

Around the Spire

Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway



Happy Birthday Around the Spire



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August 2020
Issue No. 60

Message from Bishop Robert



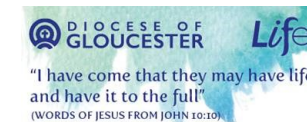
I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to your 60th edition. Congratulations!

Like all of us in the midst of the pain, sorrow and loss of these last months I have been asking myself what have I to learn from all that has happened, what do I and the church I serve and lead need to hold on to in the coming months and years. Perhaps not surprisingly a large part of that learning has been about the need to communicate well and creatively that we may 'proclaim the gospel afresh in this generation'. Much of that has been about new digital and online media and I have no doubt that we need to use this and use it well. But I also know that it is not sufficient on its own and to include all (or at least as many as we can) we need to be diverse and inventive. The written word allows a different sort of engagement, perhaps to explore ideas more deeply as the text can be re-read and time and attention given. The written word lasts and can be powerful, encouraging.

I am delighted that you share this with your community – listen to them, their needs and go on responding, offering the insights of faith to a world looking for understanding and may you go from strength to strength in the coming editions.

This comes with my prayers, my thanks for you and my blessing.

The Rt Revd Robert Springett
The Bishop of Tewkesbury



Your Editor Fr. Hugh



WE'RE BACK!!

Well , almost – after several months of only being able to communicate with distance gestures and ways and means offered by internet, facebook and the like – in the case of this, our magazine by e-mail through which we have been able to reach some 70 homes.

So, as we celebrate 5 years of Around the Spire, we start our return to the printed format although some will still go by e-mail where we know that address but not the postal one.

I described to someone the other day that we have been living a surreial existence! Lack of physical contact with friends and neighbours and our families is, to say the least, without precedent. I almost envy my dog, Nina when we are out walking and meet other dogs – no keeping of distances for them, just the usual sniff around before moving on!

Who could have thought at the beginning of this year that we would experience all this- something we have no wish to repeat!

Yes, of course we know that it is us, you and I who are the Church of God, as we say often, 'We are the Body of Christ', and yes, we are the living stones of our Faith. But of course it would be dishonest to claim therefore that the church building is not relevant

In the case of Saint James, it has stood here for hundreds of years as a landmark, visually and otherwise as a beacon of the prayers of the people in all sorts of ways – for some at a time of sadness or loss, for others at a time of joy.

Hopefully, as we celebrate 60 issues of our magazine we shall see life on more of an even keel, although many people feel that it will be a long time, if ever, for life to return to what it has been before.

It is my hope, and I am sure the hope of you, our readers, that St James Church will soon be filled with life in all its fullness, from the beauty of Christian worship, its liturgy, colour, words and music (how much I miss singing hymns!); those sharing of life in all its fullness at Chit Chat and so on; for all those who come to light candles; seek spiritual help and guidance; to seek God's help at every turn of life and so on and so on -

**THIS IS THE HEART OF OUR FAITH
THIS IS OUR CHURCH AND OUR LIFE INCHRIST!**

God Bless you all --- Father Hugh your Editor for the last five years!

REGISTERS FOR JUNE

Funerals and Cremations

1st JOHN WOOLEY (94)

8th DAVID MOUNTJOY (96)

17th BERNARD HARRIS (77)

"Rest Eternal grant to them O Lord"

Fr. Hugh Broad



TO BE A PILGRIM – 3

Firstly, many thanks to those who have responded to the first two of this series! Several people have experience of Iona but so far nobody has claimed to have been to the Shrine of St Basil of Ostrog in Montenegro!

So now to the third of the series!

THE CATACOMBS OF ST PETER'S ROME

Every so often in our lives I guess that many of us can recall an occasion when we wished the world would stand still for just a short time as we try to absorb what is a precious moment in our lives!

This experience was in 2011. I was a member of the Bishop's Council for the Diocese in Europe. Normally our meetings were held in London, but on this occasion we were invited to the Anglican Centre and the Anglican Chaplaincy in Rome.

Our Bishop, Geoffrey Rowell, through his contacts with St Peter's was able to arrange a morning exploring various aspects of this centre of Christianity. He stated that he wanted to lead us on a special visit to the Catacomb. , but he then led us down some steps and then further by very rough steps, the only light being by dim lamps – and here – we saw what very few pilgrims ever see – the tombs of the very early popes, all of them over 1,000 years old!

There, in this awesome place we were led in prayer by our own Bishop and our host Bishop. What an experience and opportunity to be a part of Christian Unity for those few precious minutes!

