, celebrate who we are and look to our future.

At its centre is a Christian service in which His Majesty will be anointed as King. It will be rooted in longstanding tradition and Christian symbolism.

We pray that this might be a moment for the nation and many round the world to encounter the person of Jesus Christ, the servant King, and hear His call to each of us to serve others.

The Coronation weekend presents a unique missional opportunity for the Church to reach out, gather together with those we know, and establish new links and relationships.

There will be many ways for churches and Christians to be involved, from church services, to volunteering initiatives and community events. A wide range of resources have been created to help people pray, create, encounter, and mark this occasion in their own setting.

As we prepare for The King's Coronation, may we seek to serve others, connect with our neighbours, and give thanks to God for the wonderful unity we find in the great diversity of our nation.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend and
Right Honourable Justin Welby
The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Reverend and
Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell
The Archbishop of York



Celebrating Community, Faith and Service

The Coronation with the Church of England

The Coronation of King Charles III is a historic moment in the life of our nation. The Archbishop of Canterbury will lead the Coronation ceremony which will be rooted in a longstanding tradition. It will reflect The King's role today and look towards the future.



The Coronation is a wonderful occasion for parishes, dioceses and chaplaincy teams to reach out to communities through providing services of celebration, community events and opportunities for volunteering.

Building on themes of community, faith and service, it's a chance to share an invitational message about the Christian faith and show the church as a dynamic Christian presence at the heart of community life in 21st Century Britain.

This pack can be used by Christian communities in churches, parishes, cathedrals, chaplaincy teams and anyone looking to celebrate and get involved.

It shares resources, ideas and information on ways you might choose to mark the Coronation weekend in your setting and create a memorable and outward-facing occasion.

Key moments during the weekend will include:

Saturday 6 May

The Coronation ceremony will be the centrepiece of the weekend

Sunday 7 May

The Coronation Big Lunch

Sunday 7 May

Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle

Monday 8 May

The Big Help Out

For details of more Church of England Coronation resources visit
churchofengland.org/coronation



The Coronation weekend

What's happening and how can you get involved?

The Coronation Service – Saturday 6 May

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May at Westminster Abbey.

In preparation for the Coronation, The Church of England is sharing a range of prayer and liturgical resources that will reflect themes of the Coronation, for use in worship services of prayer and at home. This is an opportunity for us all to:

- Pray for The King, The Queen Consort and The Royal Family and their life of public service.
- Learn about the symbolism of the Coronation service and its Christian significance.
- Reflect on the life and calling of Jesus, the Servant King.





Resources

Coronation Prayer Resources

Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III

As The King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and commitments they make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation alongside them – praying with and for The King from Easter Sunday to the Coronation (April 9 - May 6), with the final week, from Sunday, April 30 to be a national week of dedicated prayer to uphold and strengthen His Majesty The King and all the Royal Family.

The final week will call for a national week of prayer to uphold and strengthen His Majesty The King and all the Royal Family.

The Church of England has compiled a book of Daily Prayers. Over 28 Days from Easter Sunday (April 9) to Coronation Day (May 6), the book provides a daily theme, reading reflection and prayer for use by individuals, churches and groups.



The booklet is available individually (£1.50), 10-Packs (£1.25 per copy) and 50-Packs (£1 per copy).

Order direct from Church House Publishing online now at chpublishing.co.uk/Coronation

For very large (1,000+ copies) please e-mail orders@hymnsam.co.uk for a quote.

The reflections will also be available free via email and audio via The Church of England website and social media.



Resources for Prayer and Worship

A range of resources for prayer and worship will be available for download from the Church of England website. These will include:

- Prayers for the King and for the Royal Family
- Special forms of service (Holy Communion and a Service of the Word) for a civic or community gathering in honour of the Coronation
- A Vigil Service for the day or evening before the Coronation
- Prayers and forms of intercession for use at Morning and Evening Prayer
- Proper texts for use in a celebration of Holy Communion
- Prayers for use before a community screening of the Coronation

The order of service for the Coronation will be shared with the public in advance of the Coronation weekend. There will also be a commentary which will help to explain and reflect on the symbolism of different parts of the service. Copies of the Coronation order of service could be printed off and displayed in advance of the day.



These materials are offered without copyright to be used in whole or in part and will also be made available to Ecumenical partners and other faiths, for adaptation and use in their own tradition, should they wish.

These materials are also shared with all British diplomatic missions, postings and schools overseas via The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Resources available for young people and families

- A podcast of children's Coronation stories will be available from the Church of England website
- A schools and assemblies pack will be available from the Church of England website and via the Church of England schools' network
- Coronation colouring packs, arts and crafts and other ideas for children will be made available

Sunday 30th April – Looking ahead to the Coronation Church of England Digital Service

In addition to regular services in your own setting a specially produced national service will be streamed on the Church of England's Facebook and YouTube channels as well as being on the Church of England website. This can be shared on social media or watched as a corporate activity by your church to complement your local services.

