

St Mary's, Watford

St Mary's News

May 2023



Includes

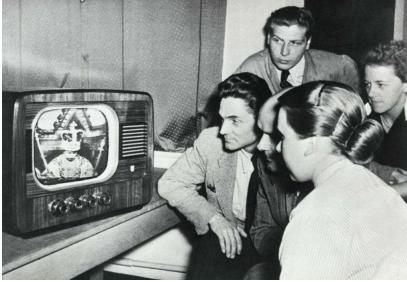
A Special Occasion

Memories of the 1953 coronation

To be a Churchwarden

... and much more!

A Special Occasion



I know that a good number of you will remember the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Perhaps like me you will have heard others share their memories of that day especially at the time of significant anniversaries and jubilees.

Invariably when others have shared memories, they would talk about being huddled around a tiny television screen, which was itself a new experience for many. Indeed, many households bought a television for the first time simply in order to watch the coronation. It was the first time a coronation had been fully televised as cameras were allowed into Westminster Abbey.

It was an iconic moment, and those memories of the coronation help define its place in the history of our nation. It was only a matter of a few years after the Second World War, and there was still a scarcity of some food items and rationing still existed, which probably made those street parties extra special. I would imagine such an occasion was one of looking forward rather than backwards and perhaps with renewed optimism following the war.

Seventy years on and we have another coronation, and a new experience for most of us. Despite diminishing popularity in the monarchy, it will be grand occasion and of great historical significance. (I write before the coronation, but you will be reading this after the event.) No doubt the great and the good from around the world will be in attendance. Perhaps this time round we will be watching from High-Definition large plasma televisions, or maybe on a tiny mobile phone in the middle of nowhere. Many of you will

also be involved in street parties and it really is an opportunity to come together as a community.

Whilst it is a grand occasion and a great celebration, we must remember the coronation is essentially a religious service. Held at Westminster Abbey it will be largely a Christian service following the traditions of the Church of England, but I am sure there will be elements that are both ecumenical and also reflect our multicultural society of many faiths and none.



One of the key components of the ceremony will be Saint Edward's crown and chair. It will symbolise the monarch's connection to the long history of our nation and our Christian values. There will also be the sceptre and the orb with the cross, both symbolising biblical rule and Christ's authority over the world. A ring will be placed on Charles' finger to symbolise his relationship with the people reflecting St. Paul's image of the Church as the bride and Christ as the bridegroom. Perhaps of all the symbolism the holy oil or chrism oil that is used to anoint Charles is foremost. The anointing is said to bestow God's grace on the monarch to become a living sign of God's mercy, justice and love in the world. Incidentally, the anointing was the one moment not televised during Elizabeth II's Coronation Service.



Whether you are a royalist or not, I hope the coronation weekend will be a special occasion for you and will live long in your memory. I hope it will be a reminder of our rich Christian heritage and all the values we hold dear.

The Revd Tony Rindl

Memories of the 1953 Coronation

One member of the congregation writes:

Yes, I remember the last Coronation. In 1953 I was a farmer's daughter, living in Fife, and my parents had more well-off farmer friends who had just bought a television set. I'd never seen one but was thrilled when we were invited to watch the Coronation with them. It was only a little screen, but we were all so excited to be able to watch something happening in London. Our friends had sons who went off after a while to play outdoors, but I didn't leave that TV set till everything was all over. What an adventure it was to be part of a new Elizabethan age! I've never forgotten how we all felt on that wonderful day.

And another tells of the following memories:

My Father was always very fond of the Royal Family, in particular the Queen Mother. He was clearly determined to take us to London to witness what was undoubtedly a remarkable occasion and he was very fortunate in being able to obtain tickets for seats in Chinacraft Shop Front which had been specially adapted with tiered seating overlooking Regent Street. This was a great surprise to my sister and me as we were expecting to watch the ceremony on the



Chinacraft shop front



Detail in Chinacraft shop front

tiny newly-acquired television. So, with great excitement and dressed in Coronation themed clothing - including socks with crowns on - we set off very early from Oxford. On our journey from Hangar Lane tube station, we heard the news of the successful climb of Mount Everest.

