

Around The Spire

This month features:-

The Ring of Truth
Rev. Steve Morris
page 7

For younger readers
Picture to colour in
of St. Valentine
Page 10

Family Food Distribution
How St. James' helped
page 11

Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway

February 2022 Issue 77



Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad

Thoughts for February



RESULTS OF AN ENCOUNTER

One of the roles of a parish priest is of course to relate to the people in the parish in all kinds of circumstances, some sad and some glad. One aspect of this part of pastoral care has been badly affected by the Covid pandemic is visiting people in their homes.

However in my case, having a dog to exercise daily has meant that I do meet lots of people, many also with their dogs, and interesting chats result on a variety of subjects.

I would like to share with you one of these conversations which I feel is of great importance to those who are our readers.

This Mum that I was talking to had just dropped her two young boys at our local primary school, and it was this which prompted her to relate the story –

It concerns the country of Afghanistan. The Taliban regime had just taken over, and sweeping reforms were imposed on the population.

A young Mum and her two young sons were happily living in a nice area. Mum had a good job which brought in enough money for them to have a good and happy life. The boys aged 6 and 8 went to a good school where they were learning well.

Then came the crisis!

The new regime did not believe that women should go out to work and so the Mum lost her job and the wage which went with it. So – no money to pay the rent on the house or for the schooling of the boys! In no time at all their lives were turned upside down! All they could find to live in was a disused lorry container – no water supply, no sanitation, no electric! What about something to eat with no money to buy food – no social security there! Out of sheer desperation the three of them were reduced to scavenging the nearby waste heaps for other peoples cast off.

YET IN SPITE OF ALL THIS – Mum had brought up her sons to learn to pray, and this they had always done, and even now in this desperate change of life that never gave up praying every day! There is no real end to this story except to know that somehow they survived for a better life.

OF COURSE WE ARE WELL AWARE – this story is replicated in so many parts of the world, to so many of those poor and desperate people.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

One of the obvious things we can learn from this story is just how important part in our lives prayer is!

HOW TO APPLY THIS FOR OUR OWN LIVES AS READERS OF THIS MAGAZINE?

It is obvious that our readership is made up of three groups and this applies to those who have printed copies or by electronic means.

These would appear to be three groups –

1, The ‘core’ members of our church here at St James of other Christian churches or groups.

2, Those people who have expressed interested in what goes on in the life of the church here. This might be for a variety of reasons –through Baptism, Marriage, loss of a loved one, music, art, other interests.

3. Those who believe the presence of the local church as apart of the 'scene' is an important feature of the area

SO WHERE DOES ALL THIS TAKE US?

WATCH OUR MARCH EDITION FOR THE ANSWERS

FR HUGH YOUR EDITOR

XX

Since writing this article we have witnessed horrific scenes from Afghanistan on our TV sets. Rich countries are being urged to join forces to try and combat the poverty and oppression of this country. Please pray for these people.



Our fantastic team of Flower Ladies were working hard over the Christmas period. The church looked beautiful. Our ladies do a fabulous job every month of decorating the church.

Thank you all for everything you do!

...always looks amazing!

Una's colourful nativity display was once again on display this year.

We hope you had a chance to pop into church over the Christmas weekend and view it for yourself.

Thank you Una!



The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



The month of February has arrived, and the commercial world is letting us know that this is the month when we celebrate Valentine's Day! Hymns in general have lots to say about 'love' but interestingly not many hymns begin with the word 'love.' Of those that do there is the attractive poem of Christina Rossetti (best known for 'In the bleak mid-winter') which begins 'Love came down at Christmas.' But the most famous of all the hymns on this theme is the one written by Charles Wesley – the hymn for which he is probably best known:

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*

What was it that inspired Charles Wesley to write these words? It seems that he had in mind a verse from John Dryden's work *King Arthur*, set to music by Henry Purcell in 1691. In this opera, Venus sings a song in honour of Britannia which begins:

*Fairest isle, all isles excelling,
seat of pleasure and of loves,
Venus here will choose her dwelling,
and forsake her Cyprian groves.*

Charles Wesley borrows this reference and makes an obvious link with Divine Love which comes down from heaven to dwell in the human heart. All who sing this hymn are united in a three-fold prayer – that Jesus Christ will enter every human heart with his love and salvation; so that we will all know his life working within us and be made ready for a glorious transformation in heaven where one day we may – *Cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.* That last line is not entirely original since the author Joseph Addison in a hymn written one hundred years earlier than Wesley's, had in its closing lines:

