Bournville, Stirchley, Cotteridge & Kings Norton

Points

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Kings

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The Sword, The Spoon and The King of Kings

The Coronation of King Charles III is due to take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023. For me, that begs the question: 'What makes a King?' At the risk of upsetting the historians and theologians amongst you, of which I am neither, I would like to suggest three important traits of kings:

The Sword

On Christmas Day, 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned the first Norman King of England in Westminster Abbey. In September of that year, William had invaded England with a large fleet of ships, and on 14 October defeated Harold Godwinson's Anglo-Saxon forces of at the Battle of Hastings, killing Harold in the process. Thereafter, William supressed numerous English revolts and the period become known as the as the Norman Conquest. So, there you have it: My knowledge of history in two sentences. But, as far as this exercise is concerned: William took the crown of England by force – hence 'The Sword'.

The Spoon

I am of course referring to inherited privileges/entitlements – colloquially speaking: 'Born with a silver spoon…'. This includes successions to the throne. I postulate that King Charles III falls into that category. He certainly didn't wield a sword or lead an army into battle to become King. However, there are echo's of earlier times. As part of King Charles's education and service to society he was in the forces.

He became Commander of the coastal minehunter HMS Bronington in 1976. In addition, he has several so-called honorary/ceremonial positions. As King, he is now Air Commodore-in-Chief of the RAF. By the term 'Born with a silver spoon…', I am not intending to be derogatory. Certainly, there are people who abuse their privileges. Equally, there are those who use the 'spoon' to make a major contribution to society. Contrary to what some people think, being King is a tough job. The indications are, Charles is, and will continue to be, an excellent monarch - as was his Mother, Queen Elizabeth II. I am reminded of Queen Elizabeth's broadcast to the Commonwealth, aged 21: 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.' So it was for the whole of the 70 years of her reign. And she had tea with Paddington Bear – Doesn't get much better than that!

The King of Kings

Now the most important King of all: I am of course referring to Jesus Christ. Jesus is unique amongst kings. His ministry lasted just three years – three years that changed the world for ever. Many of you know much more about his ministry than I do, so I will not attempt a summary. We can only believe that Jesus became what he was because he followed the teaching of God The Father.

As I mentioned, William the Conqueror was crowned on Christmas Day 1066. There the similarity between William and Jesus ends. The contrast between the two men is stark: William the war monger – Jesus the peace maker. Now, regarding the Spoon: The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the Christmas story - Jesus born in a stable. No silver spoon for Jesus!

So, how else can we describe Jesus other than: - The King of Kings.

Mowgli

Reflections of a Coronation

We hadn't long moved into our brand new council house in a brand new estate on the outskirts of our town. Surrounded by countryside it was so welcoming. We had moved three months ago from living in a tenement house which had an outside toilet at the bottom of the stairwell and a shared boiler room which we called the steamie for washing clothes. None of this had been easy with a three-year old and a one-year old in tow. But now we had a proper house with a bathroom and a garden where we could grow vegetables.

The King had died and we felt a deep sorrow because he had shown determination and grit during the war. He had stuck by his people. And now his young daughter who was only a year younger than me with a young family was going to take up the reins.

Outside the newly built houses of our council estate was a piece of waste ground. It was possibly earmarked for housing. But we, that is our neighbours, decided we would get together a put on a show and mark the occasion of the coronation for Queen Elizabeth.

We didn't have much as rationing was still in place. We made party hats and flags out of newspapers and laid out rugs for the children to sit on. We gave them some sandwiches and juice, and the youngsters ran races up and down our self-made park. It was a good opportunity to get to know our neighbours better. We didn't have much but there again we didn't ask for much either. Looking back it was a happy, simple memory.

Mary Tobin (Aged 99)

My Kingdom is Not of this World

Words of Jesus, according to John's Gospel
In response to Pilate's questions about his kingship
if not of this world, why was he here?
A plain answer,
'To bring truth'
But what is truth?