As we reached London our excitement increased as we became part of a crowd surging towards the sites of the procession and eventually we found ourselves seated where usually there would be displays of beautiful china. There was much to watch and to interest us as we saw the crowds assembling and saw the brave people who had camped overnight trying to get dry as it continued to rain. We felt sorry for the police and military personnel lining the route with their backs to the action as they were ensuring that there were no intruders in the crowd, but no opportunity to see all the excitement!

At last the procession began to pass by, the exuberant crowds waving a sea of flags and cheering.

There were thousands of armed forces personnel accompanied by colourful bands, stirring music, carriages and superbly trained horses. As with many people one of my main memories was that of seeing Queen Salote of Tonga pass by in her flamboyant national costume smiling and waving vigorously in her open carriage in spite of the rain! But nothing could surpass the sight of the smiling Queen and Prince Philip in the staggeringly beautiful Gold Coach pulled by eight elegant white horses so splendidly groomed.

The procession seemed to take hours as it was so long but there was always something to watch until finally it had passed, and we were able to see the Coronation ceremony on a screen in the shop window. My main memory of that was watching the Earls raise their coronets in acclamation of the new Queen. The rest was somewhat boring to a young child as of course it was in black and white and very grainy. But soon the procession came back, and we were impatient to see the return of the Queen in her Golden

Coach and Queen Salote still smiling and as enthusiastic as before. Once everyone had passed by, we left and trudged through the streets covered with sodden newspaper before returning home very tired but thrilled to have had such an exciting experience to tell our friends about. We hope that our parents were pleased to have seen us enjoying ourselves and to have given us memories to last a lifetime.

Thanks to my parents, we have memorabilia from the Coronations of 1911, 1937 as well as 1953 including my very own Coronation coach and horses - a very special gift from my father (*see photo below right*). A great privilege and one never to be forgotten.



Memorabilia of 1953 Coronation



1937 Coronation Mug



1911 Coronation cup & saucer

And a third memory from 1953:

My memories of 2nd June 1953 are a bit like the weather that day – rather hazy, but they are still there, just about! Like many other families who could afford it, my grandmother had recently purchased a television so that we could watch the ceremony on this recent “magic” invention. I still remember the small box standing proudly in the corner of the living room, only 9 inches in diameter with a magnifying glass screen in front increasing the size to about 11 inches. The black and white picture wasn’t all that clear, probably partly due to the particularly drab weather. The highlight of the day for my brother was undoubtedly the Trolleybus ride from Surbiton where we lived, to Thames Ditton where granny lived with three of our aunts. For me the highlight was probably the party food – dainty sandwiches, sausage rolls and fruit jelly with evaporated milk, maybe even some bags of Smiths potato crisps with little bags of salt inside – a real treat. Coronation chicken? – maybe, definitely no ice-cream though as this was well before domestic freezers. I was at school at the time, but I can’t remember any special events, although I expect we had a party. However, I do still possess the coronation mug we were given as a souvenir, which amazingly has survived 70 years and still comes out on special royal occasions, so will no doubt make another appearance on 6th May. Happy memories!



Report of Parochial Church Council

The following report summarises some of the matters considered at the Council's meeting of 24th April.

Finance: Our bookkeeper, Jacky Faria, has completed the day-to-day records to the end of 2022. The Council expressed its grateful thanks to Jacky for her hard work and recognised the additional hours she had put in. It also expressed its thanks to Richard Watson and Helen Baldwin who had supported and assisted Jacky. The deficit for the year increased to £46,000 (excluding legacies), continuing the trend broadly due to a drop in forecast giving and an increase in energy bills. However, income from church/room hires increased dramatically thanks to the work of Liz Allan, our Facilities Manager. The Finance Committee produced a first draft budget for 2023 including suggestions to better balance the church accounts. The Council discussed these and has asked the Finance Committee to estimate figures where appropriate and incorporate them into the draft Budget along with an uplift for inflation on certain expenditures.

