

# St Helen's Magazine

May 2023

50p



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Parish Directory

(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST	AYFC Office	560940
BANKING & CASH	Andy Smith	
BELL RINGERS	Michael Davidson	DAVIDSON29029@aol.com
BUILDINGS' TEAM		sthelensbuildings@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDEN	Judith Lewis	564204
HERITAGE CENTRE LETTINGS	Elaine Shaw	07392 409745
		sthelenslettings@gmail.com
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Andrew Chapman	07792 461782
ELECTORAL ROLL	Eileen Coombs	417883
FLOWER ROTA	Eileen Coombs	417883
GIVING OFFICER	Cornelia Wright	
HERITAGE	Julie Starkey	sthelensheritage@gmail.com
LANTERNS children's group		
MAGAZINE ADVERTISING	Sue Evans	461808
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Jill Chapman	07725 519453
		jill.chapman12@btoopenworld.com
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Margaret Worrall	413665
MOTHERS' UNION	Margaret Worrall	413665
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Carole Nettles	411607
PRG young people's group	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
READERS	Sue Brown	417313
	Carol Eyley	412334
	Judith Lewis	564204
	Andy Smith	07896 519807
	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SAFEGUARDING	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SERVERS	Eileen Barradel	838029
SOUND SYSTEM	Simon Starkey	415718
STREET PASTORS CONTACT	Chris Lewis	07828 463368

## St Helen's Church contact details:

Parish office: ♦sthelensashby@gmail.com

♦01530 411607

♦Community Heritage Building, 4 Church Yard, South St, LE65 1AA

♦Opening times Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm

♦ Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

♦ Instagram:

♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby

♦ Website: www.sthelensashby.net

## Giving

You can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

## Editor Writes ...

It's a busy month ahead. We have the welcoming and installation of our new incumbent, Ascension Day and Pentecost, a Spring Fayre, Christian Aid Week, being a gallery for the Ashby Art Festival, and, of course, the Coronation of King Charles and the Queen consort. Our coronation celebrations were kicked off by a wonderful concert on April 30<sup>th</sup> thanks to the longstanding friend of St Helen's, Philip King MBE, with the Cantabile and B Natural choirs and South Derbyshire Brass Ensemble. Before the concert a team of bell ringers rang a quarter peal of Grandshire Caters.



Our celebrations continue on May 7<sup>th</sup> with a service followed by a tea followed by a service – a sort of coronation sandwich you might say. Details are on page 13. And Wendy Freer tells of Ashby's past coronation parties on page 20.

I don't know about you, but I am really enjoying finding out about all of the elements which are coming together for the coronation. For example, the Stone of Destiny has left Edinburgh Castle for the first time in more than 25 years and headed to London. The stone, an ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy, was seized by King Edward I of England in the late 13th Century and taken to Westminster Abbey. It remained in England for 700 years and formed part of the coronation chair on which kings and queens were crowned. The stone was returned for permanent display in Scotland in 1996. But it was agreed it would return to Westminster Abbey for any future coronation ceremony.

Another fascinating detail is that Pope Francis has gifted fragments believed to be from the True Cross on which Jesus was crucified to form part of a new processional cross which will lead the coronation procession at Westminster Abbey. The new cross is made from recycled silver along with Welsh slate and reclaimed wood, and was a gift from the king to the Church in Wales to mark its centenary in 2020. Read about our church's own link to the true cross on page 9.

Alan Cross is having coronation thoughts in his regular gardening item on page 7, there are some insights into the languages which will be used during the service on page 11, and, over the page, Andy Smith is also contemplating the busy month ahead.

*Jill Chapman* •

Thank you to all members of the Worship Team who have written the magazine's letter whilst we are without an incumbent. This month ...

## Andy Smith Writes ...



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, two significant events are only a matter of days away. The coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 6 May 2023, at Westminster Abbey. Four days later, St. Helen's will host the service of institution and induction

of Sue Field as Team Rector of the Benefice of Ashby de la Zouch and Breedon on the Hill.

Its strange, some months you wonder what on earth you can write about in the Parish Magazine letter, in other months, like Number Twenty-One buses, one event follows the other!

So, I thought I'd highlight one similarity and one difference between these two traditional ceremonies of great significance to the communities represented at the services. Both of which may offer food for thought, and indeed our prayers.

First the difference.

