



St Mark's Parish Magazine
May 2023



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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
4 June 2023

All contributions to the editor by
Friday 19 May 2023

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

After the excitement of celebrating our Risen Lord at Easter, what celebrations we have to look forward to in May! Ascension Day, Pentecost, many Bank Holidays and, of course that special weekend when we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.



Like many people, it's the first Coronation I will have known, and a special opportunity for our schools and for the church to consider what it's all about. I have been fascinated to read about the symbolism it involves. While the Coronation is a chance for people to pay respect and special honour to the King, we can also see within it the ways in which the King will express his wishes to follow Jesus' teaching and example. In his Christmas message last year, he stated that he draws inspiration, as his mother did, to the power of the everlasting "light" that is Christ and is an essential part of faith in God and faith in people.

The King will make a Coronation Oath (a promise to people and to God), and he will be anointed with holy oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury – a practice going back to the Old Testament, setting him apart for God's special purposes. Then he will be "invested", given the orb, which represents the world, with the cross above it showing the Christian belief that the world is God's. Being placed in the King's right hand, it is a reminder to make a positive difference in God's creation (we will be aware of King Charles' concern for the environment). The Sceptre also holds a cross on the top and represents the power and responsibility of the King to rule justly and mercifully in the eyes of God. The arches of St. Edward's Crown, placed on his head by the Archbishop, form a cross above his head. Great symbolism!

In the Coronation King Charles will share what he wants "to be" and "to do" during his reign in order to shine as a light to the world around. As Christians we are all challenged to commit ourselves as Christians so it is a good time for us too to consider our own "to be" and "to do" list as we look, not just to the King, but to the King of Kings!

We celebrate our Risen and Ascended King not just once, but annually on Ascension Day, and celebrate his enabling Holy Spirit who equips us for the task of doing the work of God at Pentecost. And we celebrate each Sunday as we meet together in Church and we can celebrate each moment of each day as we lift our hearts to the King of Kings. God bless you as you celebrate!

Every blessing



Depressed or Impressed

When things are not going the way we want them to, are we likely to feel somewhat depressed? At times it is not just one thing that is going wrong but many tragedies, or potential tragedies, all at once.

I met someone recently who said he had made a list of all the things he no longer felt capable of doing and was horrified as to how long that list was. That can't have cheered him up, but instead he might have been impressed if instead he was to draw up a list of all the things he was still able to do. I suppose this is thinking positive, not negative, deciding a glass isn't half empty but half full.

It is hard to continue the remaining period of our life when so many that we have loved have passed away. However, these last chapters of our lives can be good in their own way, too.

At my age I have just one eye that works, but I thank God for the blessing that I still have one eye that is good. I have about half of my teeth that are real but thanks to modern dentistry I can still eat a good meal. My heart needed a new valve but thanks to the National Health Service one has been provided and also the supply of a pace-maker helps my heart along. How lucky I am. If I can sleep well, and above all, enjoy the love expressed to me by those I love, I am truly blessed and thank God every day. I know I can no longer run as I could in my youth, or play tennis and other games, but I can be mobile in my limited way. I have to accept that I must give up driving a car, but still I am more mobile than many of my age.

We can enjoy the blessings of nature such as sunsets and sunrises, flowers and trees, a chance to enjoy music while I still have my hearing and the possibility of a good laugh when I see something funny, even if it is laughing at myself.

Then I have my faith, which, as a Christian, helps me in so many ways, and hopefully I can share so much joy with others similarly old like me, when I visit them as often as I do. This does me good as they soon become my friends. They so often impress me in their difficult circumstances, and I hope and believe that I cheer them up as well. May God bless us all and may we each in our separate ways help to encourage a positive attitude for us all.

Ian Archer



Church Notices

Community Lunch Restarts

We will be holding our first Community Lunch since we stopped because of the Pandemic, on **Sunday 14 May at 1.00pm**. Initially there will be no lifts available to and from the Hall so you will have to make your own transport arrangements. If you wish to attend, you must register in advance with either Paul Selvadurai, the Lunch Coordinator, or with the Parish Office (tel: 01737 210785). Lunches will then be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month (except August).

Vacancy

Would you be willing to be part of an editorial team that has responsibility for editing the content of this magazine? If so, please speak to Fr Martin or to Helen Starmer, the current editor.

An Invitation

Ian Archer would like you to join him in the Church Hall for a drink on Sunday 21 May 2023 after the 10am Sung Eucharist in Church.

King's Coronation Tea and Service

On Sunday 7 May 2023 St Mark's Church will be holding an Afternoon Tea and an All-age Service to mark and celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. This is a time for thanksgiving to God and for local as well as national celebrations.

