

KING CHARLES prays with POPE LEO etc: “Tekel”: weighed in the balances.

Initially my intention was that this article would focus solely upon events in The Vatican on 23rd October 2025 when King Charles and others, religious and political, from the United Kingdom, met to pray together with Pope Leo XIV. However, as I reflected on other issues of concern involving King Charles I decided to broaden the scope of the article and hence the reason I added ‘etc’ into the title. However, let’s begin with

King Charles praying with Pope Leo:

My problem is, ‘**where to begin?**’ when addressing this subject. I think the best approach is to consider some sacred vows that King Charles made during his coronation – vows made with his hand on The Bible. The following is from an email issued by retired Free Presbyterian minister, **Ivan Foster** –

The King places his hand on the Bible, and the Archbishop (of Canterbury, Justin Welby) administers the Oath.

The King kneels at the Chair of Estate.

The Archbishop says:

WILL you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England?

The King replies
All this I promise to do.

The King places his hand on the Bible and says -
The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep.
So help me God.

I suppose we could now ask how such vows came to be part of the Coronation service and to answer that I want to quote some extracts from **‘Pope or Gospel: The Crisis of Faith in the Protestant Churches’** by **David Samuel** which will give a flavour of the roots of the vows. Mr Samuel wrote in chapter 6 titled – **‘A Protestant Nation’** –

‘As Tyndale wrote in “The Obedience of a Christian Man” ... The King is but a servant, to execute the law of God, and not to rule after his own imagination.’ Subjects must obey the monarch, but the monarch in his turn has the overriding duty of obeying the Scriptures. This is of course essential to the British Constitution ... When ... this position was threatened by the efforts of James II to reintroduce the Roman Catholic religion and the authority of the Pope and to subvert the national church, a Bill of Rights (1689) was passed by Parliament to safeguard the Protestant character of the throne and the Church of England ... the Bill declared (that) a Roman Catholic king or queen could not and would not govern in the interests of a Protestant church and nation because their allegiance and submission had already been given to a power outside the nation ... namely the Pope of Rome ... The Act of Settlement was devised 12 years later ... like the Bill of Rights it provides for the forfeiture of the crown if the holder of it is reconciled to the see of Rome or marries a papist ... It is the responsibility of the sovereign to maintain and promote true religion according to the Bible ... The sovereign swears a solemn oath that he will to the utmost of his power maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel; that he will to the utmost of his power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law ... We should also remember that Rome is not just another church. It is a political as well as a religious system ... The Pope is not merely a religious leader. The Church of Rome ... claims that the Pope is a ruler, or more precisely the supreme ruler of the world, the viceregent of the Eternal King.’ (pp 76 - 83)

This book by **‘Pope or Gospel’** by **David Samuel** has long been out of print and it is I would imagine difficult to track down a second-hand copy. I did however locate an online posting of a helpful **APPENDIX** in the book and one portion of that **APPENDIX** addresses **‘The Papacy’** – it is I believe helpful in this context and it can be accessed via this link

https://www.romancatholicteachings.com/catholic_religion/papacy.html

Another short but very helpful booklet by **David Samuel** and titled **‘Rome’s Strategy For England’** is listed amongst the resources of the **Protestant Truth Society** which can be accessed via the following link –

<https://protestanttruth.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/PTS-Pub-list-January-2017.pdf>

The booklet is listed at the top of page 3 and priced @ £0.60.

In the light of this historical background to the Coronation Oaths and also to the details of what they were designed to protect the nation from, it should come as no surprise that an assortment of concerns were publicly expressed by various sources and I want now to set out extracts from a number of these sources.

I mentioned retired FPC minister, **Ivan Foster** on page 1 and he detailed further helpful information in his email-

‘During the visit, King Charles and Queen Camilla will also visit the iconic Papal Basilica and Abbey of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, which has a historical connection with the English Crown. In a significant move, His Majesty has agreed to the Pope's suggestion to become Royal Confrater of the Abbey. It is understood the gift of confraternity, meaning brotherhood, is a **“recognition of spiritual fellowship”** - emphasising the strengthening bond between the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church ... A Church of England spokesperson told GB News “It is intended as an ecumenical gesture of hospitality that bears witness to the historic ties between what is now the United Kingdom and the Basilica” ... Meanwhile, a special seat, decorated with the King's Coat of Arms, has been permanently installed inside the Basilica as a **“perpetual mark of mutual respect between Pope Leo and His Majesty as Heads of State.”** King Charles is expected to use the chair during a special service, and it will be left for future use by the future Kings William, George, and beyond.

