

THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

ALDSWORTH ❖ THE BARRINGTONS ❖ SHERBORNE ❖ WINDRUSH

Church of England – Diocese of Gloucester

This is the
FEBRUARY

edition of the Windrush Benefice
pEw News.

It is usually published
on the *last Friday* of each month.

The Vicar is usually available
THURSDAY to SUNDAY
of each week.

SERVICES THIS MONTH

6 February 2022

Candlemas
HM The Queen
70th Anniversary of Accession

11 a.m. SHERBORNE
Benefice Holy Communion CW

13 February 2022

3 before Lent

11 a.m. LITTLE BARRINGTON
Morning Prayer CW

20 February 2022

2 before Lent

11 a.m. ALDSWORTH
Morning Prayer CW

27 February 2022

Sunday before Lent

11 a.m. WINDRUSH
Morning Prayer CW

TEN SHORT SERMONS ON
GOSPEL
IMPERATIVES



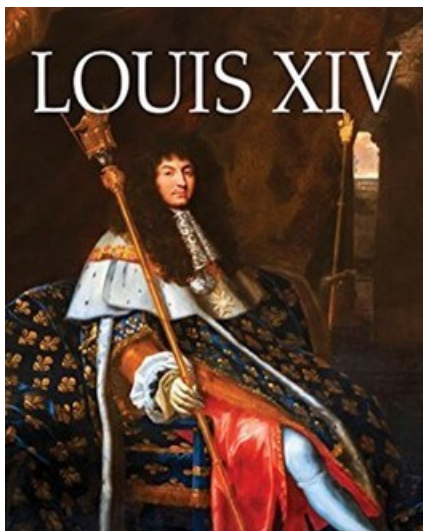
PRACTICAL
FAITH
FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

JUBILEE, JUBBLY and JUBILATION

On **Sunday 6 February** our Queen will have reached the 70th anniversary of her Accession. Whether one is a royalist, republican or rather indifferent, this Platinum Jubilee provides us all with a remarkable, significant and poignant season in our nation's story. **There will be a special service at 11 a.m. in Sherborne church to mark this anniversary.**



It is remarkable because so few monarchs have ever lasted this long. Currently fourth in the table of longest-reigning monarchs of sovereign states (with verifiable reigns by exact date), even before the celebrations in June of this year, the Queen will have moved into second place, behind Louis XIV of France, whose record reign of 72 years and 110 days is now something that we may yet see Her Majesty live to surpass.



It is **significant** because there are so few nations left, outside of the Commonwealth, that mark a jubilee. As far as I am aware, no republic has ever done so. A centenary, yes, and in the case of the USA, a bi-centenary; and in San Marino in the year 2000, four centuries of their constitution - but never a jubilee.

This word 'jubilee', so rich in meaning, is deeply embedded in a belief both in God's sovereignty and spiritual rescue. It is derived from the Hebrew for a ram's horn [yobhel] because in Old Testament times this was blown from the hilltops as 'a trumpet-blast of liberty'. The sound announced a biblical (see Leviticus 25) invitation to celebrate every 50th year (i.e. when 7 x 7 years had passed) as being one of God's favour, and a time when debts were to be cancelled, prisoners set free and the land was to lay fallow.



As an aside, a 'not many people know that' kind of titbit; the 1960s children's iced juice treat, a 'Jubbly', was a corruption of the word 'jubilee'. The Jewish firm Rakusens had developed the first tetrahedral cardboard pack for liquids in their 'jubilee' year, and this package and name was adopted by Calypso drinks of Wrexham for their 'Jubbly' frozen drinks. As Del Boy later observed, "lubbly jubbly!"

JUBILEE, JUBBLY and JUBILATION

The Platinum Jubilee is **poignant** because we are, inevitably, nearer to the end of our Queen's reign than its beginning. On the day of her coronation Her Majesty said this:

"I am sure of this, my coronation is not the symbol of a power and splendour that has gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future, and for the years I may, by God's Grace and Mercy, be given to reign and serve you as your Queen."

Now, towards the end of her reign, who can doubt that the prayer, found as part of our National Anthem – 'long to reign over us' – has been answered in full?



It is particularly poignant for Christians because, unlike those in immediate line of succession, the Queen has identified herself as holding a clear Christian faith, one which is distinguished by its confidence and openness to others. This is how Her Majesty expressed it soon after her Diamond Jubilee:

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, He stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none."

During this Platinum Jubilee year we will, hopefully, enjoy a time of jubilation. We may also find that this time is tinged with sadness, however grateful may be our memories of her long reign, and for being a part of our respective communities.

Endings inevitably remind us of our mortality, our frailty. But for Christians they are never the last word. The Queen acknowledged this herself when, last year, she said:

"None of us can slow the passage of time; and while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged, including the Gospel of Christ and his teachings."

God save our gracious Queen!



PRAYERS

COLLECTS : Sunday before Lent

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened
to walk with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory. Amen.

For H.M. The Queen

Lord God, Sovereign of all,
we thank you for Her Majesty's reign
of seventy years
and the example of a life symbolised by duty
and sustained by faith;
and we thank you for the blessings
we have received at your hand
and for that grace
which you have bestowed on us all
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOOTNOTE



From *Winnie the Pooh and The Royal Adventure*

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Published for the Windrush Benefice by the Revd Dr Gerard Moate FRSA

The Vicarage, Windrush, Burford, OX18 4TS

beneficeofwindrush@gmail.com