3.00pm Afternoon Tea in the Hall and Garden
4.30pm All-age Celebration and Thanksgiving
Service in the Church



All are welcome at the Service which will be suitable for all ages as we come together as one church family.

Tickets for the Afternoon Tea should be ordered in advance from the Parish Office:

Single Ticket: £3.00 (children £1.50)
Family Ticket £7.50



News from the Church of England

"Love Matters": Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households publishes its final report

In its final report – "Love Matters" – the Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households outlines five ambitions to support and strengthen family life.

In a report published today ("Love Matters"), the Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households makes a series of recommendations about how families and households can best flourish and calls on institutions – from the Church of England to Government – to put 'family' at the centre of their thinking; and individuals – whether married, single, or in a couple – to commit to relationships of all kinds that lead to the flourishing of one another.

'Love Matters' says that the quality of family relationships matters more than the form a family takes. It argues that although for many the concept of family has evolved, the essential values underpinning flourishing family life remain the same.

Drawing on a rich body of primary data collected through an extensive Call for Evidence, visits to communities up and down the country, events, round table discussions and surveys, meetings with interfaith leaders, listening and learning from children and young people, hearing from parents and teachers, as well as contemporary literature, the Commission outlines five ambitions to support and strengthen family life.

We must:

1. **Value families in all their diversity**, meeting their basic needs by putting their wellbeing at the heart of Government policy-making and our community life, including religious communities.
2. **Support relationships throughout life**, ensuring that everyone is able to develop and maintain loving and caring relationships, manage conflict well and promote the flourishing of individuals and families.
3. **Honour singleness and single person households**, recognising that loving relationships matter to everyone.
4. **Empower children and young people**, developing their relational skills and knowledge, recognising their value and agency, and protecting them from harm and giving them the best start in life.
5. **Build a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society**, removing discrimination, division and deep inequality for the sake of every family and household.

Established in March 2021 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Families & Households Commission was asked to explore what families and households of all shapes and sizes need in order to flourish. The report lays out a number of recommendations to the Church of England and the Government about how this can be achieved.

Welcoming the report, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby said: "With wisdom and timeliness, 'Love Matters' encourages us to prioritise the hopes, needs and aspirations of families – in all their diversity. We must do so as institutions and as individuals. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to share the overflowing love of God, who calls us into relationship with Himself and one another. As this report demonstrates, there is much to celebrate but there is a great deal still to do if we are to ensure the flourishing of every family and household."

The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, said: "This report reminds us of a simple yet profound truth: love matters. Each of us is encouraged to commit to loving relationships of all kinds that build up one another. This starts with us as individuals, in our local areas and within our worshipping communities, to support and strengthen family life so that we all flourish together. I pray that this rich resource changes how we live together in our shared family and community life."

Commenting on the release of the report, the Chair of the Commission, Professor Janet Walker OBE, said: " 'Love Matters' tells a story of opportunity, hope and love. It reimagines a kind, fair and forgiving society which values and accepts everyone for who they are, provides the loving care that children and young people need to thrive, and rejects discrimination and inequality. The report celebrates our multi-cultural society and the shared values across different faiths. It demonstrates the force for good when faith communities work together in partnership with local and national agencies and government, fostering communities in which individuals and families are supported and cared for, based on kindness and love."

The Co-Chair of the Commission, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, reflected: "Family lies at the heart of society. It is the context in which children are raised, love is shared and older generations are supported. But the reality of what 'family' looks like varies enormously across our society. What our report reveals is that the shape of family changes through our lives. It further shows that there is no one best shape, except that loving long term relationships are absolutely key for us all to flourish. Families matter. Relationships matter. Love matters."

Full article available on the Church of England website.



Rogation Sunday

In the Anglican Church, Rogation is celebrated on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, this year 14 May. Rogation means an asking of God – for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.



In about 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, "beating the bounds" became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for "beating the bounds." It was still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly, parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

On Sunday 14 May we will be "beating the bounds" of St Mark's Parish starting from the Church at 2pm and returning by about 5pm where we will have some tea (not beer and cheese!) Please join us if you can.



Envy and Jealousy

We can all be tempted by these evils at some point in our lives. According to my dictionary, envy is described as the bitter contemplation of the success of others compared with that of ourselves.

Jealousy is not very different but is described in my dictionary as being watchfully tenacious, or suspicious, and sometimes resentful of rivals in one's affections. Children in a family can envy brothers or sisters if they feel loved less than other siblings. Shakespeare in *Othello* described Jealousy as the green-eyed monster.

Jealousy can exist if the one we love seems to love or express affection for someone else. God himself was described as a jealous god, insisting that we should worship only him and follow no other one.

I suppose people do not decide to behave jealously. They drift into such behaviour with little or no conscious knowledge of what is happening until they find themselves imprisoned.