The following is taken from a statement put out by the **Independent Loyal Orange Institution** –

‘a second event took place in St Paul's Basilica where the title of Royal Confrater was bestowed on King Charles, and with it **a special chair**, or throne, that will remain there for the future use of the king and his heirs and successors. As well as displaying the Royal Coat of Arms, **there is an inscription on this chair: UT UNUM SINT - THAT THEY MAY BE ONE.** The words may be taken from John 17:21 where they speak of the body of believers, but their use here has a very different purpose. **It was the title of a call for Christian unity by Pope John Paul II. The aim of all of these ‘acts of mutual understanding’ through recent times is to bring the Anglican church back into fellowship with the Church of Rome.** The Pope of Rome claims the title ‘Vicar of Christ’ or head of the universal church of Christ. **There could only ever be one supreme leader of this union.’**

As I read these details the opening verse of **Psalm 1** came to mind – **“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful”**. There will be no divine **“blessing”** for King Charles or his successors as he and they walk, stand and sit in the company of any Papal Incumbent.

The Northern Ireland based **EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT SOCIETY** in their reaction to the meeting wrote –

'The Evangelical Protestant Society is deeply concerned about the forthcoming meeting between King Charles III and Pope Leo XIV ... Some will say it's no big deal and that it's time to move on. But it's not as simple as that. The issues which gave rise to the Reformation remain relevant today ... At his Coronation in 2023, His Majesty swore before God to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel" and to "maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law." **These solemn oaths affirm that the Crown is bound to uphold the Biblical faith recovered in the Reformation** ... Public prayer with the Bishop of Rome, however well-intentioned, risks implying a spiritual unity that does not exist. The doctrinal differences that separate the Reformed and Roman traditions remain significant and unresolved ... Our Royal Family and our nation have wandered far from God. In this darkness, we must pray for a revival of the great Biblical doctrines of the Protestant Reformation.

Kyle Paisley, a minister and son of the later Dr Ian Paisley wrote –

'It is a crying shame that no evangelical Christian MP, or member of the House of Lords, has spoken out publicly about the King's blatant **compromise of His oath**, evidenced in the planned act of corporate worship with the Pope. The meeting was sanctioned by the British Foreign Office. This means that it is not just a church matter. It is in the realm of politics. But the silence in Parliament is deafening ... Though apparently no Mass will be said at Charles' and Leo's meeting, yet **the act of united worship** that they will engage in gives the impression that the two systems which these men represent - the Reformed Faith, and Roman Catholicism - are at heart one. This is not the case theologically nor historically ... The Papacy does not do gesture politics. Things have meaning for it. The chair in St Paul's Basilica which has the King's emblem on it, is not an empty ornament, but is there for him to use on any occasion he visits (the intention is that he will be in Rome again), and for his heirs and successors to use (the hope is that they will run to Rome as often he would like to be there himself). You'd have to be completely blind not to see **the long-term aim of Rome - it is the complete reversal of the Reformation** ... aided and abetted by a King who is not true to his word, and by a British government and foreign office, and a British Prime Minister, who are about as godless as they come.'

Richard Harvey posted the following as a comment on Facebook –

'I don't know why people compare Charles unfavourably with his mother (Queen Elizabeth II). This was a woman who met three different popes and dressed in penitential black on each occasion. I've previously condemned him for attending a Requiem Mass for the apostate late Duchess of Kent but she (Queen Elizabeth II) was no better. She attended the Requiem Mass for the King of the Belgians in 1993. People delude themselves that the late queen was some uncompromising Protestant. She wasn't. **The monarchy have been cosyng up to the papacy for over 100 years.** Edward VII had a private meeting with Leo XIII in 1903. George V had a public meeting with Pius XI in 1923 at which Queen Mary wore penitential black including a veil! There hasn't been an uncompromising Protestant monarch since George III.