APCM: There will be a vacancy for churchwarden and also several vacancies on the Council due to members having served their three-year term or to resignations.

Pre-School: St Mary's Pre-School was inspected by OFSTED in April and is awaiting the results.

Climate Change: The Climate Emergency Committee is putting together a programme of services for the Harvest/Creationtide season. This will include the morning service and Encounter service on 24th September to be led by Martin and Margot Hodson and a Worship for All on 1st October. (The Hodsons have published

widely together on the subject of Christianity and the environment, including *A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues*).

Vicar's Report: The Vicar reported that on Easter Monday he had attended a Diocesan lunch at Holywell Lodge along with 70 Iranian Christians, including ten members of St Mary's. This had been a wonderful event with Iranian food which reflected and celebrated the large Iranian Christian community within the Anglican church.

Once approved, full minutes are normally available on the St Mary's website: <https://www.stmaryswatford.org/pcc>.

If you wish to send correspondence to the PCC please send it to the PCC Secretary, Marcus Jones (email: ttekcoss@aol.com).

Marcus Jones
PCC Secretary

Thursday Concerts – 12.30pm



11th May **Friday Singers**

18th May **Oksana Hermanchuk** (*piano*)

25th May **Veera Piilo** (*piano*)

To be a Churchwarden

St Mary's has been without one Churchwarden for the past year; Peter has coped on his own since Alison stood down in 2022 having completed her allotted number of years. It would be good this year to have a second Warden to work with Peter (who is willing to stand again, although he will have to be elected on 21st May at the Annual Vestry Meeting).

In 2016 as Roger Courtney stood down, he wrote about the role; and last year Alison wrote about the duties and responsibilities of being a Churchwarden; Peter has also written a comment at the end of this article. If you are asked to stand for election as Churchwarden, please consider it an honour. Speak to Peter, Alison, Roger or Tony for further information.

'To be a Churchwarden at St Mary's is an honour and a privilege. It means that the congregation has judged that you are an appropriate person to be responsible for the assets of the church and, during a vacancy, for the maintenance of its worship. The Churchwardens are also the main formal link between the congregation and the Vicar and are a communications channel and source of advice for the Vicar (although of course one hopes that he will be talking to many other people about issues in the church). It's certainly not a role to be undertaken lightly.

'At the same time the impression has developed over the years that it is very time-consuming and that the responsibilities are onerous. Actually, the formal, legal responsibilities are not, mainly because the Church Office manages the preparation of the various annual returns that have to be made to the diocese, for which the Churchwardens are responsible.

'The main time commitment comes from the fact that the Churchwardens have over the years taken on the Sunday responsibilities that were previously undertaken by a Verger – opening and closing the church and generally preparing for services – and this has meant that one or other Churchwarden has needed to be present each Sunday. (Stevie is now a great help in sharing this responsibility.)

'If you take up this opportunity for service, you will be blessed through it. Or as Paul put it: 'Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.' (1 Cor 15:58)'

THE ANNUAL INSPECTION

THE CHURCHWARDENS MUST HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE CHURCH ONCE EVERY YEAR OR SO. THESE ARE THE SORTS OF THINGS THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR:

SIGNS OF DANGER

(EG WIRING THAT DOES NOT LOOK QUITE RIGHT)



SIGNS OF MOVEMENT

(IN OLD BUILDINGS)



SIGNS OF LIFE

IT'LL HAVE TO COME DOWN - WE CAN'T RISK HAVING LEAVES IN THE GUTTERING



SIGNS OF DEATH - WATCH BEETLE

CHURCHWARDENS HAVE TO WATCH CLOSELY TO SPOT SIGNS OF CONTINUAL BORING



Churchwarden Duties / Responsibilities

Sunday services:

- Unlocking and locking up – shared with others
- Preparing for services – Bible; check clergy have service sheet / notices; **HC**: prepare table etc. and make sure ministrants have been arranged in advance; **Baptisms** – prepare font and check everything needed is in place.
- Be available to pray with clergy before services.

After the APCM prepare a duty rota for Team Leaders and Stewards for the coming year and agree duty Sundays with fellow Warden.