Download the Coronation Resources at: churchofengland.org/coronation



Community celebration and volunteering

The Coronation weekend is a great opportunity to gather people together. As a nation, there will be a big focus on community celebration and volunteering through The Coronation Big Lunch and The Big Help Out.

The weekend is an important moment for community cohesion, bringing together and fostering new and better relationships within our own church and faith settings, as well as reaching out ecumenically, to other faiths, groups and individuals.

The Coronation Big Lunch – Sunday May 7



'The Coronation Big Lunch' is on May 7. This nationwide act of celebration and friendship will see neighbours and communities sharing food and fun together.

You might choose to host a Coronation Big Lunch in your church building, or community space by putting

together a celebratory event on the day, through a regular lunch club you run, or by supporting and promoting other local events that are happening.

For more information and resources visit: coronationbiglunch.com





The Big Help Out – Monday 8th May



You might choose to get involved in 'The Big Help Out' on 8th May 2023. Organised by The Together Coalition, it will involve a wide range of partners such as The Scouts, the Royal Voluntary Service and faith groups from across the United Kingdom.

The Big Help Out will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation. It will also encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. Getting involved in the Big Help Out could be a great way of highlighting the volunteer work that happens through your church every week and inviting new people into the volunteering life of the church, and your local community.

For more information and resources visit: thebighelpout.org.uk

You can register your event on AChurchNearYou.com website at:
cofe.io/ListCoronationEvents

Churches should also look at Church of England guidance on Volunteering and Safeguarding when organising events.

The Coronation Champions Awards

As part of your volunteering work through the Coronation, churches might think about celebrating local volunteers through 'The Coronation Champions Awards'.

Linked closely to The Big Help Out, The Coronation Champions Awards will recognise a diverse group of volunteers from different backgrounds and communities across the UK from a range of causes.

You can celebrate the amazing contributions volunteers have made in your setting, by nominating a volunteer for a Coronation Champions Award.

Nominations must be for volunteers over the age of 14 who may have overcome adversity or discovered creative ways to support their local communities within the last five years.

Categories include:

- Supporting older people
- Supporting young people and children
- Crisis and welfare
- Community
- Sports, culture and heritage
- Health and care
- Sustainability and the environment
- Animal welfare



Find out more about this via Royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Celebrating the Coronation in your community

Alongside the Coronation Big Lunch and the Big Help Out there are all sorts of ways your church can get involved in the Coronation weekend.

Hold a special Service

Hold a special service, by using the liturgical resources provided as part of your Sunday service, or run a vigil service for the day or evening before the Coronation.

Screen the Coronation service or Coronation concert

Churches or Cathedrals might choose to run a 'Coronation Watch Party' – and screen the service or Coronation Concert within or outside their buildings. For big occasions, the BBC often waive the license fee for such screenings. Check the BBC website for information about licensing for screening the Coronation.

Run a Coronation community event

From BBQs to Garden Parties, Street parties to 'Crowns and Cakes' Teas, why not organise a Coronation event for people in your community?

Community exchanges

You might wish to explore creative ways to forge permanent links with other groups in your community through community 'exchanges' where congregations spend time in another faith or denomination's space, learning about the host's tradition.

Coronation sports match

Why not hold a Coronation sports match inviting local sports or community groups along. This could be existing teams or ones put together especially for the day. Or why not provide refreshments at a sports event in your setting?

Coronation memorabilia

For many people, the Coronation will be a reminder of The Queen's Coronation 70 years ago. What Coronation memorabilia do people have from 1953? Why not display it in your church, or have people share their memories during a service?

Tree planting at the Coronation

King Charles is a committed environmentalist. You could hold a tree planting moment during the Coronation weekend, to celebrate the occasion.

Find out more about these environmental initiatives: communionforest.org or queensgreencanopy.org





Provide support

There are all sorts of ways that you might choose to support people and get involved in other activities over the weekend.

Visiting scheme

The visiting and community support services your church provides may be particularly important during the Coronation weekend.

Foodbanks

Many churches run or support Foodbanks in their settings and may need extra capacity over the weekend, or you may wish to think about what as a church you could donate to make the Coronation weekend feel a little more special for families and individuals who receive these deliveries.

Provide some space

Local community or volunteering groups may appreciate use of a building for their own Coronation activities during the weekend.