On the record - with the Rector



Dear Parishioners and Friends

“Do this in remembrance of me”



Our parish church has been closed for public worship since March, we were able to open up our building again on Sunday 21st June but for private prayer only – that in itself was a great joy.

Church buildings are important because they extend the opportunity for the faithful to “Gather Together” in praise of God, and to be fed by his word. What has been denied us since March has been his body and blood in the Holy Communion.

The church building then is important because it enables the people of God to gather around the table of the Lord and celebrate the sacred mysteries of Holy Eucharist (Thanksgiving) and to partake of that spiritual food, that Jesus, commanded us to do in remembrance of him.

Our church of Saint James in Quedgeley, has played host to this God given meal for hundreds of years. For hundreds of years it has fed the faithful both in word and sacrament. On the 19th July the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) will return and be celebrated once more at the parish church.

Why is the Eucharist so important, so central to the life of the Christian, why do we do it, why do we need it?

Well because our Lord Jesus Christ asked this of us and because the Eucharist embodies over 2000 years of witness to Christ.

I find from my college days, one of the finest expressions of the meaning and importance of the Eucharist summed up in the writings of Dom Gregory Dix, a British monk of the former Nashdom Abbey, on writing about the celebration of Holy Eucharist said this,

“Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacle of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because my father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetch because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna;

for the repentance of Margaret; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain so-and-so wounded and prisoner of war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonisation of S. Joan of Arc—one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unflinchingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to make the ordinary person - sancta Dei—the holy common people of God.

By God's, grace and by our vigilance the darkness of the last few months will become even brighter and we will be able to return to a fuller expression and celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

There we can be fed, there we can sustain ourselves, from there we can go forward fortified by the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

With prayers and blessings

Fr. John

Rector and Parish Priest



HOWLERS FROM AN R.E. TEACHER

In the first book of the bible, Guinness, god got tired of creation the world so he took the sabbath off.

Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark.

Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

(More howlers next month!)

SENIOR MOMENTS

A vicar was visiting one of his senior church members.

"Now that you are getting on in years", he said, "I think you would find it helpful to start thinking more about the hereafter"

"Oh but I do", she replied, "I'm always going upstairs or into another room, and thinking to myself ,

'Now what is it I'm here after?'"

Saints of the Month—August By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



5th: St Oswald of Northumbria

Oswald was born in 605AD, the son of King Aelfrith of Northumbria. Following the death of his father, he was forced to move to Iona where, influenced by the monks of St Columba, he was baptised. Returning to Northumbria, he set up a cross as his standard, gathered his men around it to pray the night before the battle, and defeated the pagan British king. Oswald was a man of humility and generosity; he worked closely with his friend St Aidan, travelling with him on his missionary journeys and acting as his interpreter. Oswald died in 642 while defending his kingdom from the Mercians.

(For a detailed account of this period in our history, read "The King in the North" by Max Adams)

6th: The Transfiguration of our Lord

Matthew, Mark, & Luke record the event we now call the "Transfiguration" of Jesus, and it is referred to in the 2nd letter of Peter. Each time, it is made clear that God's salvation is for all and Christ is the one who brings that salvation. The testimonies of the Law and the Prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah, and the event also pre-figures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory - "the destiny he was to fulfil in Jerusalem".

9th: Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union

Mary (nee Heywood) was born in 1828 at Swinton. She married the Revd George Sumner, nephew of Archbishop Sumner, and later to become the Bishop of Guildford. Mary and George had three children and her experience of Christian family life led her to gather a meeting to unite mothers of all classes in the aim of bringing up children in the Christian faith. Baptism and parental example were the group's two basic principles.

It was at first a parochial organisation, but grew steadily into an international body, encouraging the ideal of a Christian home, and involved in all kinds of social concerns.



11th: Clare of Assisi

Clare caught the joy of a new vision of the gospel from the preaching of St Francis. She left the comfort (and restriction) of a wealthy family home to join the Benedictine Order, and eventually founded her own community which lived in corporate poverty understood as dependence on God, with a fresh, democratic lifestyle. Clare was the first woman to write a religious Rule for women, based on the Rule of St Benedict and influenced by Francis. After his death, she supported the companions of Francis in their desire to remain faithful to his vision, as she did herself. Her last words were: "Blessed be



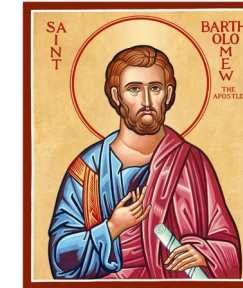
15th: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary was a young Jewish girl living in Nazareth when a messenger from the Lord announced that she was to be the bearer of the Son of God to the world. Her response "Let it be to me according to your word" revealed her natural sense of obedience to God and her reverence for his Word, showing her worthy to be the bearer of the Word made flesh. This day is celebrated as the major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout Christendom.