Committee commitments: PCC, Standing Committee

Once a year, before the church inspection, go through the inventory with the other warden to make sure we haven't lost anything!

Peter has added: As noted above the role need not be too onerous or time consuming. Churchwardens are individuals and can/will take on duties they are suited to and seek to delegate and help others to take on other tasks.



Date for the diary: Green Global Lunch on Sunday 9th July

Rosemary and Roger Courtney warmly invite all at St Mary's to a Green Global Lunch in their weatherproof back garden after church on Sunday 9th July.

Please bring food and drink to share that is climate-friendly, and from places you have lived in or visited.

Details to follow but please put the date in the diary!

Ever thought of cycling to church?

We have just installed a new bike rack as part of the St Mary's Ecochurch/Climate Action Plan. The aim is to encourage more of us to use pedal/battery power to get to church instead of cars.

The 5-bike rack was already 80% full on April 30th (see photo) - so a great start. The location by the West Door is just temporary but it signals our commitment to do our bit to tackle climate change. In due course, we want to work with the Council to install something more substantial, and with greater capacity, outside.



The Climate Action Group encourage the following actions, if you are able to carry them out.

- As far as possible, travel **using public transport, bicycle or on foot rather than using a car.**
- Reduce your amount of waste material by **reusing, recycling and reducing the amount of material used.**
- Buy food which is produced **locally** (i.e. UK), **organic, animal friendly** (e.g. free-range), **Fairtrade certified** and **in-season.**
- **Invest savings and bank** with organisations which have a commitment to ethical values.

If you are interested in joining the Climate Action Group, drop Andy a line on andyroby2001@yahoo.com or 07414 832983.

St Mary's Needs You

With the APCM approaching on 21st May it is a good time to look back, giving thanks for the past year and to look forward to see how we can do things better in the future. It is also the time when traditionally we begin new rotas, including one to cover stewarding / welcoming.

Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020 we had four teams of stewards with five people in each team, including a team leader, to welcome people as they arrive and to help with the smooth running of the morning services. Since 2020 we have lost nine from these teams. Some have moved away from the area, a few no longer attend, and some have "retired" after many years of service. Each team would be on duty once every four weeks. The past three years have been challenging, but now that people are returning to church in person on a regular basis and our congregation is growing in number, we need to recruit more people to share these duties.

I'm sure many of us have had the negative experience of arriving at a church for the first time, perhaps while on holiday, where no-one has spoken to us. St. Mary's has a reputation for being a welcoming church, but we can no longer rely on one or two people to do this every week. If we can find 12 people, we could share the load by having four teams of three who would be on duty only once every four weeks. The more we have the less often the duty comes round so the more the merrier. It would be great to aim for 5 teams of 3. So that you know what you would be letting yourself in for, below is a list of duties. You would be with someone who is familiar with these, at least for the first few weeks to give you a chance to learn what needs to be done.

THE WELCOME PACK



NEWCOMERS ARE GIVEN
A WELCOME PACK



THIS CONTAINS THE
RULES AND REGULATIONS...



THE STANDING
ORDER FORM...



THE 'VOLUNTEERING'
FORM...



THE SMALL
PRINT...



AND THE COMBINATION
CODE FOR THE TOILETS

CartoonChurch.com

Stewards / Welcoming Duties:

- Arrive by 10.00am to organize service sheets etc.
- Meet and greet, give out service sheets at West and North doors. Look out for newcomers and if necessary, help them to find a seat and invite them to stay for coffee after the service.
- Count the number in the congregation (counters provided).
- During Holy Communion Services, show people up and count communicants.
- Take the collection.
- Assist with counting and recording the collection after the service.
- Check the church for lost property and generally tidy up at the end of the service.

I would like to thank the few who have helped to keep things going since we started returning to church, especially Stevie Trudgill for her consistent and loyal help week by week. It is now time to find more people to share these duties and to get back to a rota so that it does not become burdensome.

Please consider volunteering for this really important role at St. Mary's. I look forward to hearing from you!

