

## The head that wears the crown

### Bishop Nick Baines

Shakespeare puts it perfectly: “Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” (Henry IV, Part 2, 3.1.31)

Or, perhaps, uneasy should lie the head that wears a crown? Not all monarchs carry the burdens of headship with the humility and recognition of mortality that are vital to the task. As we look around the world, particularly at those who either crave or assume political leadership, we see people who worship power and sometimes lose sight of what (and who) that power is for.

King Charles III follows a monarch who epitomized faithfulness, service and humility for over seven decades. It is obvious already that her son has watched and learned and taken note. For power without humility becomes arrogance – it all becomes about the power-holder rather than the well-being of those who are subject to that power. Good kingship demands something different.

In the Hebrew Scriptures we read how, following the inconvenient death of the long-lived leader Moses - just as the people delivered from captivity are about to enter the so-called promised Land with all its uncertainties - Joshua is told by God to be “strong and very courageous” as he leads the people forward. So far, so good. I am sure he felt suitably encouraged.



But, this is followed by a condition: “... being careful to act accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you...” (Joshua :7). In other words, power and authority are not a possession without limits.

As King Charles is crowned the next King of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, this sense of conditional obligation clearly weighs upon him. His acknowledgment of his own need of the grace of God is essential to the wise exercise of royal power – it is this acceptance of need, rooted in humility, that affords a necessary accountability.

We must pray that at his coronation the King is imbued with the power of God’s Spirit, that he might serve his people with confidence, grace, accountability and humility. This is the way to wisdom and the key to good authority.

God save the King!

+Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

## School pupils win King’s Bench prize

Dacre Braithwaite Primary, Summerbridge, Harrogate, is one of 15 winners in a competition to create a Coronation Bench to go on display in the Tower of London as part of its celebrations.

Some 15,000 schools took part by sending in designs by pupils, explained delighted head teacher Jo Dobbs: “We are all very excited!

“It was wonderful and to see the children supporting and helping each other as well as building on each other’s ideas,” Jo said.

“Children from Year 2 to Year 6 put themselves forward to form the Coronation Art Club. We met weekly to learn about the historical importance and symbolism of the Coronation and to share ideas for our thoughts on the vision and values of the new Monarchy.

Diocesan Director of Education Richard Noake praised this great achievement: “This is what our schools and learning are really all about – special moments that can prove to be transformational!” Richard said.



## Revd Canon Anna Eltringham to be the new Bishop of Ripon

The Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, currently the Team Rector for Oxted, in the Diocese of Southwark, will be the new Bishop of Ripon, Downing Street announced this morning.

She will swap Surrey's North Downs for the Yorkshire Dales and more when she becomes an Episcopal Area Bishop in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, serving many rural parishes and varied urban communities from Ripon to Ribbleshead and Richmond to Wetherby.

"Being nominated to be the next Bishop of Ripon is an honour. I am excited to serve God and his people in this place and prayerfully grow his Kingdom on earth together," Anna said.

She grew up in the West Country and studied Business and Anthropology at the University of Durham, which sparked a love of the North-east countryside.

"I have felt drawn back to the North of England for a number of years and have a strong sense of God's call to this particular role," Anna said.

The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said of the appointment: "I am delighted to welcome Revd Canon Anna Eltringham as the next Bishop of Ripon and to this important rural area that includes the world famous Yorkshire Dales.

"Our parishes and communities, big and small, will greet her with great warmth as her commitment to par-



ish ministry and the environment will be evident from the word go.

"Anna's pastoral care for clergy and lay leaders is evident from her previous work in the Diocese of Southwark and the wider church. She will greatly support our diocesan mission to encourage Christian confidence across the Ripon Episcopal Area and beyond."

Looking forward to her new role, Anna said: "God has laid a number of things on my heart in recent times, including a passion for climate-care and justice; care for the wellbeing of clergy and all God's people; a vision for a church that serves as much beyond as within its buildings; and children and young people at the heart of it all."

Before entering ministry, Anna worked in strategic marketing, including a role in Croydon Council where she launched a successful programme that helped local businesses cut their impact on the environment.

Whilst increasingly involved in church, community and justice work, she discerned God's call to ordained ministry, following in the footsteps of her father and previous generations in her family.

## 'Prayers for Sudan' held in Bradford Cathedral

A service was held at Bradford Cathedral recently to offer prayers to those caught up in the conflict that has erupted in Sudan.

The short service was led by the Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford, and included representatives from across the faiths, offering prayers and reflections.

The Revd Ludia Shukai of Great Horton and Lidget Green also spoke.

The Revd Ned Lunn, Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts, says: "As fighting continues in Sudan and hope for a ceasefire has crumbled, we invited people to come and pray for peace.

"The Diocese of Leeds, of which we are a part, has strong links with Sudan and with that comes personal connection with the tragedy."



# St Oswald's Guisley parishioner walks to Parliament to raise funds and awareness

A parishioner from one of our Leeds area churches is walking a 'Pathway to Parliament' to raise funds and awareness for a charity supporting those with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

Fran Heley currently sings in the choir of St Oswald's church in Guiseley.