Jealousy in an engaged couple is a sign of danger, in marriage a sign of disaster, because jealousy breeds suspicion, distrust and deception.

As a married man I did all I could to ensure that Jenny would never have any reason to doubt my constant love and faithfulness for her. I feel sure she did the same for me which resulted in a long and happy time together.

Sometimes we see situations where others are preferred when we think we, ourselves, are more able to do a better job. Some can even be given higher positions, not because of their ability, but because they impose no threat to those above. This can be frustrating and if we dwell upon it too much it is likely to do much more harm to us than others. If we are envious of other's wealth, or circumstances we may not know what troubles they have to bear of which we are unaware. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

So, what guidance have we from the New Testament? The Gospels tell us that the chief priests had delivered Jesus up to Pilate for trial out of envy. This clearly was not because of his wealth. Perhaps it was because of his authority, and his refusal to dictate or be dictated to; his power over the people whom he would not exploit or flatter; his refusal to bribe or be bribed; and his disregard for his own safety. Like so many envious men the chief priests set out to destroy what they could not possess. Then we heard of the mother of St. James and St. John who wanted them to be at the Right and Left hand of Jesus in the future. They were clearly shown they needed to serve as he had done, not to be in a place of honour.

Ian Archer



The Way We Are?

Margaret's case had yet again been deferred for another six months. It would be over a year since the demonstration. She was no more than a mouse under the cat's paw of justice. Her thought always returned to what was right and wrong with the world. Now she was sitting in the public gallery to try to decide what she should say when her turn finally arrived.

She looked round the public benches. She noticed about fifteen teenage girls in smart purple uniforms sitting in a block. They must be from some private school she thought. I wonder what they are doing here on a school day. Below them sat some rather scruffy youths, of whom several were chewing gum.

In the dock was a wizened old man with plaster on his arm up to his shoulder on his right side. His introduction showed he was well over ninety and a desert rat from War World II. It emerged that he had fallen under a large policeman in the crush which had developed. Those on top had clearly heard the bang as his upper arm snapped.

"I began on the pavement watching for excess force," he was saying. "No, I was stuck to nothing. Just had my walking stick in my hand. Can't get far without it these days. The policeman grabbed me, but we were somehow pushed into the road and he seemed to trip. I went down under him. He was very heavy and my arm straddled the curb. No, it wasn't his fault. Both of us were under the control of the press of bodies; police one side, protestors the other."

The Chairman was watching the old man carefully. "The police are unable to show that you were no more than an onlooker. Lack of evidence, case dismissed." There was a repressed sigh from round the court, and a few desultory claps from the youths.

Next in the dock was a bouncy cockney lad. "No, I never went to no protest, I ain't got the time, but when I sees the caffuffle, I gets off me bike and cheered the protestors on. They were brilliant. Some held banners deploring climate change. No violence. Mostly old men and women they were and when they fell over backwards the police pressed on over the top. I pushed my away in to help an elderly lady up and they got me. I lost me bike."

"Although apparently unpremeditated you took part in a demonstration on the spur of the moment. I understand you have no means?" said the chairman. "I don't know what you mean by means," said the boy. "No money" said the magistrate. "Seven days detention". The youth in the dock looked bemused. A young shrill voice called out: "Shame on this court!" There was an expectant silence but no more.

After a pause a hushed woman's voice said "There's no need to push, I am only looking for the stairs. It's dark here. Slowly, up above the level of the dock rose the head of a middle-aged woman with immaculate silver hair. Then following an upright body dressed smartly, but unfashionably, in a tweed suit, blouse and tie. She seemed to grow further in stature till she was looking down severely from the dock upon the dark cloaks and brilliant white shirts which seemed to crawl about the floor. Her presence turned the dock into a pulpit.

"Your name, occupation and why you were demonstrating in the roadway," asked the Chairman.

"I am Ruth Thoroughgood, aged fifty-four, address; 56 The Rise, Head teacher of St Jude's Grammar School. I went to demonstrate peacefully mainly against the failure of governments around the world to take effective action against global warming after 27 years of failed Conference of the Parties (COP) Meetings; nations putting forward targets they had no plans or intention to achieve, and it's still going on. Do you understand that without more urgent action global warming will melt the Tundra, releasing huge quantities of methane gas. At that point progressive warming will become unstoppable. It will be too late for humankind. A recent report for this country finds that of the 44 policy initiatives countering climate change, only three are likely to be achieved. It's a disgrace on all of them." There was a repressed cheer from the court.

"Did you know it is unlawful to obstruct the King's Highway," interrupted the magistrate. "Yes, but there is no other way of registering complaint. Governments don't listen. There was some disturbance from a group of youths who seemed to know each other from their chanting, but the clear majority of those present were very well behaved, many of them elderly and wise; a peaceful demonstration. No, I did not stick myself to the road. We were bundled about with absolutely no respect. A policeman grabbed me and lifted me off of my feet and almost threw me into the van."