Sue Field, Judith, the Flagstaff Team Wardens and the Bishops' Office have had a matter of weeks to prepare themselves for the service of "institution and induction". Conversely, King Charles was four years old when his mother acceded to the throne. He was seventy-three at his accession, making him the longest serving heir apparent and Prince of Wales in British history.

King Charles and Sue have had very different time to prepare for their new roles, but both will benefit from featuring regularly in our prayers – in the run up to their respective services, and afterwards as they take on the mantle of their new roles. In particular, we should pray that Sue will feel supported and guided by the Holy Spirit as she prepares to "lead us in worship, service and in encouraging our witness."

And the similarity? As I write, details of the Coronation Service have been made public, and one significant change sees the traditional "Homage of Peers" replaced by "The Homage of People". Those who choose to do so, will pledge allegiance to the King and his successors, with the pledge ending by asking "**So, help me God.**"

Earlier in the Service, as part of The Oath, King Charles, will be asked (among other things), "Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel?" King Charles will

answer “All this I promise to do. The things which I have here before promised I will perform and keep. **So help me God.**”

And, I believe I’m right in saying that during her service of institution and induction, Sue will swear Oaths of allegiance (to the monarch) and Canonical Obedience (to the Bishop), both ending with her asking “**So help me God**”.

Monarch, priest and people united in acknowledging the one we serve. Of all the words, commentary and opinion we shall hear over the coming weeks, nationally and locally, I doubt any will be more powerful, or important to remember than the closing verses of the lesson Rishi Sunak will read in Westminster Abbey this coming Saturday:

“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

As we prepare to give the warmest of welcomes to Sue as our incumbent, and to begin our walk with God together, may all that we do be rooted in the one who is “before all things.”

In Christ

*Andy*

## Ashby Foodbank

### May’s shopping list:

Tinned veg  
Rice  
Jam  
Squash  
Pasta Sauce  
Instant Mash  
Custard  
Small jars of coffee  
Snacks and treats  
Toiletries- including shower gel, shampoo, soap, shaving foam and razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste  
Washing up liquid  
Washing tablets (solid tablets not gel capsules please)



## Do You Know About ... Little Fishes?

Recently Pam Watson suggested we take a peep, via this magazine, into the many and varied things that God does within our church. These brief introductions could be for information, or gratitude or prayer support or joining as a helper. And, hopefully, there could be occasional updates too.

So, kicking us off, here Caroline Essex introduces us to Little Fishes.



Little Fishes (St Helen's Toddler Group) has been running for over ten years now. We meet every Monday morning during term time for a 'drop in' session where parents or carers bring their pre-school children to play, enjoy craft activities and share stories and songs, whilst also giving adults a chance for a cuppa and a chat.

We have survived the building of the Community Heritage Centre by decamping to the scout hut for the duration of building work, and continued through Lockdown by offering a weekly online recording of stories, songs and craft activities via our closed facebook page.

Although we have never actively advertised the group, recommendations between mums plus, we discovered last year, recommendations from local Health Visitors, have meant numbers have increased to record levels. In 2022 we regularly had 30 children attending with their accompanying adult and for the last session of the summer term we had over 40. Thankfully this was a one-off as, from a health and safety point of view, this would not be sustainable.

When the weather is suitably warm and dry, we enjoy spilling out into our wonderful Heritage Centre garden; lots of happy times being spent there, for children and adults alike, playing with games and toys on the patio or simply wandering through the garden and sitting in the sunshine.





It has been a particular joy to see a regular cohort of grandparents building up and enjoying social time together.

Little Fishes continues to run with five main volunteers plus two occasional volunteers to help cover absences and we are very grateful to them all for their time.

## May Gardening Tips

**M**ay has arrived and the days are getting longer and warmer. April has certainly been very wet and cold. It is time to tidy up Spring plants and plant out Summer-flowers, fruit and vegetables. It is also a good opportunity to experiment with something new – what about a grass, fern or wild flower area?

Plant out Dahlias as well as Cosmos and other half-hardy annuals to fill gaps in the border. Don't forget to pinch out the growing tips of Cosmos to encourage them to branch out lower down the stem, thus producing stronger and sturdier plants.

Start to mow lawns weekly but think about leaving some areas uncut for wildlife. Just as a reminder, if you need to clip hedges you need to ensure that there are no nesting birds in them first. The bird nesting season runs from March to August.