Hints in the ancient scriptures give a glimmering insight.
'God's ways are not our ways'
Insightful Paul gave another hint.
God's apparent foolishness and weakness
are wiser and stronger than human wisdom and strength.

So why do we run our churches in the ways of the world?
Condemnation of all as miserable sinners.
Structures of power and status.
Unquestionable doctrine and dogma.
Sometimes even violence, injustice and war.
Is it surprising that we encounter indifference, rejection?

The kingdom of this world has godly standards,
compassion, integrity, justice and peace,
interwoven with the truth that Jesus taught –
that however humble and inadequate we feel ourselves to be,
we can be transformed by the power of the Spirit
into true citizens of God's kingdom,
both here on earth and on into eternity.

Living God, help us to see more clearly
And to commit ourselves to the unworldly ways of your kingdom.

Rev Ros Murphy

Biblical Kings

In the Bible there are a lot of Kings, some more famous than others, like Saul, Solomon and David. Each of the Kings was chosen by God and anointed by His prophet here on earth.

We are told that to be chosen as King the candidate had to be:

- God fearing and be familiar with the Scriptures and the law of God
- rule in the fear of God and promote the interests of the Church
- maintain the cause of the poor and the oppressed and judge wisely.
- They are warned against impurity, lying and intemperance.
- Good Kings are recognised by their befriending the good, punishing the wicked, favouring the wise and honouring the diligent.

They would then command honour, obedience and love from their subjects.

I am not sure how much of this advice will be given to King Charles but he will be anointed with holy oil by God's representative so some of the old tradition will be maintained.

Long Live the King!

When Princes Meet

The title of an anti-war song by Tom Paxton. It tells us about the consequences of who suffers when Kings fight.

We think the traditional role of monarchy to be duty and honour. But King Edward abdicated because of his love for Wallis Simpson.

This confident, well-spoken royal chose love over duty and allowed his brother who struggled publicly to take over the reins of monarchy. Edward spent the next ten years arguing with his brother because he considered it his right to be looked after and kept in the manner he felt he deserved and insisting his wife be given a royal title. History has a way of repeating itself

When the Princess Elizabeth was crowned in 1953 she had a supportive husband Philip whose parents had lost their Monarchy; and who realised that the Monarchy had to modernise and be inclusive if it wanted to be relevant and have a purpose in today's society.

Reflecting on her reign, we see a person who embraced change but maintained a dignity and privacy so that there was an allure and mystique associated with the monarchy. This created a pomp and circumstance and at times a pageantry. It attracted tourists from around the world. We saw a person who dedicated her life to her people and to God.

Looking forward to the Coronation of Charles. We know he cares for the environment and like his father has done a lot to help young people with The Prince's Trust. Unlike governments who seem to take a short term view to ensure being elected again, the monarchy has taken a long term broad perspective. Will Charles' opinion be allowed to influence and shape the people of this country. Or will the modern influencer, social media dominate and drive the monarchy to extinction.

John Slevin

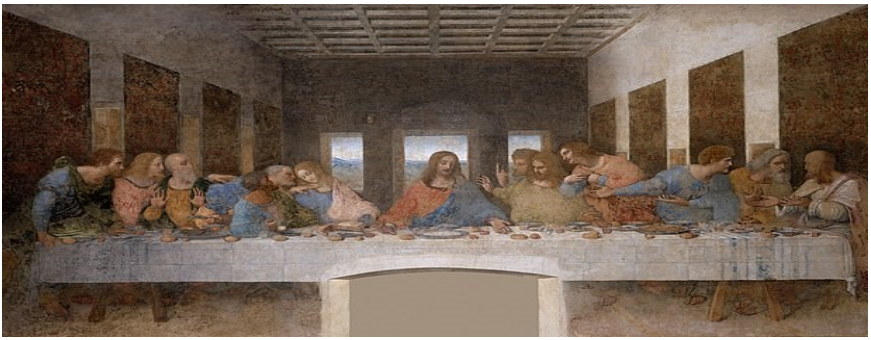
Salt and the Last Supper

The European concept that spilt salt is a symbol of bad luck goes back at least as far as Roman times. Salt was a symbol of friendship because of its long lasting quality. It preserves foodstuffs for a long time, and hence was presented to guests before other food to signify the abiding strength of friendship.

