

Celebrating the Coronation

As well as holding their Majesties in their prayers as the Coronation Weekend approaches, Church communities across Bath and Wells will be coming together to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty the Queen Consort, either hosting their own events or coming alongside other community events.

St Andrew's, Minehead will be kicking off their celebrations the weekend before, with a 'Sing for the King' Service on 30 April, and have lots planned for the Coronation Weekend. People are being encouraged to come along and watch the service together, enjoying refreshments and a BYO picnic on Saturday morning, followed by a party with games, a raffle and prizes



for the best dressed 'guest'. On Sunday, like many other churches, they will be hosting a 'bring and share' Coronation Big Lunch. Organiser Diane Newton says, "What an amazing opportunity to bring the community together to share in this exciting event and create everlasting memories. All are welcome to join us over the Coronation weekend, celebrating and sharing in the joy of our community, our faith and service to others."

At St Mary's, Limington they will be addressing the past with

a celebratory cream tea on the aptly named Monarch's Way path. Revd Bruce Faulkner explains, "The path was named after King Charles II, who took this route through Limington as he attempted to leave the country following his defeat by the Parliamentarians. He didn't receive a warm welcome so the PCC thought what better way to welcome the new King Charles than to celebrate in the churchyard on the Monarch's Way." After the cream tea, during which they'll be able to raise a toast with a commemorative mug, there will be a Coronation Praise Service in the church.

How will you be celebrating the Coronation? Send your pictures and stories to comms@bathwells.anglican.org or tag us on your social media posts ■

News in brief

Bishop Michael to perform historic role at Coronation

The Cabinet Office has announced that 13 individuals will play historic roles at the Coronation, including Bishop Michael, who will act as Bishop Assistant to The King along with the Bishop of Durham.

Commenting on the announcement, the Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells says, "I am deeply honoured that as the Bishop of Bath and Wells I will have the privilege of supporting His Majesty King Charles and Her Majesty the Queen Consort during the service of Coronation. It is a truly historic moment and humbling to realise that this continues a tradition dating back to Richard I in 1189." ■



Historic bells returned

The first set of church bells to have been engraved with the cypher of King Charles III have been delivered to St Peter and St Paul's in North Curry, near Taunton. They will be in place in time to ring for the Coronation, to the delight of the local community who help raised the funds to get them cast.

The Revd Simon Bale said: "It's a wonderful feeling to have new bells and they will ring out with joy and thanksgiving, once again calling people to worship." ■

Quizzing for Somerset Day

Somerset Day falls on Friday, 12 May this year and everyone is invited to celebrate by joining what is hoped to be Somerset's biggest ever quiz. In conjunction with BBC Somerset, an actual and virtual quiz will take place between 19:00-21:00.

Anyone can take part in the radio quiz, but organisers are also encouraging pubs, schools, care homes and others, including church communities, to host a quiz on the same evening and raise funds for local good causes. Find out more at somersetday.com ■

Visit bathandwells.org.uk/news to find more on these stories and others.

Remember Jesus too

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Writing about the celebration of Holy Communion almost eighty years ago, Gregory Dix posed the question 'Was ever another command so obeyed?' It's well worth searching online for his whole answer. An edited quote of his response reads: 'For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the wisdom of

the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the plebs sancta Dei—the holy common people of God.'

The first of Dix's scenarios will be played out before us at the coronation of King Charles III. At the heart of the ceremony, amidst all the pomp and circumstance, the oaths and declarations, the regalia and crowning, will be the celebration of Holy Communion. The words used will be just the

same as those spoken in our parish churches Sunday by Sunday. From Communion, the King and Queen will be sent out from Westminster Abbey to live like us the prayer we say at the end of many of our services. They will offer 'their souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, sent out in the power of [God's] Spirit to live and work to [God's] praise and glory.'

The command that the King, Queen and all of us obey is Jesus's direction to 'Do this in remembrance of me.' So, as you watch the Coronation please remember Jesus too. For he is the one who comes to us as a servant; the king of Kings■

Bishop Michael

A big help!

St John's, Peasedown PCC member, Joy Fraser is Chair of the Hive Community Centre Committee which is hoping to benefit from the Big Help Out.

What is the Hive?

The Hive is run by the residents of Peasedown St John through its Management Committee with the aim of providing a vibrant space for young people, a place where residents can come together and where they can find help and support when they need it.

What support are you hoping for?

We are hoping to get some support on the day to have a bit of a spring clean, spruce up the outside space, clean the windows – just as you like to do at home. We are hoping some people may continue their support beyond the day and help in other ways on an ongoing basis.

What support do you get currently?

The Hive project sits on the



Joy greets Bishop Michael at the Hive charitable status of St John's Church and members of the church sit on our committee alongside people from the local Methodist and Catholic churches, as well as those with no church affiliation. We have volunteers from all sections of the community.

What areas do you need help with?

We could really do with more support for our excellent youth workers. Getting some volunteers

to help with simple things such as making the tea or clearing up will allow them to devote more time to work directly with the young people.

Are you planning anything else for the Coronation weekend?

We'll be getting the bunting out on the Friday and having a Coronation theme for our regular Friday morning Waffle Café. On the day we are working with the local Village Agent to host particularly those who would be home on their own so they can enjoy the Coronation with others. We have applied for funding to give them a lunch, so hopefully that will happen.

If you are interested in helping the Hive either for the Big Help Out or beyond, [email: themanager@thehivepsj.org](mailto:themanager@thehivepsj.org)■

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