Ansley Jottings: February

I was interested to see that the Queen’s accession to the throne is to be remembered on Sunday 6th February. I find it hard to believe that this was seventy years ago. I searched on the internet to find out what the process had been after the news of the death of the Queen’s father, George VI had been announced on 6th February 1952. The Queen was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in 200 years to accede to the throne while abroad. She returned home without delay and was proclaimed Queen at an Accession Council. This took place in St James’ Palace and was attended by members of the Privy Council plus the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London.

On 4th November 1952 the Queen attended her first State Opening of Parliament, where she read aloud and signed the Accession Declaration before making her first Speech to Parliament.

The Queen has been faithful to the Declaration and the promises she made at her coronation the following year. She is an example to us all.

As Lent approaches once again, it can be easy to view it as another opportunity to change habits- rather like the New Year resolutions we often make, only to break them a few days, weeks or months later.

Perhaps we should endeavour to make Lent a time of reflection, prayer and action in the lead up to remembering the events of Holy Week and Easter. The Diocese of Coventry has produced a booklet of Bible extracts (Living Generously) to help us to use the forty days of Lent as a time of preparation. We may wish to include an aspect of giving something up for Lent, chocolate, biscuits etc. as has been traditional over the years. Or we may decide to set aside a time for study and reflection.

I have found that I have appreciated similar resources in recent years. I have valued the “quiet time” and the opportunity to be guided into a better understanding of Bible passages and especially of their meaning for today’s world.

I wish you well as you mark Lent in a way that suits and helps you.

D.K.