*Transported with the view, I'm lost
in wonder, love, and praise.
(from 'When all thy mercies, O my God')*

'Love divine' has been sung at many wedding services over the years. Two tunes have been associated with its words. The tune 'Love Divine' by Sir John Stainer was popular in the late nineteenth century and early to mid-twentieth century, but it is the Welsh tune 'Blaenwern' which is most often used today. Composed by a Welsh schoolteacher, William Penfro Rowlands, it fits the words beautifully and, after three verses including some notes which are high in the voice range, you certainly know that you have been singing a truly great hymn! The last verse superbly expresses the Christian hope that we all share:

*Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

‘The Ring of Truth’

Some Thoughts on Jesus healing a Deaf Man.

Way back in my school days I particularly enjoyed metalwork. It was a practical, hands-on lesson which suited me fine. I can clearly remember Mr. Yeomans, our metalwork teacher, demonstrating various ways in which different metals could be identified. One way was the drop test, simply taking a sample of metal, letting it go, and listening to the sound as it struck the floor. He showed us how cast iron emitted a dull sounding ‘clang’ whilst some steels would sound out with a bright ringing tone. This test gave us quite literally the ‘ring of truth’.

Whilst working on his own translation of the New Testament, the Revd. J.B. Philips came to the conclusion that the stories of Jesus in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were true. Yes, he knew that there were some detail differences between each gospel, but in his studies, Philips became increasingly convinced that the stories about Jesus contained that ‘ring of truth’.

In Mark’s gospel we read the healing of the deaf man with the speech impediment. [Read Mark chapter 7, verses 31 – 37.] The crowd bring a deaf man to Jesus. Not only is this man deaf, he also cannot speak so he can’t verbally ask, “Why all this excitement, what’s going on, where are you taking me? And who is this man?” The deaf man can probably only see all this hubbub around him and a multitude of moving mouths and excited faces. What *is* going on?

The crowd explain this man’s condition to Jesus. Now see how Jesus acts. Does he simply say to the man, “Be healed!” and the man can suddenly hear again and speak? No, Jesus wants the man to understand what is happening.

So, the first thing that Jesus does is to lead this man away from the crowd. No longer a crowd all excitedly swarming around the man; Jesus instead creates a much calmer setting for the man. Now the man can focus on Jesus alone and see what Jesus will do.

Rather than speaking to the man, Jesus uses gestures to show the man what he intends to do. Jesus places His fingers in the man's ears then on the man's tongue, indicating to the man that He is about to do something about these. Jesus then looks up to heaven, a sign to the man that He is conversing with God. Jesus gives a deep groan. Then He actually speaks. Why bother speaking though, after all, the man is deaf? Well, the word Jesus says is 'Ephphatha', which means, 'Be opened!' or 'Open up!' Consider that word: it's a very appropriate word anyway but quite possibly a word the man may be able to lip-read. Say it slowly as it is pronounced, 'Eff-fur-tha' and maybe you'll see what I mean.

In this miracle, everything that Jesus did for the deaf man certainly rings true for me. The space that Jesus creates so the man can concentrate on Jesus, not the hub-hub of the crowd all around him. The gestures that Jesus uses to indicate what He intends to do. Only one word spoken but a word the man might be able to lip read. It is altogether a scene that I can imagine happening – it 'rings true' for me.

And that deep groan. Why that? Spoken words would almost certainly not be heard, and many would not be understood by the deaf man. But a deep groan with its low resonating sound? The man could well feel that, probably resonating within his own chest and know that Jesus was praying in a way a deaf person might sense.

Here's an example: when I told a friend of mine that I was interested in working with deaf people he told me something that happened to him. Once a week he played in a folk-rock group to provide live music at a local restaurant. One evening a man came up to them said, "The people over there want to know if they can dance while you play." My friend was amazed, telling the man, "No one has ever wanted to dance to *our* music before!" "Well," said the man, "those people are deaf. They can *feel* the sound of your music and they want to dance to it!" Mention of Jesus verbally groaning in the Bible is very rare. But it is very appropriate here when Jesus meets with a deaf man.