After all risk of frost has passed this month, plant out tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins that were previously sown under cover. In general, plant out other young plants once conditions are suitable and they have been hardened off for at least 10 days.

To get the best out of watering then water early and late in the day and recycle water whenever possible. Keep removing weeds from your beds and containers. Clean out your greenhouse of last years stored plants and don't forget to open vents and doors on warm days when you have new plants. You can also damp down your greenhouse on very hot days to increase humidity and deter Red Spider Mites.

Ponds can quickly fill up with algae and pond weed during warmer months. Keep on top of this regularly by sieving out excess weed. Keep pond pumps and filters clean. Remove decaying leaves from any water lilies and



add more aquatic plants to encourage wildlife.

Check for infestations of Aphids on Roses. Wash them off with soapy water so that no harmful pesticides are needed.

Don't forget to earth up your potatoes to stop the crop forming on the soil surface and turning green and therefore poisonous.

I personally think Peonies are the Queen (or should I say King) of the May garden with beautiful blooms from pale pink to magenta in colour.

Finally start planning your garden visits, and garden show visits. We are off to the RHS show at Malvern this month. We are also opening our garden in early July as part of the Ashby Open Garden Scheme – Be there or be Square!

It's not too late to divide or lift unwanted plants and pot them up for the St. Helen's Fayre (which includes a plant sale) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. You are welcome to give them to us at our house so we can transport them. We could also collect them from you if you prefer. Or you can drop them off before 09.30 at the Heritage Centre on the day.

**Alan Cross**

## PRUNING

IN THE CHURCHYARD



BEFORE



AFTER



## More May Celebrations

**M**ay 21<sup>st</sup> is the celebration, or feast day, of our church's saint - St Helen. She was the mother of the mighty Roman Emperor known as Constantine the Great, who ruled during the 4th century. He was the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity, apparently due to the influence of his mother, and he brought to a halt the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire.

St Helen is always depicted holding a cross, as in the beautiful embroidery we have of her, shown here. This is because of the belief that she discovered pieces of the cross upon which Jesus had died: At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, several decades after her death in c.328, a legend arose that whilst travelling on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land visiting the places Jesus lived, died and was resurrected, she chose a site in Jerusalem to be excavated, and it led to the recovery of three different crosses. Allegedly, when a woman who was near to death touched the first and second crosses, her condition did not change, but when she touched the third and final cross she suddenly recovered. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built on the place of this find, with a remnant of the cross placed inside.

St Helen is the patron saint of relationships, divorced and divorcing people, an apt choice as, after 22 years of marriage, Helen's husband, Constantius, divorced her in order to make a politically advantageous marriage with a young woman who was a member of Rome's imperial family.

The prayer of St Helen is:

God of compassion and grace, In your steadfast love accompany (Name) and (Name). As you ever work to restore and renew your people, overcome bitterness with your joy, hatred with your love, brokenness with your life; and give us hope through the death and Resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you can't fit a St Helen's feast day in to a month already busy with celebrations and events, do not worry because you have another opportunity later in the year - May 21<sup>st</sup> is her Eastern Church feast day, shared with Constantine, whereas her individual feast day in the Western church is on August 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Jill Chapman**

# Wanted by Restorer

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*Pop in and see us at*

1 Bath Street Corner, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2FH

# Traditional Languages at the Coronation

**K**ing Charles speaks Welsh, the first English Prince of Wales in 668 years to take the trouble to learn the language, studying it at Aberystwyth University before his investiture as the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle in 1969.

Therefore it seems very apt for the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey, to include the Welsh language. It will be heard in the kyrie eleison, the ancient prayer that has been used at the beginning of the Eucharist for around 1600 years, in a new commission sung in Welsh:

Lord, have mercy.	Arglwydd, trugarha.
Christ, have mercy.	Crist, trugarha.
Lord, have mercy.	Arglwydd, trugarha.