Originally from London, music teacher Fran moved to Yorkshire 30 years ago and has never looked back.

Starting on Sunday May 21 Fran will be undertaking a walk from Leeds Town Hall to Parliament in aid of Ehlers-Danlos Support UK.

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome is a genetic condition that affects the connective tissue.

The most common type of EDS involves hypermobility of the joints, but it can affect any part of the body, and lead to multiple and complex health issues which are difficult to treat.

According to EDS UK, it takes on average 10 years to get a diagnosis.

EDS UK offers advice and promotes research into the condition.

Fran said: "Four years into my journey and I am still struggling to get a formal diagnosis for EDS.

"My experience highlights the need for more research into the diagnostic process for diagnosing the condition.

"The current criteria focuses on the hypermobility of five specific joints, yet there are 300 joints in the body.

"My hypermobility is elsewhere, but has had a significant impact on my spine.

"Unfortunately, these joints do not count!

"This has had a profound impact on my life.

"I have had to stop playing the oboe and the active life that I once led is now diminishing.

"Joining the choir at St. Oswald's has been one of the best things that I have done.

"It has taken a lot of soul searching, but I no longer feel angry about my situation, and now have a greater sense of connection through the church.

"This walk is undoubtedly daunting, but I also grateful for having the opportunity to try and help the EDS community."

## Art for wellbeing's sake draws a crowd to one of our churches

Some 30 people enjoyed an Art and Wellbeing workshop at Settle Parish Church, led by stained glass and community artist Linda Baines, and Shaeron Caton-Rose, an installation and printmaking artist.

Linda is also a spiritual director, and together they shared their experience of developing ReCreate, a Community Interest Company focussing on art and mental wellbeing.

They run retreats, work with community groups in Bradford and Leeds, and use art and craft to explore ideas, reflect on faith and promote mental wellbeing.

Linda and Shaeron illustrated their presentation with numerous examples of creative work, and provided a wealth of resources.

The session was also hands on, with the opportunity to explore themes of life using collage, painting, words, and images, helping participants to think about what might be required in order to set up a group for art and mental wellbeing in their own communities.

This workshop was organised by the churches of Bowland and Ewecross Deanery.

Course participant Revd Sue McWhinney said "I appreciated the opportunity to pause in the midst of a busy week, to re-connect with creativity, and to reflect on life using collage, painting, and sharing with others in a group setting."



## A Christian King serving the good of all

**Very Revd John Dobson  
Dean of Ripon**

Like monarchs before him, back through the centuries to William the Conqueror, King Charles III comes to Westminster Abbey to be crowned. He does so as a twenty-first century Christian King with a clear sense of God's calling to serve the wellbeing of all within his nations and realms - Christians and people of other faiths, those with no faith and even those not supportive of monarchy.

At the beginning of the coronation service the King makes it clear that he looks to Christ, the King of kings, as the inspiration for servant leadership. Children greet him, saying, 'Children of the Kingdom of God, we welcome you in the name of the King of Kings.' To this His Majesty responds, 'In His name and after His example, I come not to be served but to serve.'

We are reminded of how much service there is to do simply because of the central role of the monarchy, 'the crown', in ensuring that the national community works for the good of all. The King promises to govern for the benefit of all. With his hand firmly on the Coronation Bible, he swears to cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed in all his judgements, and to maintain the laws of God and the profession of the gospel.



We are fortunate in having a king who, drawing on his sincere Christian faith, clearly desires to reign over an inclusive society in which all can flourish, and to see this United Kingdom serve the wellbeing of the global community, not least in defending peace and protecting the environment.

The coronation might appear to be like an ordination service on steroids. The King has a demanding vocation which he cannot fulfil in his strength alone. Central to the service, then, is his anointing with chrism, sacred oil by which the Holy Spirit itself is gifted as the unfailing source of God's strength. This takes us back through the mists of time beyond even Christ to the kings of the Old Testament. As Handel's coronation anthem reminds us, 'Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king.'

The anthem goes on, "And all the people rejoiced and said, 'God save the King!'" So we do the same, as King Charles is anointed, accepting God's strength to serve, following Christ's example, for the good of all people.

## Pet service in Bellerby blesses pets past and present

A recent pet service in Bellerby gave people the opportunity to celebrate and pray for their pets, past and present.

The service was held in Bellerby Village Community Garden, which is next to several local farms.

Led by the Revd Stephen Hanscombe, and curate the Revd Gillian Lunn, the service was attended by several dogs of all breeds and sizes, as well as their owners.

Revd Gillian said: "As well as praying for those pets and thanking God for them we also thanked God for previous pets that have meant so much to us.

"Some people brought photos of pets they've loved and who are no longer with them, and it was very touching as each pet was introduced and described.

"We also asked God's blessing on the surrounding farms, their animals and crops and all who work on the land.

"We look forward to another pet service next year!"