In this passage of Scripture Jesus meets with the man in a way that the man will understand. The Revd. J. B. Philips wrote all those years ago, "It is my serious conclusion that we have here in the New Testament, words that bear the hallmark of reality and the ring of truth." As for me, I feel that this episode in Mark's gospel really happened just as we read it. I agree with The Revd. J.B. Philips; I too sense here the 'ring of truth.'

Steve Morris.

The Revd. Steve Morris is a former Chaplain among Deaf & hard of hearing people.



For our younger readers

St. Valentine was a priest in the 200s. He secretly helped couples in love marry, even though the emperor had outlawed marriage. He was put to death on February 14, in the year 278 AD. He refused to deny Jesus and was made a saint years after his death. The 14th February (date of his death) is the feast day of Saint Valentine and is known as Valentine's Day. Can you colour in the picture of Saint Valentine?



Saint Valentine
Feast Day: February 14th

alpha colour printers

design • pre-print • litho digital large format
finishing • packing • storage • distribution



follow us on facebook.com/AlphaColourPrinters

@Alpha_Colour

print green with us

on the first carbon neutral
press in the country



ask us for the logo
to add to your print

www.heidelberg.com/CO2_210504



Family Food Distribution



St. James' played its part in helping to distribute food bags to vulnerable families just before Christmas. More than 100 bags of food were distributed during the day. Huge thanks to Andrew, Tricia, and Revd. Michael for all their help. Also lovely to have a visit from our local PCSO Rachel Addinall. I'm sure Rachel will be popping in again to our Tea@2 group during the year. Finally, many thanks to those who kindly gave food donations. These were delivered to the Gloucester Food bank in time for Christmas.- Jackie H

CHURCH TOUR OF SAINT JAMES'

**2.30pm Sunday 20th February with
afternoon tea!**



Launch of our new Guide Book and guided tour of our church—lots of exciting stories from the past! King James' bible from 1617 also on display.

**Contact Andrew Wakely 07879883091 to book your place
NOW!**

“What is that called?” and “What is it for?”

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



This month we focus on the books we use in our worship.

The Bible: Christians are, like Jews and Muslims, a “People of the Book” - inspired by God, it tells of our salvation from the time when the human race fell from grace by being unable to resist temptation and therefore ignored the voice of God and wandered away from following his commands. The Old Testament tells of the wanderings, both physical and spiritual, of our ancestors in the faith; the struggles of the Old Israel to maintain independence; the ministry of the prophets in recalling the people to follow their God; and the promise of a Messiah.

The New Testament contains the Good News – the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ - the words and actions of Jesus as recorded by those who were there at the time and who were inspired by God to set down a written record for subsequent generations. In the Acts of the Apostles we have an account of the earliest days of the Church – the New Israel – how it came into being, how it was often opposed and persecuted, and how it survived. There is a collection of letters, the majority coming from St Paul, and others inspired by St Peter and St John, which give us further insight into the lives of first-century Christians, how they wrestled with questions of faith and morality, and how the Church was led and governed.

The Bible is the inspired word of God and for Christians the most treasured pages must be those of the Gospels which proclaim the Word made Flesh, and how he lived, died, and rose again for us – rescuing us from death and bestowing new life on all who respond to his call. It is the book of the Gospels which is carried in procession into the church at the beginning of our Sunday Eucharist as a joyful reminder of its supreme importance and also of the everlasting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ among us.

William Tyndale, a son of Gloucestershire (some say he was born at Slimbridge), was responsible for the first English translation of the Bible. He believed that everyone should have the opportunity of reading the Scriptures in their own language. Sadly, the Church hierarchy did not agree and Tyndale had to leave England for his own safety. He was eventually executed. When the “King James Version” of the Bible came into production, Tyndale’s version was a useful guide to those who were given the task of translating the ancient texts.

Our more mature members will no doubt also remember the **Book of Common Prayer**, first published in 1662 as a means of getting all the parish churches in England to unite in the forms of worship they used. This book remained in majority use until the mid-20th century, and indeed it is still the “official” prayer book of the Church of England. But throughout the 20th century there was a growing desire for greater variety in material for worship – with more attention being paid to the various times and seasons, and holy days, of the Christian Calendar, together with many requests for the use contemporary language in worship. (Our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church led the way in the early 1960's by replacing the order for the Eucharist in Latin with one in contemporary English). A major change occurred for us also in the 1960's when a set of services known as “Series Two” was published – still using the language of 1662 but making important changes in the order of the Eucharist and introducing additions to our calendar. In 1971 “Series Three” services were introduced, and here we saw the introduction of modern English. To the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, together with the order for the Eucharist, were added the orders for Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony, & the Funeral office. 1980 saw the publication of the **Alternative Services Book** – which combined all these services in one cover and which stood as a companion to the Book of Common Prayer – and not as a replacement!