Other traditional languages of the nations of the United Kingdom will also be included in the service. The ancient hymn Veni Creator – Come Creator Spirit – which has been part of coronation services since the 14th century, will include a Scots Gaelic verse:

Fada bhuain iomain ar namh  
Agus builich sa bhad do ghras  
O, treoraich sinn, a Cheannaird ard  
Bho bhuaidh gach beud agus cradh

This verse will then be repeated in English when the congregation will hear:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
With the abundance of thy grace  
Keep far our foes, give peace at home  
Where thou art guide, no ill can come

It will also include an Irish Gaelic verse:

Go dtí dhiot gurb aithnid duinn  
an tAthair, Mhac, a Spioraid, a run,  
Tu leo an Triur i neinphearsa  
Creidimis ionaibh tre bhiotha na mbeatha.

The English translation is:

Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
And thee, of both, to be but One.  
That, through the ages all along,  
This may be our endless song:  
Praise to thy eternal merit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Jill Chapman**



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

# Spring Fayre

Refreshments

Games

Chocolate  
tombola

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Raffle

Cakes

Plants

10am  
to  
1pm

Bottles

Make  
me an  
offer

Crafts

Books  
&  
jigsaws

Kid's  
craft  
activity

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics. LE65 1AA



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Heritage  
Lottery Fund





The  
**What's  
On**  
Notice board



Church & Community Heritage Centre

# The Coronation!

Join us to celebrate with:

- **Coronation-Themed All-Age Service** 3.30pm
- **Coronation Tea** 4.30 - 6pm
- **Coronation-Themed Choral Evensong** 6pm

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB



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[www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)



Heritage  
Lottery Fund

## Sew It Don't Throw It - New workshops and Exciting Talks

Our eco project, Sew It Don't Throw It, went well in April, with four more workshops taking place. Two are scheduled in May. Further workshops have been added taking the project into August, and also, excitingly, we have two speakers giving talks in July.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2pm to 4pm, one of our talented workshop tutors, Di Kendall, will be in conversation with award-winning textile artist and artist-educator Alice Burnhope. We will hear about Alice's creative practice and learn of her journey through the creative arts and through craft techniques as she became a socially-engaged artist using natural dyes and waste materials.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm our guest speaker is Gill Thomas, who will share her sewing journey, tell us why and how she learnt to sew, about taking part in the Great British Sewing Bee, and how sewing helped her face her biggest fears and transform her life.

Booking for workshops and talks is essential, on the What's On page of our website. Workshops are free, and talks are £5, including light refreshments.





# Sew It Don't Throw It

# WORKSHOPS

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10.00-11.30**

Introduction to sewing, dressmaking and simple alterations: For those who can use a sewing machine - work on samples to learn the techniques of sewing basic seams, darts, pleats and gathers.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 13.30-15.30**

Clothing alterations: Simple alterations can give a new lease of life to your clothing. Learn some of the process involved. Bring garments you would like to alter along with matching thread. Ideal projects will be changing length / sleeve length or general fit. If you don't have anything you can do samples for future reference.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June Two workshops – 11.00-12.30 & 13.30-15.00**

Glasses or phone case: Discover a fun way to use the decorative stitches on a sewing machine to make a padded pouch to keep your glasses or phone in. You need two pieces of fabric approximately 10 x 10 inches. The outside one will be decorated and the inside one needs to be ok against the lenses of your glasses. If you have something padded to use in between the layers please bring that as well, your main fabric could already be padded or I'll provide something from industry offcuts. You can bring pieces of narrow ribbon to appliqué onto your project, even the tapes used to hang clothes on hangers is really useful.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 10.00-12.00**

Crazy patchwork: Cutting and sewing different pieces of fabric together to create patchwork. Bring odds and ends of small pieces of fabric and optional larger pieces for backing.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 13.30-15.30**

Make an apron: An apron can be made from any sturdy fabric. Ideal textiles would be old curtains, duvet covers, souvenir tea towels. Please bring what you have and we will transform the unloved to something useful.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June Two workshops – 11.00-12.30 & 13.30-15.00**

Zippered bag for toiletries, cables/chargers: Learn to sew a zip whilst making a box bag that has multiple uses for everyone. You'll need a piece of fabric at least 12 x 16 inches and a 12 inch zip. The fabric can be almost anything, including bags for life or IKEA bags. The zip can be removed from an unwanted item. I'll bring some zips in a limited range of colours.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 13.30-15.30**

The no zip cushion cover: Cushion covers can be made from many textiles. This one is quick and easy and lends itself to creative mixing colour and pattern. Bring any textiles you have and a cushion inner if you have one. Suggested fabrics - old denim, old coat or jacket, unused duvet cover, old curtains or tea towels.

**Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> Workshop 1 11.00 – 12.30**

Make a peg bag - Use fabrics like tea towels, pillow cases, summer dress or skirt to make a peg bag that also uses a child's coat hanger.

**Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> Workshop 2 1.30-3.00**

Mending and Repair - Covering mending and repair of clothing and household textiles. These will include hand and machine sewing. This will be done by samples so you can apply your new skill to your own items at home.

**Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> All day workshop 11.00 – 3.00**

Alterations and Repair Bring your own items & get help to alter or repair them. Clothes must be clean and you might need to try them on during the session. Please don't bring leather or suede items or jeans zips. Be realistic about your skills, it's much easier to take things in and almost impossible to make things bigger without adding in more fabric. Please bring other things you might need like zips and buttons. (There will be a break for lunch.)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 1.30 - 3.30**

Make a bag - Making a useful bag from your discarded textiles . Please bring sturdy fabrics from home old curtains duvet covers are ideal.

# Our Worship in May

	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>pm</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion		<b>3.30pm</b> Coronation themed All-Age Worship <b>6.00pm</b> Coronation themed Evensong
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> May		Holy Communion	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> May		Word & Worship	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> May		Holy Communion	

## Our usual pattern for services:

- **Sundays**
  - First Sunday of the month -  
8.30am Holy Communion  
3.30pm All-Age  
6pm Choral Evensong
  - Second AND Fourth Sundays of the month -  
10.30am Holy Communion
  - Third Sunday of the month -  
10.30am Service of the Word
  - Fourth Sunday of the month  
3.30pm - 5pm Messy Church (alternation between Viscount  
Beaumont School and St Helen's Heritage Centre.)
- **Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am**
  - First Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - in church
  - Second Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion -  
at Prior Park Community Centre
  - Third Wednesday of the month - Service of the Word - in church
- **Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)**

## Regular activities:

Monday mornings, term time

Mondays

First Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

First Wednesday of the month

Thursdays

Fridays

– Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am

– Monday Group - 8pm

– MU meeting 7.30pm - 9pm

– MU meeting 10.30am - 12 noon

– PCC meeting 7 - 9.30pm

– 'We're In Stitches' Knit & natter 2 - 4pm

– Choir practice 6.30-8.30

– Heart-Warming Space 1 - 4pm

## May Diary

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Coronation Tea</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Sew It Don't Throw It workshop</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Service of Induction for Rev Sue Field</b>
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am - 1pm</b>	<b>Spring Fayre</b>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>PCC</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1pm</b>	<b>Sew It Don't Throw It workshop</b>
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10am-4pm</b>	<b>Ashby Arts Festival: 'Art In Churches'</b> 27-29 Photography Exhibition 28-29 Back to the Coast Art Exhibition
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9pm</b>	<b>Weaving Workshop</b>

## From The Albums : Recently we baptised Edward ... & Archie.





**JP SPRINGTHORPE & C<sup>o</sup>**

## Funeral Directors

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*Quotations given*

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## Christian Aid Week: 14-20 May 2023



A particular focus for Christian Aid week fundraising this year is families in Malawi. The impact of the recent Cyclone Freddy there has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds

have lost their lives.

Christian Aid are determined to fund the recuperation from the disaster that has happened in Malawi, and intend to be there long after the flood waters recede, helping families build back. In particular the intention is that Christian Aid Week money will be used to support the 'pigeon pea project', which is when Christian Aid's partners help farmers transform their livelihoods using what CA describe as a 'humble but mighty crop' called the pigeon pea. This wonder crop is drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, and delicious. Read more at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

### Recipe Prayer:

Breadmaking God,

You take a large measure of pigeon pea flour grown with dignity and dedication,

a pinch of salt to season and celebrate diversity,

a tablespoon of sugar to encourage and enable,

a teaspoon of yeast to inspire and dream,

and a jug or two of water to bring us all together.

Leave to rise to stretch and learn,

then bake in an oven of justice and love.

The smell of baking bread invites us to the table,

where all have equal worth,

to take, break and eat,

until all are fed and hunger is no more.

For this is a celebration of community,

of God's presence among us.

