

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE CHAPLAINCY

May 2023 Vol 6:5

Canary Wharf
Multifaith Chaplaincy



This month's editor: [Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra](#)

Chat with a Chaplain

We are always available to catch up, either in person or virtually.

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Editorial

Welcome to our May edition!

Last month was full of festivals with a rare occurrence of Passover, Easter and Ramadan falling in and around the same time, with Vaisakhi not so far behind. Saleha and I were busy delivering online sessions on Ramadan. I also joined Fiona and a Jewish colleague for an interfaith presentation on our respective festivals at Barclays.

In addition to starting with local elections, May has also had another rarer festival in store for us – the coronation of our new King! It was wonderful to see many retail outlets kitted out for the coronation and selling flags, bunting, and other memorabilia. You may have seen our social media postings celebrating the coronation on the estate. There was a real buzz in the air!

Throughout it all, we have continued to provide our usual high quality pastoral care in person, by telephone and online. Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 15-21 May. Remember we are always here to support your and your colleagues' wellbeing.

My colleagues have contributed articles to this edition of our Newsletter, sharing some of their own personal reflections on the coronation.



May Faith Festivals

Baha'i	2	Twelfth Day of Rizvan
Buddhism	5	Wesak
Christianity	18	Ascension Day *
Baha'i	24-25	Declaration of the Bab
Judaism	26-27	Shavuot
Christianity	28	Pentecost/Whitsun
Baha'i	29	Ascension of Baha'ullah

* There will be an Ecumenical Celebration with Communion held in the Prayer Room at 12.30pm

Supreme Governor of the Church of England - by Revd Dr Fiona Stewart-Darling

The new King is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, not as some think Head of the Church of England. In the bible Jesus is referred to as the head of the Church. The King's role dates back to Reformation at the time of Henry VIII when Parliament passed the 'Act of Supremacy' in 1534. This Act was designed to cut ties with Rome and ensure the Church of England was self-governed rather than being under the authority and influence of the Pope. This change meant the church was described from then on as the 'Church of England' rather than the 'Church in England'.

The Church of England is an established church not a state church, established by law with a unique relationship with the state, forged in the settlement developed in the time of Elizabeth I. The title 'Defender of the Faith' was given to Henry VIII by Pope Leo X back in 1521. In 1543, Parliament bestowed the title upon Henry himself and it has always been used by subsequent monarchs.

The coronation was a religious ceremony steeped in tradition. Such ceremonies can be traced back to the coronation of King Edgar in 973 CE. Under Henry VIII it became a rite of the Church of England.

King Charles at his coronation was enthroned and anointed then as the Supreme Governor of Church of England, taking oaths to pledge himself to a life of dedicated service.

Like his mother before him, the King believes that the established church has a wide role to play. Queen Elizabeth at her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 made the following comments:

'The concept of our established church is occasionally misunderstood, and I believe, commonly underappreciated. Its role is not to defend Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions. Instead, the church has a duty to protect the free practices of all people of faith in this country, as well as those of no faith. It certainly provides an identity and spiritual dimension for its own many adherents. But also, gently, and assuredly, the Church of England has helped to build a better society – more and more in active co-operation for the common good with those of other faiths.'

As an Anglican priest and a chaplain, this is foundational to my understanding of how we work together here as a multifaith chaplaincy team, complementing and supporting each other's ministry in serving all in the working and residential communities on the Canary Wharf Estate.

Celebration - by Revd Mark Ball

Tens of thousands of coronation visitors flocked to the capital to be physically present for this unique, historic occasion. An estimated one-hundred thousand gathered at the fifty-seven screening sites across the four nations. Millions more watched from home, across the UK and around the globe.

Coronation 'Big Lunches', street parties, and the Bank Holiday Monday 'Big Help Out' brought family, friends, neighbours, and communities together.

Those lucky in the ballot, enjoyed the Windsor Castle concert in person – a celebration of British cultural diversity and creativity. The unlucky remainder made do with live and recorded broadcasts.

Hundreds of iconic sites joined in 'Lighting up the Nation', not with the traditional beacons, but with projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

In countless unassuming celebrations the length and breadth of Britain, flags were enthusiastically waved, sandwiches and cakes were daintily nibbled, and cups of tea proudly slurped.

In the fourteen other states where Charles III is King, and across the global Commonwealth, linked historically and electronically, formal, and informal events marked the distant monarch's crowning.

Not everyone joined in, of course. Many found themselves hard-pressed to set aside their woes. Resigned Republicans rolled disapproving eyes. It may have even simply passed some by. But by and large, despite all that forces us apart, we mostly found ourselves united once again in this right royal celebration!

Catholic Prayers for the King – by Deacon Wayne O'Reilly

The coronation of King Charles III was the first coronation in 70 years. In his first address as King, His Majesty stated, in the context of the late Queen's unwavering service, *'that promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.'* The world has changed immeasurably since 1953. None of us can imagine the incredible burden that His Majesty has assumed.

For the three days leading up to the coronation, the bishops asked Catholics to pray, as faithful citizens of the United Kingdom, for His Majesty and the Queen Consort. On the Friday evening, every Catholic parish church offered a special Mass for the King - the culmination of the three days of prayer for God's continuing blessing on our Monarch, commending him and Queen Camilla to God, that they may be sustained in their duties all the days of their lives.

Almighty God, we pray, that your servant Charles, our King, who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm, may continue to grow in every virtue, that, imbued with your heavenly grace, he may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and, being blessed with your favour may, with his consort and the royal family, come at last into your presence, through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.



Charbonnel and Walker's coronation display, Cabot Place

Defender of Faiths – by Shaykha Saleha Islam

The coronation weekend followed key religious festivities in April. We witnessed the coming together of Ramadan, Easter, Passover, and Vaisakhi. People of all faiths and no faith came together in their communities to celebrate faith and the hope it brings for the future.

It is no surprise that His Majesty King Charles is recognised as "Defender of Faiths" due to his ongoing support for interfaith collaboration here in the UK. And to mark the King's example, the key theme of the coronation weekend is "helping others." Many faith leaders and senior religious figures are supporting 'The Big Help Out' on the Bank Holiday Monday of the coronation weekend, a project to inspire and recruit a new generation of volunteers.

We all have our respective faiths and related causes that we believe in supporting. Perhaps something has impacted us or our loved ones, and so we recognise the value of volunteering to support others going through a similar experience. Furthermore, volunteering for collective community work in the interest of serving humanity is strongly supported by Islam - and by all the other faiths. Whichever way we look at it, what it proves is that we can all unite to work together for the betterment of humanity.

