



# St Cross Newsletter May 2023

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### *The Vicar writes...*

As I write, the occasion of King Charles' coronation approaches. It is a moment of history. For me it is the first coronation in my lifetime but for some of you reading this you will be able to remember the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Where were you on that day? Perhaps you were really fortunate to have your own television and if so, then you may have welcomed many family and friends into your living rooms to witness that historic occasion: an occasion which the Queen insisted should be broadcast on television. It brought communities together in homes, pubs, and cinemas to share in that momentous event. It will seem this time around that the coronation of Charles will be a more personal experience for many people. It's taken for granted now that we have our own television. An unforgettable moment nonetheless.

We can remember where we were for the unforgettable moments in our lives, and not just where we were, but also how we felt, the emotions we went through. Occasions which communicated either pleasure or sadness. I would imagine many of us know exactly where we were and what we were doing when the news of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers broke, or the tragic news of Princess Diana's untimely death. But equally moments of joy will be remembered too with great clarity.

The gospels were written many years after Jesus' death and resurrection, and consequently there are subtle differences in the various accounts of

## St Petroc of Cornwall

### Commemorated 23 May

Abbot Petroc, who founded monasteries at Padstow and Bodmin, and many churches all over north Cornwall, was renowned for his goodness both to men and animals.

He came from Wales, where his father was a king; but although he had been brought up as a prince and trained to rule over people, he had a call to lead the holy life. So when he was a young man he renounced his throne and went out as a missionary to convert the people of Cornwall to Christianity.

Many stores are told of his miracles. He tamed a wolf to act as his watch-dog; this animal never left the cell where Petroc often used to retire for peace and solitude. Once when his people implored his protection against a dragon which was ravaging the countryside, he quelled the beast by praying, bound it with his girdle, and led it to the sea where it swam away.

And one day when he was at prayer by his cell at Nanceventen (now Little Petherick) he was disturbed by the sounds of hunting horns. Then there sprang before him a little fawn, panting with terror, beseeching him wordlessly to protect her. After her came four huntsmen on horses, and a pack of savage dogs; at their rear was Constantine, the prince of the district, a man known for his warlike ways and stubborn pride.

Seeing their quarry at the feet of Petroc, the huntsmen drew back and called their dogs off. This angered Constantine. "Give up our prize forthwith!" he shouted. "Don't you know who I am?"

"I do," replied Petroc. "But this little animal sought my protection – you

shall not kill her."

At this Constantine leapt off his horse and drew his sword. "Nobody robs me of my sport without paying for it!" But as he raised his sword St. Petroc, looking calmly into the prince's eyes, made the sign of the cross and murmured a prayer. Constantine was instantly paralysed from head to toe; spasms of great pain racked his back, his neck and arms.

"You black wizard – sorcerer!" he cried in fury. "Release me, or my men will kill you!" But his men had better sense, and cowered back. They began to make excuses for the prince. "Forgive him Lord Petroc. Let him go, we pray, and he'll calm down."

But Petroc was not satisfied. "I will release you, Constantine, if you promise to give up your warlike ways and become a Christian."

Exhausted and racked with pain, Constantine agreed. As he sank down, released from the spell, his men rushed forward to hold him up.

"Tis a hard thing to ask of me," he said, "to give up all my rich robes, my feasts and sport, to become a poor monk. But with your help I will do it."

Petroc let the fawn go free, and saw her fly off through the woods. Then he instructed Constantine and all his men in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Most of them joined the monastery at Padstow, or Lanwethiok as it was then called, or came to work there as tradesmen. Constantine himself built a cell and a church a few miles west, above the bay now called Constantine Bay after him. There under Petroc's guidance he lived in simple poverty, in prayer and praise for the rest of his life.



that first Easter Day; who was at the tomb and whether guards were present or not are two such examples. In bringing the Canon of the Bible together the church has never sought to hide the differences between the resurrection recollections. The key facts remain: the tomb was empty and Jesus would make himself known to his followers in different ways.

The apostles and the disciples of the early church experienced the presence of Christ on future occasions through the gift of the Holy Spirit. That is the significance of the Ascension which we celebrate on the evening of Thursday the 18th of May, forty days after Easter. The Ascension signifies Jesus' departure from our earthly sphere to be with his Father, but he made the promise to his followers that he will never leave them. His presence would simply be experienced differently. Whilst memories of the resurrection were never forgotten, the early church would learn to live life in the promised gift of the spirit which would come at Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.

Ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. May we, too, be enthused by the celebration of this event and seek the gift Christ promises to all of us. The Church now remains as Christ's body for the world, and we too must live life in the Spirit.

Yours, in Christ  
*Paul*

*The Ascension Chapel at Mirfield Community of the Resurrection.*



### Occasional Offices

#### Weddings

**3 April** Alistair James Cartwright and Emma Jane Sleigh  
**10 April** Lee Andrew Rennison and Olivia Victoria Swapp



Readings for Eucharistic Services		
	Morning Services	Evening Service
<b>3 May Wednesday</b>	Psalm 67 Acts 12.24-13.5 John 12.44-end	
<b>Sunday 7 May Easter 5</b>	Acts 7.55-end John 14.1-14	
<b>10 May Wednesday</b>	Psalm 122.1-5 Acts 15.1-6 John 15.1-8	
<b>Sunday 14 May Easter 6</b>	Acts 17.22-31 John 14.15-21	
<b>17 May Wednesday</b>	Psalm 148.1-2,11-end Acts 17.15,22-18.1 John 16.12-15	
<b>18 May Thursday ASCENSION DAY</b>	Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end	<b>7.30pm Sung Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 21 May Easter 7</b>	Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11	
<b>24 May Wednesday John &amp; Charles Wesley</b>	Psalm 68.27-28,32-end Acts 20.28-end John 17.11-19	
<b>Sunday 28 May PENTECOST</b>	Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39	
<b>31 May Wednesday Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth</b>	Psalm 113 Romans 12.9-16 Luke 1.39-49	

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