Alison Saunders



Churches Together in Hertfordshire

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25 May 2023, 7.30pm

The Focolare Centre for Unity

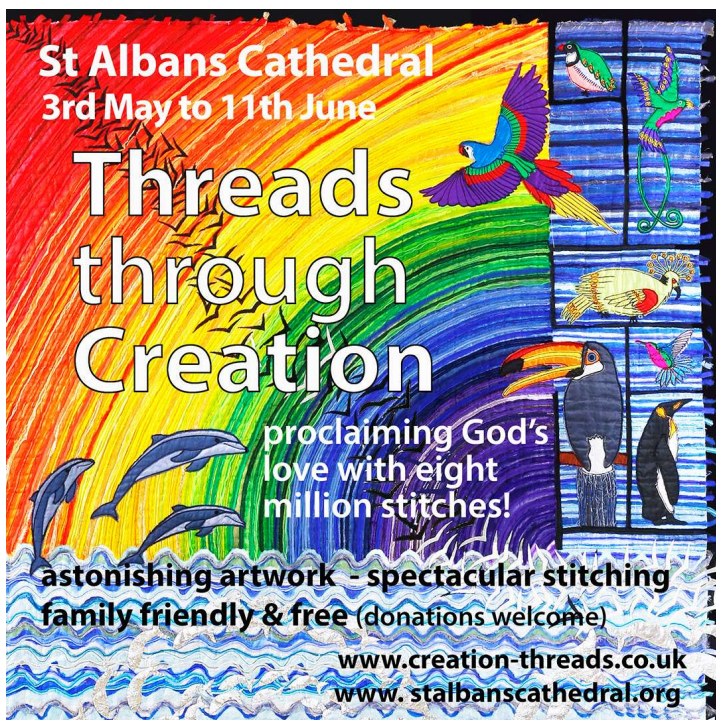
69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG

Keynote Speaker:

The Bishop of Hertford

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring

Refreshments available from 7pm. Parking available on site (via The Cloisters) and on Parkway. The Focolare Centre for Unity is less than 10 minutes on foot from Welwyn Garden City train station.



‘Threads through Creation’ is an extraordinary, uplifting art exhibition at St Albans Cathedral, on show from 3rd May until 11th June as part of a nationwide tour of 20 cathedrals.

It took Christian textile artist, Jacquie Parkinson, three years - and eight million stitches! The show consists of twelve beautiful, huge silk panels re-imagining the story of creation from Genesis. You’ve read it here in black and white – now go and see it in amazing colour! The panels are huge and truly breath-taking.

It’s highly enjoyable, and a great opportunity for looking at Genesis in a new light – take along some non-Christians, and there’ll be some interesting conversations ... and everyone will leave buzzing ...

Admission free (donations welcome).

Services

The Church is usually open each week

Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.00pm
and on Saturday between 12.00noon and 2.00pm

Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (said) in church
on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday only each month;

10.30am Morning Service in church and via Zoom
every Sunday;

5.30pm Encounter in church
on 4th Sunday of month only

(preceded at 5.00pm with refreshments)

Wednesday

12.30pm Holy Communion in church

(for Zoom links please contact the Church Office)

Thought for the Week

on our website - based on a bible verse or passage,
it is a short reflection by one of the leadership team
for you to think about during the week.

It can be downloaded and listened to whenever and wherever.

Please keep up to date with what is on offer
via our Facebook page, Instagram
or the website www.stmaryswatford.org

Who's Who at St Mary's

Vicar

The Revd Tony Rindl
01923 225189 / 07792 505480
tony.rindl@gmail.com

Churchwarden

Peter Dean
07876 154387
peter.dean@stmaryswatford.org

Facilities Manager

stmarysfacilitiesmanager@gmail.com

Church Office

office@stmaryswatford.org
St Mary's Church, Church Street,
Watford WD18 0EG
01923 225189
Monday and Thursdays

www.stmaryswatford.org

Sunday 21st May

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

to elect the Churchwardens

followed by

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

to hear the Report for 2022,
to elect members to the PCC
and to the Deanery Synod