Amen

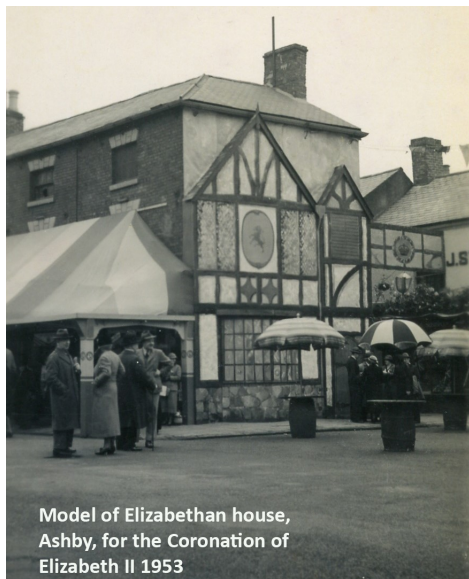


## Ashby's Coronation Celebrations of the Past Part 2

We know from photographs in the archives at Ashby Museum that the town always “pushed the boat out” with street decorations when it came to coronations. One of the most impressive years must have been 1911 for the coronation of George V. Several decorated arches were erected in Market Street and the entrance to Kilwardby Street. One photograph shows the street packed with people. Morris Dancing by 200 children on the Bath Grounds was said to be the most popular event, and the children enjoyed a tea on the lawns of the Royal Hotel afterwards. “Non-settled paupers” were granted extra relief to the amount of a shilling for adults and sixpence for children. The band of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment visited Ashby Workhouse and played on the lawn in front of the workhouse infirmary. 42 men, 10 women and 18 children from the workhouse were allowed to attend the activities in the town and a treat for the residents was held on the following day.

The most surprising thing was that the Coalville Electric Theatre in Marlborough Square announced that they had secured a place at the Coronation parade in London and that “*No effort, labour or expense*” would be spared to “*procure the most comprehensive motion picture epitome of this Gorgeous, Brilliant, Historical Pageant.*” The film was expected to arrive the very next day after the coronation itself.

As with previous coronations, there was a torchlit parade to High Tor in Charnwood Forest where the torchbearers, dressed in the garb of the “Old Charnwood Forest Rangers” would light a 65ft high bonfire. This was part of a chain of bonfires which were lit across the country to celebrate the coronation, and it was said that between 15,000 and 20,000 people attended the one at High Tor. Reginald Rawdon Hastings of The Manor House, Ashby, led the parade with his wife Flora. On arrival, there was a solo rendition of “Long Live the King” before the torches were thrown onto the bonfire to set it alight. At that point, it started to rain, but many people remained to watch the blaze for some time. A poster giving details of the event and showing portraits of the five preceding King Georges was printed by the Coalville Times and sent to the King. They received an acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace saying that it had been placed before the King.





In May 1937, the coronation of George VI, the town was again decorated in



Ox Roast, Ashby de la Zouch, 1937, for the Coronation of George VI

fine style. A large model of an Elizabethan Manor House, produced by local artists, was fixed against a shop wall in Market Street and scores of huge pipes, some nearly three feet in diameter, were used as stands for decorated poles carrying bunting.

A series of events were planned. These were to take place on Hood Park and included a parade from The Green at 11am, a dinner for Old Age Pensioners and the unemployed in the Town Hall at noon, Punch and Judy, a conjuror and a "paper manipulator" on Hood Park during the afternoon, sports, the Ysabe Choir, displays by the infants school, a coronation picnic tea with a running buffet on Hood Park and a concert by Messrs Tetley, Shenton and Parkhurst. There was also to be a concert and the New Haden Colliery Band.

In Market Street at 8pm, people would be able to hear the Royal Broadcast and this was to be followed by a fancy dress carnival dance. At 11.15 pm a torchlit procession would proceed from the Market Place to a bonfire on Hood Park. Torches 9d each and carnival hats and novelties free.

On the day itself, it rained, but this did not stop the torchbearers or the bonfire and it was said that people were dancing until the early hours. Other activities were postponed until the following Monday when, on a brilliant summer day, the sports and Punch and Judy show took place before a crowd which was said to be 15,000. Market Street was closed to traffic and dancing continued until 1 am.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was the first to be televised for the benefit of those lucky enough to own or have access to such a piece of

equipment.

Ashby's ambitious Coronation plan was carried through in slightly amended form due to the weather which was, once again, poor. A parade took place as planned during a fine spell, but a special Coronation pageant, written and produced by Mr L H Matthews, was given in the Town Hall instead of amid the ruins of Ashby Castle. (Matthews was a master of Ashby Boys' Grammar School and founder of the present-day Ashby Dramatic Society).

