



News and Views from Idle Upper Chapel May 2023



Dear friends.

Some of you may remember the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. I have heard some people's memories of gathering at relatives' or neighbours' homes to watch the event on television.

Our country may no longer really seem to be a Christian country, with those to profess to be Christians in a minority. However we may feel about the Monarchy, in our country the Monarchy is deeply rooted in Christianity. While King Charles's Coronation will be more reflective of our time and society it will still have many elements of Christian faith within it, displayed across the whole world.

The "most sacred" aspect of that Coronation, known as the "Act of Consecration" was kept from public view as it was deemed "too sacred" to show. The Archbishop anointed Elizabeth with holy oil – on her hands, her chest and her head to show she was being set apart to serve and love her people in all her actions, with all her heart and with all her mind. The "Act of Consecration" draws on the Biblical example of Kings being anointed and symbolises the spiritual aspect to our British Monarchy.

Apparently, as he anointed Elizabeth, the Archbishop said: "Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed. And as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be you anointed, blessed and consecrated Queen over the Peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern."

It is understood that equivalent words will be used for King Charles, when the "Act of Consecration" takes place privately ahead of the Investiture and Crowning.

I find it very special that the holy oil that will be used for King Charles is made from olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, a place I have had the tremendous privilege to visit, which is a hill/mountain ridge to the east of Jerusalem's Old City. The olives were pressed just outside Bethlehem, and perfumed with essential oils such as sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin and amber and orange blossom.

Let us pray that the Christian message of unconditional love and relationship with and through the Living God will be meaningfully heard across the world; and may we pray that King Charles will know God more and more, and follow the example of his mother's faith-full service of her God and His people. Shalom, Annette.

Prayer from the URC

Eternal God,

You order and govern our world and all that is therein,
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla today
as they are crowned and anointed,
that amid the pomp and ritual,
they may feel your loving presence,
that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come.
Amen.

New Manse

You may be aware that the process of finding a new manse for the Aire Valley Pastorate has been underway. This was due to Trinity Church closing in Keighley, which is where the current manse is. In March a number of properties were viewed, but none quite matched the list of requirements for a manse.

At the beginning of April, having already been seen by the Synod Property Officer, representatives from Idle Upper Chapel and Bingley URC, along with Annette, went to view a house on the Cote Farm Estate in Thackley. That house – pictured – not only ticked all the boxes, was felt to be “the one” and the purchase of it is progressing with very generous support from the Synod. We don’t have a time scale yet, but there are no onward ‘chains’ to hold things up.

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 7th June at 10:30am**. Please let Graham have any items for the agenda.

Bible Fellowship

The monthly Bible Fellowship Group will resume in June – date to be announced.

Rev Jason McCullagh

On Sunday 4th June our service will be led by Rev Jason McCullagh, Yorkshire Synod Pastoral Committee Convenor and Minister at the Bridge Church, Otley.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

On **Thursdays from 10am to 11:30am**

This is a drop in event which is open to everyone and we will be pleased to see you at any time during the session.

RNIB Stamp Appeal

We continue to collect used postage stamps to raise money for the **Royal National Institute of Blind People**. There is a box for these on the table at the back of the hall.

Bradford North Foodbank

Please see the noticeboard for an up-to-date list of items most urgently needed. Donations can be left in the box on the table at the back of the hall.

SERVICES

May 7th	Rev Annette Haigh	
May 14 th	Valerie Jenkins	Communion
May 21 st	Chris Clough	
May 28th	David Kenyon	
June 4 th	Rev Jason McCullagh	