In relation to the late Queen Elizabeth II, I do not condone the compromising actions that **Richard Harvey** detailed. However, as someone who wrote to her Majesty in the wake of several of her Christmas messages, I was encouraged by her personal choices of both the hymns and scripture readings included at her funeral service. They resonated as being precious to someone with a genuine saving faith – eternity will reveal all.

Ian Major (a personal Facebook friend) posted –

‘The communion of Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians is to be expected, so Christians who follow Christ and obey His word should not be dismayed at the King praying with the Pope. **Had the King been a professing believer of the Evangelical faith,** that would indeed have been a scandalous betrayal. But he is only the head of an apostate denomination, from which most Evangelicals have fled.’

Hazlett Lynch, former PCI minister, posted on Facebook –

‘**NO SURPRISE IN ROME!** The most scandalous ecumenical gimmick since the great Protestant Reformation in 16th century Europe took place in Rome today. **King Charles III did his level best to undermine and destroy the great spiritual benefits of the Reformation,** but that will be his greatest failure because Christians will have nothing to do with such blasphemy.’

The **Evangelical Times** said the following in an article –

‘The news that King Charles has become the first head of the Church of England to pray with the Pope is yet another sign of just how far that institution has drifted — though in truth, it was a compromised institution from the beginning. For all its pomp and pretence of Protestantism, **the Church of England was born of political expediency, not of biblical conviction. Its compromises are woven into its DNA.** The monarch’s latest gesture — joining in prayer with the Pope of Rome — simply exposes what has long been true: that **Canterbury’s allegiance is not fully to Christ, but to convenience** ... To join in prayer with such a figure is not an act of Christian unity, but a public denial of the Reformation truths for which men and women shed their blood ... **When the Supreme Governor of the Church of England prays with Rome, he does not bridge a divide — he blurs the line between truth and error** ... It is no wonder that the majority of Anglicans worldwide, through GAFCON and the Global South Fellowship, have now severed ties with Canterbury ... The Church of England may pray with Rome; but we will pray for the gospel — that God would raise up once again a people loyal not to crown or mitre, but to the Lord Jesus Christ and his unchanging Word.

Just how far Canterbury has departed from ‘**Reformation Fidelity**’ can be seen in the following video showing how a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated there in July 2025 – this is the video link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWXWIKuZsEA>

A Facebook friend, **Paul Olphert**, posted 3 items and here are extracts

'The great delusion of believing that the Reformed faith can have fellowship and indeed union with Roman Catholicism continues to be propagated and promoted by the so-called supreme governor of the Church of England, King Charles despite the fact that **light and darkness are incompatible** ... The scriptures of truth are noticeably clear as in Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them. [or publicly take them to task] ... **The Reformers viewed the Pope as the Antichrist hence their headline today if they were posting would surely be, the King prays with the Antichrist** ... We must pray that God in His mercy would open the Kings eyes and indeed the eyes of the people before it is too late for, we are on the brink of no return, we are in peril, **judgement is here already** and its intensity of purpose is all around us.'

'It cannot be underestimated the depth of betrayal inflicted upon the cause of Christ by the treasonable actions of King Charles when he met the Roman Antichrist to engage in a joint prayer. For **not only did he violate his Coronation Oath** and thus brought shame upon the sacred office **but attempted in an act of reckless criminality to douse the flame of biblical truth** that was set ablaze at the glorious Reformation over five hundred years ago ... King Charles commented in 1994: "I personally would rather see [my future role] as Defender of Faith, not the Faith"; however, he clarified in 2015 that "while at the same time being Defender of the Faith you can also be protector of faiths". **To defend what is an abomination to God is indefensible and thus King Charles is unfit to hold office and should immediately step down.** He is in effect a traitor and a liar for the defender of the Protestant faith that he swore to uphold he most certainly is not.'