"This is your first offence but if there is any repetition the court will not take such a lenient view. I fine you £200".

The Headteacher's eyes looked steadily into those of the Chairman. "You call that fair when just now you sentenced a young boy without means to seven days in prison, which is the best way to make him into a regular offender?" she asked.

"I realise", said the magistrate, "that this is a subject of much emotion, but I cannot have you arguing with this court. I have to administer the law. Please conduct yourself accordingly. Next case please." But the Headteacher was unused to being cut off. Her eyes bore into his. "You interrupted me when I was presenting my defence. I am not finished. I am also protesting the removal of basic and long held civil liberties. I quote as evidence the article published on 16 March in *The Times*.

Civicus, a global alliance of civil society groups, has ranked the UK amongst the worst nations in Western Europe for participating in peaceful protest. We are one of the worst 200 in the world. You say, you are bound by the law, yes, but what about our history of justice, and what about the future of our poor world?"

Eyes down, the Chair of Magistrates said: "The fine stands at £200. I shall adjourn until 1400 hours. Court adjourned." The court broke into an excited babble of conversation with a girl from St Jude's School calling out, "So that is British justice at work? They never told me this in Civics!"

Margaret had made little progress on deciding what to say in six months' time when the whole subject will have cooled down. On the day of the demonstration the newspapers had been well represented but had sided with those being inconvenienced and several onlookers had expressed their concern on TV at being delayed in their business. That seemed to be the greatest concern of press, public and government. Today no national press was present to hear the side of the demonstrators. The only outcome reported would be the numbers jailed or fined.

How could governments persecute those who actually supported the government view that climate change was now a crisis? Was it something to do with the difference between words and action? Public demonstration and freedom of speech used to be a corner stone of democracy. She thought about the girls from St Jude's School. Going against the grain of her upbringing could not have been easy for that woman. The whole school would hear about this, and not through assembly either. The Headteacher would be their hero and perhaps a thousand families pressed by angry young women would have an effect. It was even possible that because of her it would yet hit the press.

What did the majority of people think of all this? She guessed their main concern would be to get on with their lives on the same basis as before rather than face the uncertainty of change. Yet the uncertainty, which was becoming certain almost daily, was far, far worse than any adjustment could possibly be. And in the long term far worse than inflation, food prices and wars.

Some people, of course, were not like that. They would vote as a matter of conscience for action to prevent further climate change, but even they would probably breathe a sigh of relief if the decision went against them. What hope was there?

Yet she had found herself impressed by the desert rat, the uncomplicated but innocent boy and the commitment of the elderly Headteacher. Certainly she, Margaret, could have no similar effect to that of the Headteacher. But she was being true to her beliefs and herself. Surely that was worth something.

Harry Ingram

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2023

Monday 1st May

Wednesday 3rd May

Thursday 4th May

Saturday 6th May

St Philip and St James

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Coronation of King Charles III

Sunday 7th May

5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

3.00pm Afternoon Tea for the Coronation

4.30pm All-age Coronation Service – in Church

Wednesday 10th May

Thursday 11th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

5.00pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 14th May

6th Sunday of Easter (*Rogation Sunday*)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist with APCM –

in Church and Online with Junior Church

1.00pm Community Lunch in the Hall

2.00pm Rogation Sunday "Beating the Bounds"

Monday 15th May

Wednesday 17th May

Thursday 18th May

Saturday 20th May

St Matthias

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Ascension Day

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall

Sunday 21st May

7th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 24th May

Thursday 25th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 28th May

Day of Pentecost

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with Junior Church

6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Wednesday 31st May

Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2023

Thursday 1 st June	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 4th June	Trinity Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Service – in Church
Wednesday 7 th June	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 8th June	Corpus Christi 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Sunday 11th June	St Barnabas 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Junior Church 1.00pm Community Lunch in the Hall
Wednesday 14 th June	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 15 th June	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 17 th June	8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance in the Hall
Sunday 18th June	2nd Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Wednesday 21 st June	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 22 nd June	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 24th June	Birth of John the Baptist
Sunday 25th June	3rd Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Junior Church 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Wednesday 28 th June	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 29th June	St Peter and St Paul 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



Gift Day at St Mark's – 14 May 2023

Aiming to raise £30,000

On the weekend of 14 May, to coincide with our APCM, we are launching our Annual Gift Day with one-off donations being welcomed until the end of June.

This is an opportunity for you to make a one-off donation to the ongoing work of St Mark's and to the running and maintenance costs of the church and hall buildings. Every year we rely on this additional income to cover expenditure and this year we are aiming to raise around £30,000 including Gift Aid.