24th: Bartholomew the Apostle

This is the only Apostle known to us by his "surname": Bar-Tolmai. His first name was Nathaniel, and he was introduced by Philip to Jesus, who described him as "an Israelite worthy of the name". From his first reaction to Philip's invitation, he seems to have been a rather cynical man, but he recognised Jesus for who he is, proclaiming him as Son of God and King of Israel. He is named among the Apostles after the resurrection of Jesus, and was in the smaller group of seven who, after a fruitless night of fishing, were reaffirmed by the risen Christ on the lake shore in John ch 21.



28th: Augustine of Hippo

Augustine was born in Carthage (Tunisia, N. Arica) in 354AD. His career as a public speaker took him to Rome and Milan where the imperial court was based. He came under the influence of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, and was encouraged to look afresh at the Christian Scriptures. He was baptised by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387, prior to returning to N. Africa, where he was ordained priest, and eventually Bishop of Hippo. A huge collection of his sermons and writings has been preserved; the "Confessions of St Augustine" is still in print. Through all his writings runs the theme of the

31st: Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne

One of St Columba's monks from the abbey of Iona, Aidan was sent as a missionary to Northumbria at the request of King Oswald, a friend who also later acted as his interpreter. Consecrated as Bishop of Lindisfarne in 635, Aidan worked closely with Oswald and combined a monastic lifestyle with missionary journeys to the mainland, showing a special concern for the poor and for the training of new priests. Through his work and influence, the Church was strengthened beyond the boundaries of Northumbria. He died on this day in the year 651.



The Young Man from Galilee

The Young man was coming from Galilee.
The one that healed people and walked on the sea.
He was coming I heard the noise in the street,
If I could just reach him and get to my feet.
But the pain was too much I could hardly stand.
So I started to crawl on my knees and my hands.
Through the crowd I crawled on my hands and knees.
I was trod on and kicked but I didn't cease.
Soon I could see the hem of his skirt
as I grovelled about in the filth and the dirt.
It was now or never as I reached out to touch
the hem of his garment "God thank you so much"
He spun round suddenly and he exclaimed
"Who touched Me?"
I hung my head embarrassed and ashamed
as I told him of my illness so bad and the pain
and how I had to touch him to make me whole again.
How I spent all my money in finding a cure.
It had all gone I hadn't got any more.
I felt shy and silly and so very small
but he reached down and touched me and made me whole.
God Bless the young man from Galilee
The one that walked on the water, the one that healed me.

by Shirley Wilce.

This poem was taken from my book *Walking With Angels*. These books are now available, price £6.50, from me Shirley Wilce. All proceeds will go to St. James Church Fund. Collection or delivery is now available. Ring me on 01452 883272 or 07845962457.

The Faith We Sing By *Revd. Canon Michael* *Garland*



My choice of hymn for this month is one which has become a firm favourite for many in recent years. It was written in 1985 by David Evans and the words, together with the tune which he composed to accompany the words, speak gently of the ways in which we can encounter God in moments of stillness and quiet. Each verse begins with two words, 'Be still', the same words that we find in Psalm 46. v10: 'Be still, and know that I am God.' Here is the opening verse which David Evans wrote:

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

David Evans has written that he wrote the song when he was involved in leading worship in what he described as 'new' churches:

I was finding that much of the contemporary worship material was failing to express the new desires of my heart, and a hunger for a deeper knowledge and experience of God was beginning to grow within me. So, I began to write songs, 'Be still' being one of my early attempts. It grew out of concern that charismatic worship was becoming over-familiar with God. I felt we needed to regain a sense of awe, wonder, and mystery of his presence and, like Jacob at Bethel, exclaim, 'Surely the Lord is in this place and I wasn't aware of it. How awesome is this place!' (Gen.28:16)

The hymn also recalls that lovely incident at the beginning of the book of Exodus when Moses saw the burning bush, which, although on fire, remained unconsumed. The three verses of this hymn remind us that when we come before God in worship, we are standing on holy ground, and so we should 'be still', and 'bow before him, with reverence and fear', in order to know his presence, his glory and his power.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

If you would like to listen to the hymn click on to the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=Y5S_-zhHfDA

Fr Michael

Church office opening hours

The church office will open on
Saturday morning from 9.00am –10.00am

&

Wednesday evening 5.30pm-6.30pm.