Help events in your local community

Is there a big Coronation event happening in your community? Why not help to coordinate people in your community to go along to it together? Or contact the Council to find out what support is helpful. From litter collection or stewarding, to chaplaincy and first aid, there may be a number of volunteering needs during the weekend.





How to share what your church is doing in the Coronation

List your event online

ACHurchNearYou.com

Help people find out about the services and events you are planning for the Coronation weekend by listing them on the national website [ACHurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com), using the tag 'coronation'. You can list your Coronation services, celebration events or volunteering work. See how at cofe.io/ListCoronationEvents.

The Coronation Big Lunch and The Big Help Out

You may also wish to list these on the Big Coronation Lunch and Big Help Out websites too, so others in your area can join in.

cofe.io/ListCoronationEvents
[achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com)
[coronationbiglunch.com](https://www.coronationbiglunch.com)
thebighelpout.org.uk

Share your story

The Coronation weekend will have a big focus on community celebration and volunteering. Churches are encouraged to share their stories on their social media channels and we'll amplify these on national channels. You might want to share photos of people in your communities and how they are celebrating the Coronation.

Make sure you contact your local Diocesan Communications Team and share your stories in preparation for, and over the Coronation weekend.

Remember to Tag The Church of England in your social media posts, so we can share your stories.

🐦 Twitter @thechurchofengland

📷 Instagram @thechurchofengland

📘 Facebook @thechurchofengland

📺 YouTube @thechurchofengland

🎵 TikTok @thechurchofengland





Building Community

Community-Building Habits during the Coronation weekend

The Coronation weekend brings many opportunities for communities to encounter one another and build our shared life. Churches have an exciting and powerful part to play in offering spaces which can bring diverse people together, hold differences with integrity, and offer authentic hope.

'Difference' is an initiative which is part of The Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry. At its core are three habits, that are rooted in Scripture, seen in the life of Christ, and distilled from the wisdom of expert peacemakers. These reconciling habits are a resource for you as you prepare to engage with your community over the Coronation weekend. They are designed to enable every person and community to cross divides, encounter others well and pursue a just and flourishing society.

'Christ calls us to be peacemakers who cross the borders and barriers that divide us – radical in our generosity and welcome' Archbishop Justin Welby

The habits

Be curious

Listen to others' stories and see how the world looks through their eyes.

Every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), with a unique story. When we are curious enough to seek out that story, we affirm that person's innate value. Curiosity disarms fear and avoidance and opens up new conversations.

- When your community comes together, who is missing?
- How might your community bring together people with different perspectives and experiences?

Be present

Encounter others with authenticity and confidence.

Our encounters with others are inseparable from our relationship with Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46). Being present means having the courage to bring our whole, unique selves to those encounters – bringing our vulnerabilities as well as our convictions and our strengths. When we are present with others in this way, it helps us build deep foundations of trust.

- How might you and your church be able to be present in a new way in your neighbourhood over this Coronation weekend? Could you be a guest at an event organised by others?
- How might your church help to sustain and build on the connections created in your community over the Coronation weekend?



Reimagine

Find hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

God is making all things new (Revelation 21:5) – and he has made us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5: 16–21). The habit of reimagining encourages us to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and for God to stretch our understanding of what is possible. When this happens, we become more deeply rooted in hope and are led to new places of courage and creativity.

- Are there opportunities for your church members to pray together about the possibilities the Coronation weekend holds?
- How might your church and the wider community come together to reimagine the future of the neighbourhood you share?

Find out more at difference.rln.global, including how to run Difference – a free, five-session course which unpack the three habits and explore what it means to follow Jesus in a complex and divided world.





Guidance for Churches

Pastoral and wellbeing considerations

For many, marking the Coronation will be seen as a special occasion, that they wish to do through a local church service or event.

Others may simply enjoy the weekend for its community and celebratory focus – providing some excellent opportunities for churches through local outreach and volunteering.

However, for others, it may be a more challenging time, where some may feel isolated and cut off from their community. As such, your church might elect to focus on pastoral and community befriending support during the weekend.

For others, the Coronation will not be of interest, or may evoke emotion or critique.

All supporting resources made available are provided as optional materials. Some of the resources may not all feel directly appropriate to your settings, but they can be adapted – or not used – as required. As a community leader you must always do what feels most appropriate, sensitive and embracing of all your community.

Volunteering guidance and safeguarding

For all your community events and volunteering programmes please consult guidance from The Church of England website on Volunteering and Safeguarding.

Guidance for bell ringers

It is suggested that Churches and Bell Ringers may wish to consider ringing, where possible, before and/or after the Coronation service to locally gather and mark the Anointing and Crowning of the King at a practicable time (with the agreement of the Parochial Church Council). It is suggested that if you have the facility, a quarter peal would be appropriate, or whatever can be managed with the resource available.