In 2022 our church income was £205,000 with expenditure of £219,000. Income from planned giving, collections and other donations represented 45% of total income, with rental income 21%, lettings 13% and other activities 9%. Gift Day donations totalled over £25,000 making up the final 12%.

Expenditure in 2023 is expected to be in excess of £240,000 with significant costs being incurred on the decoration and floors of the hall and foyer areas together with work already carried out on the Church belfry installing netting to the louvre arches to protect from pigeons.

Savings have been made in energy costs following the installation of solar panels last year and other green initiatives, but overall our costs are increasing and it has been some years since we have undergone decoration work.

We appreciate that household expenses are rising, and that this is a difficult time for many of you, but please consider making a donation if you feel you are able to.
Thank you,

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer

Donations can be made in a number of ways

By **bank transfer** to the following HSBC account

Name of Account - SAINT MARK, REIGATE (please select 'paying a business')

Sort Code 40 18 22 Account Number 72393263 (With 'Gift Day' as the reference)

Via our **website** <https://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk/donate/>

Using either 'Give A Little' or the 'Parish Giving Scheme'

By **cheque** made payable to 'Saint Mark Reigate' in an envelope addressed to the treasurer and either brought to the APCM or another Sunday service or handed in to the church office.

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation the church will receive an additional 25%. If we do not already have a gift aid declaration from you [please complete this form](#).



SMOAT Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is taking place on Sunday 11 June, after the 10.00am service, in the church hall. We will be presenting an overview of the projects we supported in 2022, together with a short presentation on our Annual Accounts. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to see you there.

2022 Christmas Appeal – Action in Africa

You may recall that one of the organisations we supported for our Christmas Appeal 2022 was Action in Africa. They asked us if we could fund the purchase of an incubator for the Nyaishozi Dispensary in a remote area of Tanzania. We sent them the full amount they asked for – £6,000 (raised entirely through the Christmas Appeal) – and we recently received a wonderful letter from them, shown on the next page.

We were overwhelmed to receive this letter because, for us, it epitomises everything that SMOAT aims for. Because of your enormous generosity, our donation has empowered Action in Africa to launch their incubator campaign on a much larger scale which has very quickly gathered momentum. Also, by supplying the incubator, we have freed up money they were saving, and they have been able to buy extra vital medical equipment. Around 400 babies per year are born in this clinic alone, 130 of which are born prematurely. If they have been able to buy a further six incubators for other clinics as a result of what they have learned from us, then potentially, between us, we have saved nearly 800 babies per year! Action in Africa is a tiny charity, with a total income last year of £31,500, so to say this is a giant step for them is an understatement.

Thank you once again to all our supporters for making this possible.

Barbara Perkins



ACTION
in **AFRICA**

March 18th, 2023

Dear Naomi,

We have just received your letter and cheque for £6000. We are over the moon. Thank you so much. By initially showing an interest in Action in Africa, you have triggered an impact you could not have foreseen. Because you agreed to fund the incubator for Nyaishozi Dispensary, you gave us the confidence to launch an incubator campaign on a much larger scale – to provide each of our 10 dispensaries with this life saving piece of equipment. To date we have raised enough funds to pay for 6 incubators!

By funding the incubator – the number one item on Rebecca's wish list, you enabled us to purchase other medical equipment she wanted – monitoring equipment for blood pressure and the foetal heartbeat as well as six hospital beds (which arrived only last week and are pictured below). This is all down to SMOAT.



Working with Louise on the video for your Christmas Appeal was very educational – inspiring me to go home and create a video for our own Incubator Appeal. Filming our appeals will now become the norm. We are so grateful for your generosity and are looking forward to filming and photographing the incubator in situ when we visit Nyaishozi in August.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity,
Very best wishes,

Tina Rayburn
Vice Chairwoman



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Part 4: Opening Corridor Doors

Having opened the doors of the corridors of power, Fred now had to ensure that the Revenue could do what this elevated department could not. Since he had no "human resources" of his own he would have to begin by begging for them.

.....
....So Fred now had permission from the Public Services Recruitment Board (PSRB) to go back to the Revenue to seek a solution to the huge number of Revenue candidates waiting assessment. Fred wrote his report covering the casual attitude of the Commission to the revenue competition, referring to Lord Futon's recommendation and the full detail of the problem. Then he went to Somerset House to see Percy, his rather forbidding top boss on the Revenue side. "This is it!"

Fred was outside of Percy's door with a copy of his report to Findlay. He had had to insist to get a meeting with Percy. "The Revenue Competition is in a shambles and we have to act quickly." He just hoped Percy would agree without shooting the messenger. He knocked and went in.