'**King Charles** has never exclusively championed biblical Christianity ... he **deceived everyone by pledging to defend the faith as a genuine Protestant, simply so he could become King.** Hence in recent months we have seen *him* openly flaunt such heresy when he constantly speaks of his admiration for the Islamic religion and when he did what had not happened in five hundred years, by praying with the Pope of Rome ... **The Royal House of Heaven has never been gate-crashed by monarchs of any era or occupied by squatters of unbiblical religions,** but it is the home of those whose sins have *been* washed in the blood of the Lamb, who wear the white garments of glory, for it is only they who are arrayed in such *who* will be the eternal wedding guests of the King of kings and Lord of lords.'

As well as Protestant reaction to what happened at the Vatican, as seen in the quotes I have cited, there was also high-ranking Roman Catholic reaction and the following link will take you to the reaction of the highest-ranking Roman Catholic in England - **Cardinal Vincent Nicholls** –

https://rcdow.org.uk/news/cardinals-reflection-on-the-state-visit-of-king-charles-to-the-holy-see/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNwcudleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETBHSGZCMEThHbTFzNWtVVGGRDAR46koN5T7URW0R01ja6cXyYFIDZN2X4mPiPrbtvtiPe3IYLxt72thGp6JeyTQ_aem_LQ9rHDHho0ihbAwuRfURiA

Here are some extracts from what **Cardinal Nichols** wrote –

‘Rarely have I attended ceremonies which were so full of historical resonance. The magnificence of the events enhanced that richness. In the Sistine Chapel I took part in the first time, for many centuries, that the King of my homeland and the Holy Father of my faith, prayed together in a united voice. **It was, quite simply, the healing of an ancient wound** ... For me, the historical resonance of the ceremony in St Paul’s Basilica was even more profound. In the presence of the Tomb of the Apostle Paul, **we reached back across the centuries to the late Middle Ages, to a time when the monarchs of our land worked in close cooperation with the Popes of Rome.** In those days, the King of England was the provider and protector of the Basilica and Monastic community of St Paul. This ancient relationship, a cooperation, inspired the action of that afternoon’s ceremony and prayer. Here, **King Charles was offered and accepted the title of ‘Royal Confrater’** to the Basilica and Monastic community of St Paul’s today. **The title speaks of a brotherly connection, of a warmth of recognition, and of a renewal of such a long-lost relationship.** For this my heart was full of wonder and thanks.’

Included in the article was this photo of King Charles
on his **UT UNUM SINT** chair



Reflecting on this 'joyous' reaction by **Cardinal Nicholls** the words of the 'Prince of Preachers' **C H Spurgeon**, came to mind – **Mr Spurgeon** wrote in January 1873 –

'The sooner we let certain Archbishops and Cardinals know that we are aware of their designs and will in nothing co-operate with them, the better for us and our country. Of course we shall be howled at as bigots, but we can afford to smile at that cry, when it comes from the church which invented the Inquisition. "No peace with Rome" is the motto of reason as well as of religion'