Salt was also a valuable commodity in olden times. The word ‘Salary’ comes from the Latin word for salt (sal), and originally referred to the money given to the soldiers so that they could buy the salt they needed. [The suggestion that they were paid in salt has never been substantiated].

In the Old Testament of the Bible, there are 35 verses mentioning salt, the best known being that Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt as she looked back to Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the New Testament there are just six verses: in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus referred to His followers as “the salt of the earth”, and in Colossians 4:6 Paul encouraged Christians to “let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt”



However, one of the most well known and poignant references is shown in the painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci.

If you look carefully, you can see that Judas has knocked over the salt cellar, and has spilled salt.

Judas had already offered to betray Jesus to the High Priests [Matthew 26:14]. As we know, this betrayal lead to Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. Only Matthew records Judas' remorse, and suicide.

Celia Lester

Lent Art Exhibition

Rowheath Pavilion is hosting the exhibition of 8 works by artist Ben Ecclestone, each one accompanied by poetry by the writer Adrian Plass.

The words and images centre around the events of Good Friday. They inspire us to think about the words of Jesus, and how they are relevant to us now.

Walk of Witness 2023

The annual Good Friday CTB30 Walk of Witness will have three starting points this year; the Cotteridge Church, St Joseph's Church and the Pavilion Church. We do not need to start at our denominational starting point but can start at the nearest starting point to where we live.

Route—for those with and eye to detail

11am walkers gather with a Cross at the Cotteridge Church to join those attending the 10.30 am Morning Worship, leaving by 11:15 at the latest. Walking to the Cotteridge Friends Meeting House they will join others for a short period of silence.

11am walkers gather with a Cross outside St Joseph's on Station Road, leaving by 11:10. They will meet at the Cotteridge Friends Meeting House for the short period of silence.

11:15am walkers will gather at the Rowheath Pavilion Church with a Cross, leaving at 11.30. They will walk directly down to Beaumont Road where they will meet up with the rest of the walkers.

11:20 the groups of walkers from Cotteridge Church and St Joseph's will also walk down to Beaumont Road to meet the party of walkers coming from Rowheath.

11:35 all three groups will meet outside Bournville URC in Beaumont Road and after a pause will leave at 11.40

As one group, all of the walkers will then return to Watford Road and proceed to St Francis at Bournville Green; arriving at 11.55 for a short prayer led by the Vicar of St Francis, and are invited to join their 12 noon service and stay as long as they wish.

You don't need to remember the route, there will be stewards to guide you.

Foodbank

Last month we received in 1569k and gave out 2277k
feeding 254 clients on 120 vouchers

Urgent

UHT semi-skimmed milk, UHT whole milk, long-life fruit juice (not needing refrigeration), tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn), tinned meat (ham, corned beef, pork sandwich, pulled pork, chicken), cereal (not greater than 500g), liquid/bar soap, gender neutral shower gel, toothpaste (not mouthwash)

Low in stock

Rice (500g), jam/honey, tinned/carton ready-made custard, tinned rice pudding, tinned tomatoes, tinned spaghetti, pasta sauce, tinned fish (tuna, mackerel, sardines, salmon), squash, dog food, cat food, instant hot-chocolate (not cocoa powder), instant coffee (not decaffeinated), tinned/ packet vegetarian meals, sugar (500g), chocolate and snack bars, gender neutral shampoo, sanitary pads, single or duo wrapped toothbrushes, toilet rolls, washing up liquid.