Percy glanced up from his crouch over his desk. Fred wondered just how such a small man could exude so much power, well above his grade. "What's gone wrong?" was Percy's terse question.

In brief Fred admitted going to the main office which deals with applications without permission to carry out an inspection and then outlined what his enquiries had revealed, making clear that it was outside the scope of the PSRB and the direct responsibility of the Commission. Percy offered not a word throughout but his heavy brows seemed to progressively contract, his lips to compress and his unyielding gaze sharpen. His eyes seemed to burn a hole in Fred's. At the end: "how will you catch up?"

Fred admitted the PSRB could see no way except some increase in Boards in the autumn. That would be too late and the best candidates lost. "Humph," from behind the desk. "My question was how will you catch up."

Fred outlined his solution to mount lots of Boards over the summer break. He ticked off the resources which PSRB would require: a number of new Revenue Chairmen, more Observer assessors, the necessary paperwork and the accommodation for the competition which was only available at PSRB only during the summer break. Finally, he said he would require about twenty staff and the only source was the Revenue.

Percy steepled his fingers. "I shall supply the chairmen, which will up set their plans for the summer, but that's life. You can have two TOHGs and six TOs." This was less than half of what Fred was asking for. "You will have to train them. You will have to appoint Observers from your list. Try to avoid their annual leave, most will have families. The support staff will come on the preceding Friday lunch time for you to train them in the afternoon. You will need to get it all organised and brief Lloyd when he is back from leave next week. I don't want to recall him." Fred was amazed that Percy had taken in the full requirements in those few minutes.

Fred sat like a stone. Unwittingly he employed one of his tricks at difficult investigation interviews. He fixed Percy with his eyes, and with an expressionless face, said.....nothing. Minutes dragged on and on. "Have I missed something?" asked Percy.

"I simply can't do it with that staff," said Fred. "Why not?" "Well, I need the numbers I gave, and for a start I also need typing." "You can have two typists and that's my last word," snapped Percy, also staring hard. "If you think getting all those chairmen over the holidays will be popular you are quite mistaken, but I'm not belly aching about it. You have to learn to get on with what is given to you and be grateful." So that was that, except when Fred had his hand on the door. "And good luck!"

Fred was at his office at PSRB before he had settled down inside. Whichever way he looked there always seemed barriers. Now he must find how to operate with so few staff.

On the Monday, Lloyd was back from leave tanned and with a broad smile. "I hear you have had an interesting time behind my back," and he cut short Fred's reply. "I have a Board in half an hour, but I've seen Percy and he is in a rage about the casual treatment of the Revenue competition. Someone is going to regret this. Heads will roll. But evidently he is very pleased with you. We'll chat it over at lunch; that is (with another smile) if you can spare me the time!" Fred was gob smacked.

Unlike the resident Principals, whose sole duty was Boards and had a day off in between each one, he seemed to have Boards every day and often worked Saturdays with the Board chairman and to write the report. But now his "spare" time was devoted to the need to plan the coming summer holiday period. Holidays had been, in effect, cancelled. Evenings at home became shorter.

Fred read through the *Instructions to Staff* which he found extremely comprehensive covering all eventualities including candidates falling sick and away from home. He was impressed, but his notes of the essential operations still took two foolscap pages of typing. He had copes made for his coming team. Then he applied himself to a crash training for the new chairmen bearing in mind this was quite new for them and, he assumed, an unwelcome extra. Lloyd approved it and said he would deal with the awkward ones. He then saw the new chairmen in groups all of whom were several rungs above himself in the promotions ladder which he was unlikely to climb much further and found that most were not only very interested but had grasped a lot of the essentials from goodness knows where. Certainly he was very impressed by their laid back attitudes but raiser sharp minds. They got to call him "Laddie" in an affectionate tone. Conversations continued through lunch.

On the Friday before the new Boards began, the temporary Revenue staff arrived at lunch time. How they performed was vital. The two month training had to be reduced to an afternoon. His stress would be on initiative. Normally he would have seen the supervising TOHG first but there was no time and anyway he wanted them to act as a team, but each individual to be capable of taking the initiative.

Fred began by apologising for asking them to do something quite outside their experience. It would be no holiday and any mistakes could only be prejudicial to the candidates and could upset the whole process. Their work would include making sure each candidate was at the right place at the right time, be it for interview or some test. Notwithstanding every candidate had a personal timetable they should be told briefly what was now in store for them. They would need to mark the psychological and other question papers immediately

and get the results through to the Board members on time, similarly for other test results. Mistakes could give rise to a wrong assessment and failure for the candidate. He referred to the available Office instructions but then took them through his two-page condensation of the essentials.

