

## PEACH Slice – King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> Coat of arms and the crown of Charles 3<sup>rd</sup>

With the sad news of the death of the Queen and the appointment of a new King, I decided to change this month's topic of the PEACH slice (Promoting Education About Church Heritage).

Above the south vestry door in the church is a plaque of the coat of arms to Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>.



King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> Plaque

After the Reformation when Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> became King, he ordered that his coat of arms should be displayed in churches. This was a reminder that the monarchy was in charge of matters spiritual as well as temporal. Most church plaques were painted but the coat of arms in St Michaels is quite elaborately carved.

*King Charles II of England's coat of arms (r. 1660-1685) contains a crowned lion (left), a symbol of England, and a unicorn (right), a symbol of Scotland. The crest (centre) represents England, Scotland and Ireland: the three lions of England appear in the first and third quadrant, the lion of Scotland in the second, and the harp of Ireland in the fourth. The three fleurs-de-lis in the first and third quadrants signal an old claim to the French throne. The motto on the garter surrounding the crest reads: "Honi soit qui mal y pense" ('Evil to him who evil thinks'). Charles II's motto, "Dieu et mon droit," ('God and my right') stretches across the bottom. (ref: Pitts Theology Library)*

I have a theory that the plaque was put up about the same time as the memorial to John Somerset. When John Somerset was imprisoned in Bristol, the Prince of Wales, then aged 15, who later became Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>, was also in Bristol. The Prince of Wales assisted in gaining the release of John Somerset.

The coronets of the Prince and the Peers of the realm were regulated by King Charles II by Royal Warrant, signed on 9 February 1661. Part of the warrant proclaimed: "Our Will and

Pleasure therefore is, That the Son and Heir Apparent of the Crown for the time being, shall use and bear his Coronet composed of Crosses and Flower-de-Lized with one Arch; and in the midst a Ball and Cross, as hath our Royal Diadem".

King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> will wear the St Edwards crown. The present version of St Edward's Crown was made for Charles II in 1661. It is solid gold, 30 centimetres (12 in) tall, weighs 2.23 kilograms (4.9 lb), and is decorated with 444 precious and semi-precious stones and worth over £ 3.5 million.

At a Somerset Nature Watch Meeting for children, held at the church on September 11th, a beautiful representation of this crown was made out of leaves, seeds, berries and feathers gathered from the churchyard.

Long live the King!

Rosemary Keele



St Edwards Crown



Mattie age 6

Mattie Johnson

Apex Wildlife Watch Group

Brent Knoll

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**King Charles 111**



**King Charles 2 plaque**