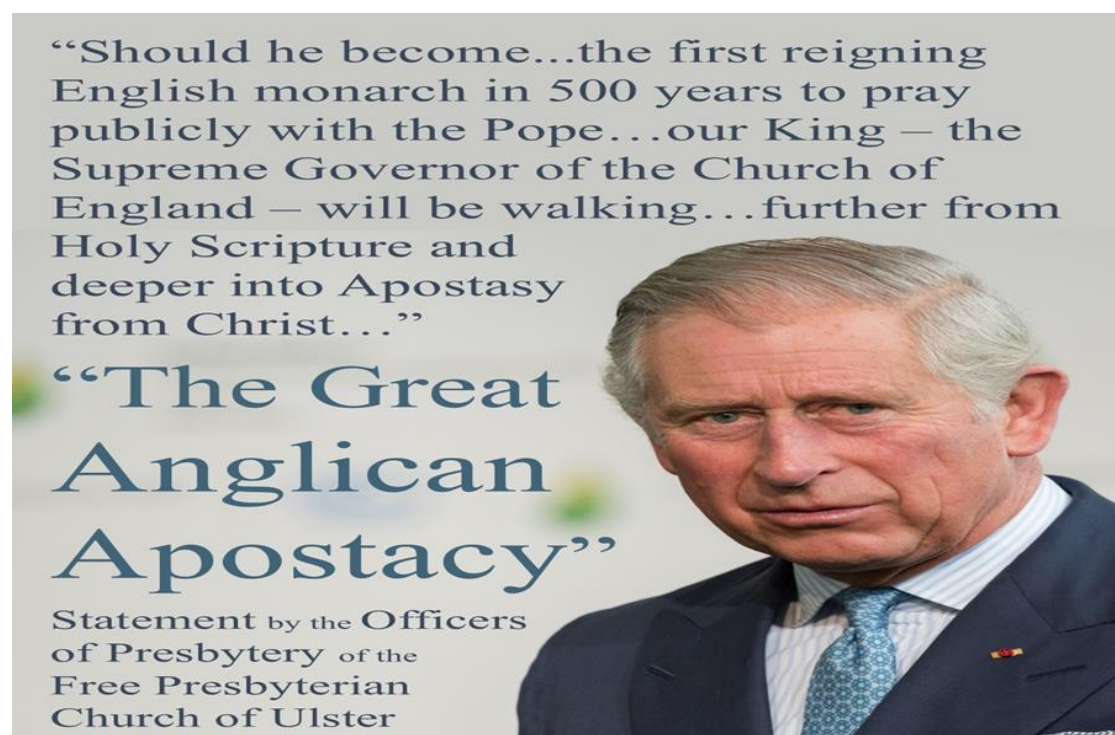
This quote by Spurgeon is taken from the back cover of the book '**Geese in their Hoods**' that contains a wide selection of writings on Roman Catholicism compiled by my friend (ex Roman Catholic) **Tim Kauffman** and can be seen on –

<https://icmbooks.co.uk/product/5650/Geese-in-their-Hoods-Selected-writing-on-Roman-Catholicism>

Moving on from events at the Vatican I want now to consider the first '**etc**'

King Charles and female clergy:

The **Officers of Presbytery** of the **Free Presbyterian Church** put out a statement on the Vatican visit and part of it was quoted in this meme –



Also in their statement they stated this –

‘the recent announcement that the same Church of England has **appointed Dame Sarah Mullally as the first female Archbishop of Canterbury** in its 1400-year-history marks not merely a new chapter in its compromise, but provides yet further evidence that **this institution departed from the faith decades ago**’

Official confirmation of this appointment can be seen on the web site ‘**The Archbishop of Canterbury**’ and the link to it is –

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/rt-revd-and-rt-hon-dame-sarah-mullally-dbe-become-106th-archbishop>

The important words to note are – ‘**His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Downing Street has announced.**’

The so-called ‘**Church of England Evangelical Council**’ responded by saying -

‘The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) joins Anglicans across the world in praying for Bishop Sarah Mullally on the announcement that she is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury ... **We therefore pray that God will enable Bishop Sarah to hold to the apostolic faith** and call the Church of England to recommit to the historic doctrines and formularies entrusted to it.’

The full statement by this ‘**joke**’ of an ‘**Evangelical Council**’ is on –

<https://ceec.info/church-of-england-evangelical-council-responds-to-the-announcement-of-the-next-archbishop-of-canterbury/>

This then is the first ‘**etc**’ that King Charles is presiding over which is a clear departure from the **Protestant Reformed Religion** that he swore before God to **maintain**.

King Charles and ‘matters LGBT’:

The second ‘**etc**’ involving King Charles relates to a recently unveiled memorial to **LGBT** members of the armed forces – the BBC report states

‘King Charles III has unveiled a memorial to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military personnel after a decades-long campaign against a ban on being gay in the armed forces.’

It is in my view ‘immoral’ to have a memorial dedicated to armed service personnel simply on the basis of their sexual orientation and of course the ‘orientation’ highlighted here represents what is a clear departure from the **Protestant Reformed Religion** that he swore before God to **maintain**.