Well stocked

Pasta shapes, dry spaghetti, baked beans, tinned/packet/soup, tinned fruit in juice (not prunes, rhubarb or grapefruit), sweet biscuits (not multi-packs), porridge (not greater than 500g), noodles, instant potato, nappies all sizes, baby food and baby care items, gender neutral roll-on deodorants, razors, baby wipes, laundry powder/liquid (not family sized)

Not needed at all

Tinned potatoes, teabags (40's or 80's), crisps, decaffeinated drinks or fruit infusions, bottled water, large bottles of lemonade or coke, any food or toiletries containing alcohol, cooking ingredient or sauces, instant potato, tinned macaroni cheese, fresh products (including vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs and bread), non-dairy items, gluten-free items, coffee beans, loose tea, large boxes of teabags (120's or more), very large bags or boxes of porridge and cereal, cocoa powder, tampons, make up hair accessories, perfume or aftershave, Christmas or Easter items

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

You are invited ...

Places of Welcome

Pavilion has a session every Friday morning in the Rowheath Terrace Room.

Bournville Parish Church, St Francis meets every Thursday morning 10.30 am – 12 noon in Church.

Warm Spaces - where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, welcoming place and enjoy a hot drink and some company.

Cotteridge Church
Mon-Thurs 8.30 am – 5.00 pm
Friday 9.30 am – 1.30 pm

Solar Panel Eco Meeting

Are you interested in finding out about solar panels?

You are invited to attend an Eco meeting at:

St Francis Church, Bournville
on 5 April 2023 at 2.00 pm

Arthur Tsang and Tracey Rowe from Bournville Village Trust (BVT) will be coming to speak about BVT's approach to solar panels. This will be followed by a general discussion and there will be the opportunity to ask questions.

The church will be open from 1.45 and the meeting will last approximately one hour.

Click on the different links below to find out what's happening in your church

(Crl + click on link)

https://www.facebook.com/rowheath.pavilion/

https://ssjandh.org

https://bournvilleparishchurch.org.uk/

https://www.facebook.com/BournvilleParishChurchStFrancisOfAssisi/

www.ascensionstirchley.com
https://www.facebook.com/AscensionStirchley/

https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Bournville-Quaker-Meeting/

https://www.facebook.com/Cotteridge-Quaker
https://cotteridgequakers.org.uk/

https://www.thecotteridgechurch.org.uk/
https://www.facebook.com/TheCotteridgeChurch/

https://www.birminghammethodistcircuit.org.uk/church-page/st-andrews-b30

https://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk/links.php

https://www.birminghamvineyard.com/

https://www.facebook.com/vineyardbham/

https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/

https://www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/news/

https://ctb30.org.uk/

CHURCH CONTACTS

For further details of worship and/or activities at any of the churches please contact the people below:

- St. Andrew's Methodist Church
  Revd. Farai Mapamula - 427 1747
- Bournville United Reformed Church
  Revd Leonora Jagessar - 472 0730
- Society of Friends, Bournville
  Claire Bowman - 07753 635438
  Room Hire, 471 2155
  annegiles57@gmail.com
- St. Francis Church, Bournville
  Rev Canon Richard Wharton - 472 7215
- Rowheath Pavilion Church
  Inter regnum
  Office - 458 1711.
- Society of Friends, Cotteridge
  Chris Martin - 475 2088
- The Cotteridge Church
  Revd. Mike Claridge - 433 5176
  Revd. Roger Collins - 459 4009
  or Church Office - 433 5518
- Ascension Stirchley
  Revd. Catherine Grylls - 443 1371
- Catholic Church of Ss Joseph and Helen
- Catholic Church of St Paul's
  Father David Barry - 458 1236

"Points" is published by Churches Together in Birmingham 30 for the exchange of ideas and news. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the churches as a group or individually.

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Next Issue's Focus will be

Fair Trading

Deadline for articles: 22 May