The weather meant that the lighting of the bonfire and a firework display was deferred, but nevertheless, hundreds of visitors flooded into the town by car and bus. Market Street

was closed to traffic and the high spot of the festivities was the open-air ox roast with a huge crowd gathering to see the cutting of the first slices.

A special plate, made by a local pottery for the occasion, was auctioned by Council Chairman Councillor G E Ridgway and fetched £30 after keen bidding. The money was to help to off-set the expenses of the ox roasting.

It is to be hoped that Ashby's coronation celebrations this month are as successful and enjoyable as those of the past but that the tradition of poor weather for the day is not upheld!

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# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

At the April meeting of St Helen's MU branch, we heard how the Trussell Trust Foodbank was started & how much work it takes to run. Everyone involved is a volunteer & all aspects from the receipt of donations to the stock control & distribution is like a well oiled machine. I think all who listened enjoyed the insight. Donations were given & have been passed to foodbank to purchase further supplies.



Our meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May is on the subject of AFIA, and our speaker is Eileen Page. Mothers' Union members regularly provide various types of breaks for people in UK & Ireland through "Away from it all" scheme, which is intended to support families who are experiencing stressful times and would otherwise not have the opportunity of a holiday.

I read an article on the website of pupils from a deprived school that were enabled to visit the Belgian battle fields as part of their education with an AFIA donation towards their trips costs. The students shared their amazing experience: "Thank you to the Mothers' Union for supporting their visit to the battlefields in France and Belgium. When we were at the cemeteries I was amazed at all the graves. I looked at the names of the soldiers and discovered that they were all very young. We went to the trenches that were muddy and wet. The best part of the visit for me was watching the Last Post ceremony. It was very sad. I now know that thousands of soldiers died in battles and that it is important to remember the bravery of the soldiers in World War 1." The trip has made a lasting impact as the teacher has shared with us that the class is still talking about it months later! This example of a different type of break that Mothers' Union members arrange to suit the needs of an application for assistance for an AFIA project.

Adrienne Sedgman

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# Our Mother-tongue Is Love; A Sonnet for Pentecost

by Malcolm Guite

**T**oday we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.



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# Quotes for the Month

'We want to live our values so ... we've asked ourselves: 'What Would Jesus Eat?' That's why this year at the festival all our caterers will only be offering food and drink that the gospel accounts indicate Jesus ate.'

Daisy Ware-Jarrett for Greenbelt Festival, [www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk), April 1 (April Fool's Day)

'Romantic love may be amazing and blissful and part of God's design, but it's not going to lead you out of Egypt.'

Kate Orson, *Premier Christianity Women Alive*, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

'A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.'

St Augustine  
*Liberal Christians Facebook page*, April 4<sup>th</sup>

'Passover, Easter, and Ramadan are overlapping this year. Let us call it "Abrahamic Holy Week." This beautiful convergence of monotheistic faiths only happens three times in a century. Wishing a blessed holiday season to Jews, Christians, and Muslims worldwide. Let love and peace reign over all.'

DrCraigConsidine, *Facebook*, April 5<sup>th</sup>

"I am on antidepressants. They work very well. They restore me to Eeyore status from something much worse.'

Archbishop of Canterbury, *lecture series at Canterbury Cathedral*, April 5<sup>th</sup>

'It is as if in [Holy Thursday] ritual all past history is gathered up, concentrated into the moment ... before being propelled into a new future. Space-time compressed into an instant then launched like fireworks into a transformed world.'

Rambling Rector Retired's blog, *Cosmic*, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday

'A thoughtful, carefully researched & genuinely curious book about atheism can only be a good thing. This isn't it.'

Marianne Levy, *Review of The God Desire by David Baddiel*, *The I newspaper on line*, Apr 6<sup>th</sup>

'I have had the advantage of a radical Christian upbringing.'

Anthony Wedgwood Benn quoted by People's Chancellor - *Economics For The Many*, *Facebook*, April 7<sup>th</sup>

'I think we can confidently predict that the [Coronation]'s decisive theological meaning – the subordination of political authority to the authority of Jesus Christ, and the accountability of holders of the former to that of the latter – will get no airing at all ... by mainstream television anchors and their invited guests.'