Then he lent back in his chair and said that he had been told that staff could not do this without two months' training. This "summer school" was expected to fail. He could not blame them if it did fail. But he felt that Revenue staff, well trained in turning a Nelsonic eye to procedures, would achieve the desired result. He thought they could pull it off. It would once and for all show that the Revenue was every bit as good if not better than other staff. Finally, he stressed that he would always be there, and his door open when he was not personally holding an interview.

At the end, the senior TOHG waived the brief instructions and said with a smile, "Wish us a good weekend then!"

Harry Ingram

Genie the Life Changer

These last few weeks have been special for me and my wife as we've been entrusted with the care of a beautiful black Labrador, a Guide Dog puppy in training named Genie. Our role as Puppy Raisers will mean that we will undertake her socialization and initial training on the way to becoming a life-changer for someone with visual impairment in due course.

As many of you will know who've had small puppies in their household, the first few weeks are hard work and tiring. The nearest experience I can relate it to is having a new-born baby in the house with sleepless nights and early starts. However, the joy she is bringing us and the speed at which she is learning are already making this a very fulfilling part for us to play in her life.

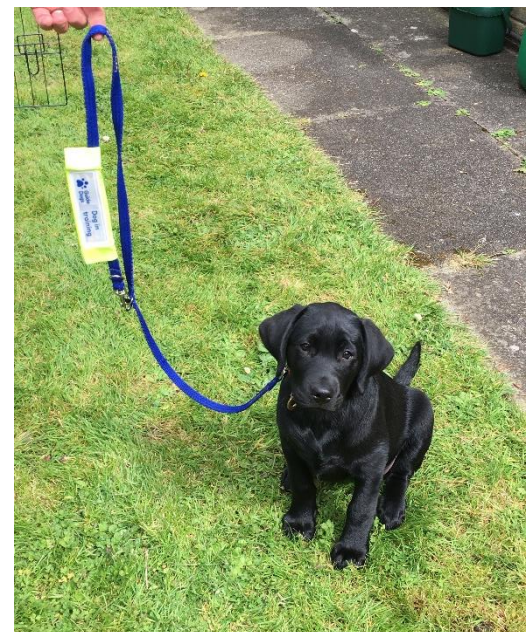
We're very impressed with the support and training we're receiving from Guide Dogs UK who are with us every step of the way.

Our lifestyle as clergy provides us with a vast range of situations which will be vital for a future Guide Dog's social experience. No doubt you will see me in church and around Reigate with Genie sporting the yellow flash on her lead and, when she's a bit older, a blue and yellow jacket indicating that she is a working dog in training. I'm looking forward to the many different opportunities Genie and I will have to prepare her for whatever she may encounter with her future partner.

Although we know it will be hard to give her up in a year's time, when she goes to 'Big School', at one of the regional training centres, to complete her in-harness training, we know what a difference Genie will make to someone who will rely on her to give them their independence.

Think of us as we undertake this role and if you think it might be something you might like to do yourself, please don't hesitate to ask me about it.

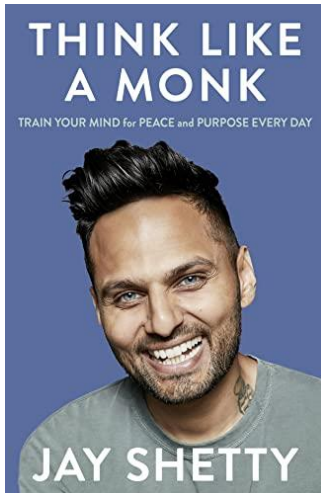
Fr Martin





Book Review

This month we review: How to think like a monk



This book has been written by Jay Shetty and if you haven't heard of him, he has a number one podcast called 'On Purpose'. Having been a monk, he shares his wisdom and experience in this *Sunday Times* Best Seller. Inviting the reader to "Train your mind for peace and purpose everyday".

I picked up this book because I am a big fan of Jay Shetty. I listen to his daily meditations on the Calm app and I find his teachings thought provoking and accessible.

This book invites you to look past the material and worldly definitions of success and to search much deeper through self-examination and meditation to understand your fears, values and passions.

The book is written in three parts, Let Go, Grow and Give, and, whilst not a Christian book, as Jay's teachings link back to his time in an Ashram studying Hindu Sanskrit scriptures, the advice transcends the religion and shares many similarities with Christian teachings.

The book teaches early on that fear and success are not sustainable motivators and nor is the pursuit of happiness. Instead we should look to love and duty as our guide our actions.

The book also teaches practical lessons such as how to breathe to relieve stress. I am still reading it but so far it has really helped me examine my thinking, giving me a new perspective on attachment. He uses an analogy that about possessions and people which really hit home. *When you realise that nothing belongs to you, you can enjoy it more and stop worrying about losing it. A bit like hiring a sports car for the weekend, you know you have to give it back so you appreciate it for the time you have it!*

Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it. Email magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.