Bell Ringers may also wish to consider how they could offer 'taster' sessions and training as part of your local community gathering or Big Help Out, with the appropriate risk assessments undertaken.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has produced some materials for Associations or individual towers to download and use as required.

This includes information on their Coronation initiative 'Ring for The King', where they seek to increase the number of trained Bell Ringers in order to reach their target of one ringer for every bell in the country.

More information is available on the CCBR website:
cccbr.org.uk/bellringing/ring-for-the-king/





Guidance for flags

It has been confirmed by the British Flag Institute and the Department for Digital, Media, Culture & Sport that to mark the Coronation the Union Standard should be flown at full mast all day on Saturday 6th May.

Other new and useful dates for flying the Union Standard are:

June 17:	Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
June 21:	Birthday of The Prince of Wales
July 17:	Birthday of The Queen Consort
September 8:	His Majesty's Accession
November 14:	Birthday of His Majesty The King

Guidance on music

Although there is no formal guidance on what music parishes and cathedrals may wish to use over the Coronation weekend, The Royal School of Church Music has released their 'Sing for The King' project. Sing for The King is an open invitation for all choirs to join in song to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, acclaimed singer and composer, has been commissioned by the RSCM to compose a new coronation anthem for this project: The Mountains Shall Bring Peace.

The anthem sets the words of the psalms and is suitable for both services and concerts. The anthem has moments of grandeur for larger choirs on formal occasions, while its accessible melodic sweep lends an intimacy that will be enjoyed by smaller groups and gatherings.

For further information please visit:

rscm.org.uk/whats-on/sing-for-the-king/

Beacons

There are no plans for Beacons to be lit in celebration of the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III.

A note on infrastructure and safety

If you are planning a large service or community event that will draw people from across your area and region, please consider local infrastructure and public service, and how adaptation could be made if necessary. Please also consider any potential industrial action and what unintended consequences this could have on your events.

Please also ensure that the necessary insurance and risk assessments are in place.

Further information

For further information or clarification please contact your diocesan communications team, your Rural/Area Dean or your Archdeacon.



Notes for Chaplaincy Teams

The Church of England has a number of Chaplaincy Teams serving communities, hospitals, universities, schools, industry, the military, prisons and other settings.

Chaplains in all contexts may choose to adapt Coronation prayer materials, customising them to fit the needs of your setting.

All materials are offered without copyright to be used in whole or in part and will also be made available to Ecumenical partners and other faiths, for adaptation and use in their own tradition, should they wish.

These materials are also shared with All British Diplomatic Missions, Postings and Schools overseas via The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Materials can be downloaded from:
churchofengland.org/coronation

A note for Military Chaplaincy Teams

Liturgical and prayer resources will be made available in good time via The Church of England website, to enable Chaplains to get these resources to ships, submarines and other military deployments in a timely manner.

You may choose to adapt the Coronation prayer materials, customising them to best fit the Chaplaincy model and to further emphasis His Majesty The King's role as Head of the Armed Forces.

All the prayer and worship resources that are sent may be reproduced, either in whole or in part, without restriction or written permission required.

A number of units will be on deployment in this country and overseas over the Coronation period, as well as potentially serving on the day in a ceremonial role.

You may wish to consider how as a force you can keep these individuals, groups and units in your prayers, and collective thoughts.

Equally, when it comes to marking Coronation day for those on active service you might wish to convene discussions about how this could be given consideration and what could be safely achieved. Local discussions will need to be held with the appropriate authority or commanding officer, to decide upon the appropriate way to put this in place, possibly retrospectively.

A note for Prison Chaplaincy Teams

Chaplains may choose to adapt Coronation prayer materials, customising them to best fit the Chaplaincy model of your prison. All the prayer and worship resources that are sent may be reproduced, either in whole or in part, without restriction or written permission required.

Prison Chaplaincy Teams might also choose to adapt some of the educational material, to explain some of the historical and spiritual significance of the Coronation service, as a way of building awareness for the Christian faith.

You may wish to consider screening the Coronation. Local discussions will need to be held with the appropriate authority in the prison sector, such as your Prison Governor, to decide upon the appropriate way to put this in place.



Pray with us

Post coronation – we invite you to keep praying and volunteering with and for your communities, with 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This is a global ecumenical prayer movement, initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016, which unites more than a million Christians to pray during the period from Ascension to Pentecost (18th-28th May 2023).

This year's theme is 'Praying and Living the Kingdom' which invites participants to pray for others, and 'love thy neighbour' through practical acts of love and service.

Resources are available to support work amongst different communities, including those impacted by poverty, the persecuted Church, workplaces and children and young people.'

Find out more at:

thykingdomcome.global





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