Frank Cranmer, *Lost In Transmission*, [lawandreligionuk.com](http://lawandreligionuk.com), April 4<sup>th</sup>

'The decline of churchgoing doesn't have to mean the decline of churches – they can help us level up'

Simon Jenkins, *The Guardian Opinion*, April 7<sup>th</sup>

'Christianity is often derided as a humourless creed, but since earliest times Easter has been a time of laughter, prompted by a belief in Christ's victory over death.'

Fergus Butler-Gallie, [engelsbergideas.com](http://engelsbergideas.com), April 7<sup>th</sup>

'Evangelicals are different from other Anglicans ... [Have] they finally decided that they are too pure and righteous for the national Church?'

Theo Hobson, *Does the Church of England need evangelicals*, *The Spectator*, April 8<sup>th</sup>

'This Easter, I encourage you to peer into the empty tomb and be filled with awe.'

Archbishop of York, *Daily Telegraph*, April 9<sup>th</sup>

'Holy Saturday is a day of silence. Profound, deathly silence ... all of us have our own Holy Saturday moments that mark our lives.'

Archbishop of Canterbury, *Facebook*, April 8<sup>th</sup>

'And the thing that really cooked people's noodles wasn't the question "is Jesus like God" it was "what if God is like Jesus".'

*Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber, The Corners', sermon preached in The Beacon at Skyline Correctional Facility chapel in Canyon City Colorado, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

'Jesus scores on Easter Sunday.'

*Gary Lineker, Twitter, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

'Help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey toward peace and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia.'

*Pope Francis, mid-morning mass, St Peter's Square, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

'As long as the tomb is closed Jesus is both alive and dead. - Saint Schrodinger, '

*Philosophy Matters Facebook page, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

'Tensions are high after days of fighting at Jerusalem's most holy site during the rare convergence of Ramadan, Passover and Easter.'

*Reuters, April 10<sup>th</sup>*

'Women and the resurrection. Probably my most popular Easter cartoon - "So, ladies, thanks for being the first to witness and report the resurrection. And we [men] will take it from here." '

*David Haywood, artist, aka Naked Pastor, Twitter, April 11<sup>th</sup>*

'Note to self: Be more specific when telling the ordinand preaching at Rock Mass that the reading is "John's gospel".'

*Rev Robb Sutherland, Twitter, April 16<sup>th</sup>*

'On National Tea Day, Archbishop Stephen confirms he prefers Yorkshire Tea above others.'

*Archbishop of York Facebook page, April 21<sup>st</sup>*

'We had a baptism this morning, baby A has been baptised and welcomed to God's family. I know some people struggle with it but I try to make baptism as fun for the child as possible so we have bubbles being blown and a rubber duck in the font to look at.'

*Our Cof E like, Twitter, April 23<sup>rd</sup>*

'Sometimes I think 'Maybe one day I'll find my home in an Anglican Church.' Then I see members of #anglicantwitter loosing their minds about rubber ducks and I think 'nahhhh, maybe not.'

*Sarah P, Twitter, April 24<sup>th</sup>*

'Fwiw (and I appreciate that might be "not much") my experience is that the Twitter version of Anglicanism doesn't overlap too much with the parish version.'

*The Rev'd Edward d Green, Twitter, April 24<sup>th</sup>*

'Conservatives argue a decisive break from the historic doctrine of marriage has already happened and is catastrophic; progressives that this sort of decisive break from (though they may prefer 'evolution of') the historic doctrine of marriage has not yet happened, but that it is necessary.'

*Revd Mark Vasey Saunders, Disagreeing About Our Disagreements, SCM Press, April 12<sup>th</sup>*

'Westminster Abbey charges £27 per ticket—even God might balk at that price'

*Bendor Grosvenor, The Art Newspaper, April 25<sup>th</sup>*

'Jesus was single and single people should be valued, says Church of England.'

*Article on C of E's Love Matters report, The Guardian, April 26<sup>th</sup>*

'As a minister I have only one message really, and it's that we all have Christ within—the divine core like a pilot light on a gas stove.'

*Rambling Rector Retired's blog, Struggle, April 27<sup>th</sup>*

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27-29 Photography Exhibition  
28-29 Back to the Coast Art Exhibition

Community Centre event -

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Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 9.30m-12noon



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