

Community events to mark King's Coronation



SHE is 98 years old and could remember the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Audrey Lawrence was able to recall that historic occasion as she celebrated the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Audrey was one of the guests at a free cream tea party held in **St Michael's Church, Paulsgrove**, on the Bank Holiday Monday. She's lived in the same house in Paulsgrove since 1948.

"I went into the first showhome on Allaway Avenue when the estate was being built," she said. "I remember the Coronation in 1953, but we didn't watch it on the TV as we couldn't afford one. I listened to it on the radio and the first time I saw anything of it was in the newspapers. It was pouring with rain that day, and we had a street party in the school.

"I thought the Coronation this year was brilliant. I don't know any other country that can do these things as well as we do. I'm lucky to be able to see it."

The free cream tea at St Michael's included facepainting, a disco, and a raffle. The food was provided by St M's Events, and Aspex gallery provided paint and brushes so guests could create a mural.

It was just one of many celebrations



Above: Audrey Lawrence, aged 98, who recalled the 1953 Coronation during a cream tea that took place in St Michael's, Paulsgrove; top: members of the village knitting group at the street party outside All Saints Church, Denmead

over Coronation weekend, as we rejoiced alongside the new King and Queen. Worshippers hosted civic services, community picnics, big lunches and opportunities to serve others. Some live-screened the Coronation service itself from Westminster Abbey, others incorporated elements of royal-themed music and liturgy into Sunday services.

Thousands of villagers enjoyed a Coronation street party hosted by **All Saints Church, Denmead**, the parish council and other community groups on the Monday. The main road through the village was closed

off, so residents could enjoy music, magic, archery, food stalls and the chance to pet animals.

Village groups including the WI, twinning association, Scouts, and Denmead in Bloom set up stalls in the church car park to tell people what they do. Craft and games were available inside the church hall, while the church itself hosted the entries to its competition to make a crown for the Coronation. Villagers buried a time capsule, enjoyed dance performances and had their faces painted.

At **St Faith's Church in Havant**,

Young bell ringers mark a historic royal occasion

THEY are thought to be the youngest people ever to ring the bells at Droxford - and they did it for the King!

Pollyanna Selwood, aged 14, and her brother Maxim, 10, started learning last year to ring the church bells at St Mary and All Saints Church. And they rang to mark the Coronation.

They are part of a newly-recruited team of 17 bell ringers, who signed up as part of a national initiative called 'Ring for the King'. It aimed to recruit 8,000 new ringers across the country so as many church bells as possible were rung on Coronation weekend.

They were taught by local ringing experts Anne and Jeremy Pratt - he is head ringer for Westminster Abbey.

The newly-established team of bellringers, including Pollyanna and Max, rang at 3pm on the day of the Coronation. The next day, a team rang a full peal.

Pollyanna said: "It isn't as simple as just pulling on a rope, which is what we all thought when we started learning. It is a free gym workout - but it is worth it when you do it right!"

Read more about Coronation bellringing on www.portsmouth.anglican.org/Coronation



Pollyanna and Maxim Sellwood at St Mary and All Saints Church, Droxford



Left: members of the West Wight Dementia-Friendly Choir lead singing at the Coronation service at St Mary's, Cowes (photo: Michael Dunkason); right: the congregation enjoy a Coronation Communion at St Faith's Church, Havant

worshippers welcomed Havant MP Alan Mak and the Mayor of Havant Cllr Diana Patrick to a special Coronation Communion.

The rector, Canon Tom Kennar, preached about the role of the monarchy and led a special anthem based on Psalm 122 arranged by Cormac O'Duffy.

Bishop Jonathan attended a special Coronation service at **St Mary's Church, Cowes**, which drew together music, readings and prayers led by people from across the Isle of Wight. The Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight,

Susie Sheldon, was among those celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Young singers from Queensgate Foundation School, Whippingham, who won the Isle of Wight Music, Dance and Drama Festival 2023 in the primary schools category, performed a song. And the West Wight Dementia-Friendly Choir led worshippers in a rendition of 'Any Dream Will Do'.

The coronation project at **St Peter's Church, Seaview**, was to overhaul the wrought iron gates, with images reflecting the Coronation. The gates

were sandblasted professionally by Adam Groves and then painted and re-hung. Worshippers also took part in a beach litter pick as part of the Big Help Out on the Monday.

Those who live in **Warblington and Emsworth** also did a litter pick that day. And volunteers picked up litter across Alverstoke, Leesland and Gosport, then gathered at **St Faith's Church, Gosport** for well earned refreshments afterwards.

For more details of what our churches did to mark this historic occasion, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/Coronation