The full BBC report on this ceremony can be viewed on this link –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr7m8kzgy77o>

and included these photos



King Charles and Islam:

The third and final ‘etc’ involving King Charles relates to his spiritual openness to **Islam** as can be illustrated by this report –

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/2088944/king-charles-praised-hosting-ramadan-LGBTQ>

As you will see, the article not only details the **Islam-friendly** actions of King Charles but also gives further details of his **LGBT-affirming** actions.

A BBC London video report of the Windsor Castle **Islamic event** can be seen by going to this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PD6IUL843gA>

This **pro-Islamic-accommodation** represents a clear departure from the **Protestant Reformed Religion** that he swore before God to **maintain**.

God's Word informs us that **"there is no new thing under the sun"** (**Ecclesiastes 1: 9**) – words penned under inspiration by a wise King who nonetheless exhibited ungodly foolishness on many occasions. I googled **'Solomon wise and foolish'** and this 'popped up' – **'The biblical story of Solomon portrays a man who was gifted with immense wisdom but ultimately became foolish through his disobedience to God.'** In a number of areas King Charles exhibits **'wisdom'** but, like Solomon, he is also **'foolish through his disobedience to God.'**

There is a fascinating article titled **'5 Good Kings, 33 Evil Kings and 7 Lessons'** located on this link –

<https://www.thejenkinsinstitute.com/blog/2015/5/5-good-kings-33-evil-kings-and-7-lessons>

The author of the article analysed **'the Kings of the Divided Kingdom'** and in it he states what constitutes a **"good King"** and an **"evil King"** in the eyes of God. He wrote –

'If we were judging we'd use all sorts of algorithms to determine: was the country at peace or war? did it expand the territories? how about personal wealth - did it increase or decrease? But God uses one metric and only one metric: "he did what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord." Only ONE thing made them a good king! They feared the Lord! And the same was true for the measure of an evil king: "he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord." By the way that is the same for your life.'

This I believe gets to the 'heart' of the problem with King Charles – he has no biblically-understood **"fear of the Lord"** and Solomon, in a wise-phase, wrote **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"** (**Proverbs 1: 7 and 9: 10**).

Part of John MacArthur's Study Bible comments read –

'The overarching theme of this book ... is ... reverence for God ... This reverential awe and admiring, submissive ear is foundational for all spiritual knowledge and wisdom ... the unbeliever ... does not have true or ultimate knowledge until he is in a redemptive relationship of reverential awe with God.'

I think those observations by John MacArthur sum up perfectly the problem that King Charles has and to 'adapt' words in **Luke 10: 41-42** I could write **'Charles, Charles, thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful'**. That **'one thing'** is for him to have a true **"born again"** and **"regeneration"** experience. In its absence God's judgment upon the United Kingdom can only but intensify.

The sub-heading for this article was **“Tekel”**: **weighed in the balances** and relates to the incident recorded in **Daniel chapter 5**. The then King, Belshazzar, held a feast at which he honoured pagan gods **“gods of gold and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone” (verse 4)**. He used vessels for this drunken feast, vessels that were originally designed to be used in God’s temple in Jerusalem. As this was happening a mysterious finger wrote words on the wall **(verse 5)**. Daniel was summoned and in due course interpreted the ‘writing on the wall’ **(verses 13 – 28)**. God had given his verdict on the actions and reign of King Belshazzar.

As God looks on the reign of King Charles I believe He would give a similar assessment of his reign and this is the full meaning - **Tekel: "You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting"**.

Is there any hope for King Charles? Well, while there is life there is hope. A king who **“did evil”** from a very early age was **King Manasseh** but later in his life he repented and sought the Lord. There is a helpful outline of his life on <https://www.gotquestions.org/King-Manasseh.html> so I believe it is right for us to pray words attributed to the martyred Bible translator, **William Tyndale** – **‘Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.’** A helpful and relevant article on **William Tyndale** can be read on this link

<https://www.christian.org.uk/features/william-tyndale-englands-greatest-bible-translator/>

This concludes my written article but as an **APPENDIX** I will post a variety of photos related to the visit to the Vatican.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 6th November 2025

PHOTO APPENDIX



King Charles III

King Charles to be first reigning English monarch in 500 years to pray publicly with pope