It was agreed that there was still a need for more additional material for times such as Holy Week, Advent, and Christmas, and also for major events like Remembrance Sunday and Harvest Thanksgiving. Three Liturgical Commission of our General Synod had been working continuously for many years; one of its leading contributors was our late bishop, Michael Perham. Together this group put together a new service book, simply entitled “**Common Worship**”, which was duly studied by our General Synod, discussed and revised, and eventually published in 1997. Fr Hugh was a member of General Synod at the time; he has personal experience of all the processes that the new book of services had to go through. Also at that time, Michael Perham was on the staff of Norwich Cathedral; he came to Gloucester and gave a most enlightening talk to the clergy of our diocese and convinced us that this new book was the right one for the Church in England.

You will know from your own experience of worship that it does indeed contain a rich variety of prayers and readings for every season and event during the year. There is so much material that one volume cannot contain it all – there is the basic “**Common Worship**” book containing Morning & Evening Prayer, the Eucharist, Holy Baptism, the Collects, and the Psalms. Then we have a book of “**Pastoral Services**” which has the orders for Weddings, Funerals, the Ministry to the Sick, and Infant Baptism. “**Times and Seasons**” gives us the prayers and readings and alternative Eucharistic prayers for all the seasons of the year. The “**Festivals**” volume provides prayers and readings for individual saints days, together with the music for the celebrant use at the prayer of consecration in the Eucharist. “**Daily Prayer**” is a book for exactly that – prayers, hymns, psalms, and canticles for morning, evening, and night-time prayer (which we know as “Compline”). There is also the “**Common Worship Lectionary**” which holds all the Bible Readings for Sundays and major feast days. All in all, a rich and comprehensive library for us to use, a library which, I believe, enriches our worship, both public and private.

I remember Bishop Michael being almost apologetic for the number of parts to “Common Worship”, but he reassured us: the good news is that all of it is available on the Church of England website, to be found under the heading of “Prayer and Worship”. It is relatively easy to access and to use; I strongly commend it to you, and especially to those who lead our intercessions in church – especially at “festival” times when you may be looking for something appropriate to use. I hope that everyone will find some treasure in Common Worship, a book that binds us all together.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.

HOLY BAPTISM

November	7 th	KIT DAVID JAMES SUTTON-JENNINGS
	14 TH	AZARIUS DAVID GEORGE HARRIS
	21 ST	LAUREN WEBB
		JOHN ROYLES
	28 TH	AURORA LILY ALDER-BERRY
December	5 th	ALEXANDER RICHARD HILL
		<i>“WELCOME TO THE LORD’S FAMILY”</i>

FUNERALS & CREMATIONS

December	9 th	MAY GAMSBY
		ANTHONY MACE
	14 th	DORIS MULRAIN
	15 th	GILBERT BANKS
		<i>“REST ETERNAL GRANT THEM LORD”</i>

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Assistant Priests	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	irobb925@gmail.com
Revd. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Revd. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872	07974066929	michaelgar-
Revd. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
CHURCHWARDENS			
Mrs Jackie Broad	01452 541078	07928862976	60jackie60broad@gmail.com
Mr Paul Price	01452 537464	07595264559	thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk
PCC Secretary -			
Mrs Lu Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk
PCC Treasurer -			
Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
Outreach Grps			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jacqueline.lhall@btinternet.com
Knit & Natter			
Mrs Angie Wright		078447462416	anglewright@btinternet.com
Organist—Chris Baldwin	01452 534105	07811589867	bonebaldwin@hotmail.co.uk
Baptism Ministry Team -			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Flower Arrangers			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Bell Ringers –Dave Frank-		07899907125	dfepc-qsjbells@yahoo.com
Open the book - Liz	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers—Angela Hughes	01452 722825	07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley

Printed by: Alpha Colour printers Ltd., GL2 2AA 01452 887000