The church office is held in the vestry at the church

Glad to be back!

We all love our church building and miss meeting there on Sundays. We are also aware that the Church is the people who worship our Lord in the church building. We could still be a Church if the building fell down and we met in the village hall.

The building is now open for the Church and anyone else to visit for private prayer, and this is the reason for my writing this recommendation. The building has been at the centre of Christian worship for nearly a century, and we are the continuation of part of a marvellous story which will continue long after we have left the premises!

It was wonderful, really wonderful to be back in our much cherished place of worship again. It was beautifully quiet, and perfect for a time of personal reflection and prayer. However there are hymn tunes playing quietly in the background which I found to be a great blessing.

I took a Bible of my own (for Covid reasons) and it fell open at the sermon on the mount, which I took to be a challenge. So amongst prayer and massive thanksgiving, I read it through. Fabulous familiar words but still with a challenge for today. Then, when favourite hymns came up, I would stop and enjoy singing them to myself as far as I could remember the words, and just listened for the rest before returning to Mathew.

Father John was there at the time and I therefore had someone to help as I had a question on something I had read. I was using King James at the time and the word *Raca* came up.

We needed to check against other translations for an answer. So as well as reminding us of how his love surrounds, overarches and underpins our existence, he refreshes and challenges through his Word – and makes meeting him fun as well.

It would be impossible to overstate the strength of my recommendation to take yourself along on Sunday or any weekday come to that, if you haven't already been able to. The times of opening are in the newsletters and spire.

Loads of love

Andrew

The information contained in this article was correct at going to press. However, services have been resumed in line with Govt. guidance. This information has been circulated

The Story of Daniel

You can read the story of Daniel in your Bible Daniel 6:14 Below is a very shortened version. You can also try making the Lion craft for yourself!

The King of Babylon told everyone they should not pray to God. Daniel loved God and kept on praying. The King's guards arrested Daniel and threw him into a pit of hungry lions. But the King was upset and worried about what he had done. In the morning he ran to the pit and called out Daniel's name. 'Daniel' he called out 'Was your God able to save you'. Daniel's voice answered 'Yes the lions have not hurt me and God knew I had done no wrong'. The King released Daniel and he came out unharmed because of his trust in God. The King made a new law that everyone should worship the God of Daniel, who saved him from the lions. He is the living God for ever and ever.



You'll need paper plate, strips of different coloured paper, scissors, glue, pencil. Wobbly eyes (optional), lolly sticks (optional), heart shaped piece of yellow paper. Also a black marker would be helpful

Begin by curling the paper around the pencil to make the mane. Then start gluing these around the edge of the paper plate



Make sure you cover the paper plate completely so no white areas are showing.



Next stick on the heart shaped yellow paper in the middle of the paper plate. This will become the face of the lion.



To complete add the wobbly eyes, . Draw on a nose and mouth with the black marker . Attach two lolly sticks at the back, so that the lion becomes a puppet.

Perhaps you can act out the story of Daniel with your Lion puppet?

Articles /photos for the September edition of 'Around the Spire' should be with the Editor Hugh Broad, hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 16th August (latest)

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Who's Who in the Parish

Rector & Parish Priest The Revd Canon Fr. John F. Ward

01452 720411

Mobile 07967 636094 email-jfmw23@gmail.com

Assistant Priests	Land line	Mobile	Email address
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928 455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd, Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962 469250	ia_jdr@lineone.net
Revd Jenny D'Esterre	01453 890384	07540 322 744	revdjenny@gmail.com
Revd. Gordon Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Revd. Canon Michael Garland	01452 720872		michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Revd Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
Churchwardens			
Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867 502469	lanlu123@hotmail.com
Mr Paul Price	01452 537464	07595 264559	thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk
PCC Secretary- Mrs Lu Pearce	01452 725178	07867 502469	lanlu123@hotmail.com
PCC Treasurer- Mrs Lesley Franklin		07780 503378	lesleyfranklin@aol.com
Chatterbox/Chit Chat -Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jacqueline.lhall@btinternet.com
Knit & Natter—Angie Wright		078447462416	angiewright@btinternet.com
Organist /Musicians – Chris Baldwin	01452 534105	07811589867	bonebaldwin@hotmail.co.uk
Baptism Ministry Team- Val Harris	01452 722223		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Flower Arrangers—Val Harris	01452 722223		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Bell ringers– Dave Franklin		07899907125	dfepc-qsbells@yahoo.com
Open the Book—Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers—Angela Hughes	01452 722825	07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk
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Printed by :Alpha Colour Printers Ltd., GL2 2AA, 01452 887000			