70 years since the last Coronation

Seventy years ago, on 2 June 1953, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey. It was the first event where the British TV audience (20 million) was greater than the radio audience (12 million).

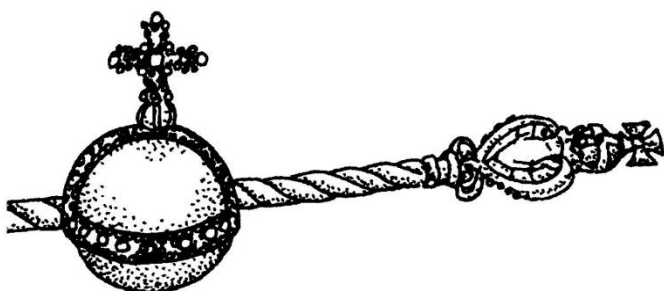
It helped to make television a mainstream medium, though it did not deter the many thousands – 50,000 in Trafalgar Square alone – who turned out on the streets to watch it, despite chilly weather, with wind and rain. The afternoon temperature reached a peak of only 12°C – considerably cooler than the Queen's November wedding day six years earlier.

Those who watched at home were restricted mostly to 14-inch screens or smaller, and of course black and white pictures – although the event was filmed in colour for posterity. Others watched it in bars and cinemas. The reaction was universally positive.

As well as bringing the nation together, the Coronation gave the BBC a huge head-start as the channel of choice, because it was still three years before ITV was launched as an alternative viewing option.

The televising of the Coronation was a suggestion of Prince Philip, at first resisted by politicians, church dignitaries and other traditionalists. The Queen gave permission for cameras to be installed in Westminster Abbey, and the main commentary was by Richard Dimbleby, who became a fixture for events of national significance.

It was a hit abroad too. Some 85 million people in the USA watched recordings of the highlights. In Europe new relay links enabled it to be a landmark – the first live broadcast of something happening in the UK.

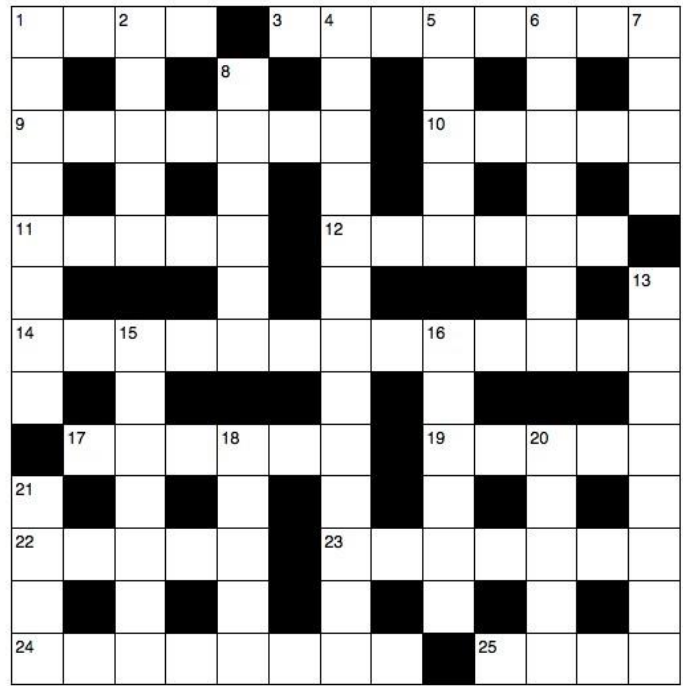


May Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)



Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

April answers

ACROSS: 1 Cosmic 4 Thomas 8 In his 9 Delaiah 10 Falwell 11 Water 12 Recovered 17 Sidon 19 Radiant 21 Centaur 22 Broil 23 Eleven 24 Prison

DOWN: 1 Cliffs 2 Scholar 3 Issue 5 Holy war 6 Moist 7 Sphere 9 Deliverer 13 Candace 14 Deacons 15 Psyche 16 Stolen 18 Dance 20 Debar

Puzzles



May Sudoku Puzzle

8			6	5			4	
				7	4	3	2	
	3		8		9		1	5
	4			1		2		
2		7				1		9
		8		6			7	
4	7		2		1		6	
	8	6	4	3				
	9			8	6			1

April Solution

8	7	4	6	9	5	3	2	1
1	9	6	2	4	3	8	7	5
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	9
4	5	8	1	6	2	9	3	7
7	6	1	9	3	8	2	5	4
3	2	9	7	5	4	6	1	8
9	1	3	5	8	6	7	4	2
5	4	7	3	2	9	1	8	6
6	8	2	4	1	7	5	9	3

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