

Around the Spire

Saint James'

&

Saint Mary Magdalene

Quedgeley & Kingsway



Happy New Year 2021!

January 2021

Issue No. 65

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



EDITORIAL WITH A DIFFERENCE!

You will not need me to tell you that almost everyday it seems, the news regarding the Pandemic change!

Just out of lockdown, now into Tiers

And now the exciting news of the breakthrough which will make the vaccine available almost immediately for some.

So here is an Editorial in different format which requires of you, dear Reader in a little exercise which I hope you will find interesting and worthwhile.

- A. Please sit comfortably on an upright chair if possible.
Place your hands on your knees with palms upright.
- B. To help you concentrate, get away from tele, text, and other distractions.
- C. Try to hold this position for about five minutes, and as you do, think of any actions, events or even thoughts which occur to you during these times of the past .
- D. You may like to pray or just have good memories of these..

- E. Let me know how you have found this experience
You can do so by any means – text, e-mail, phone
or even if you meet me out and about. It can be
anonymous if you prefer.
- F. In the next issue of 'Around the Spire' I will share
with you what these feelings are, and share with you
my own thoughts on this.

**DO PLEASE TAKE PART -
I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY REPLIES!**

Fr. Hugh

Outreach Groups Chit Chat and Chatterbox

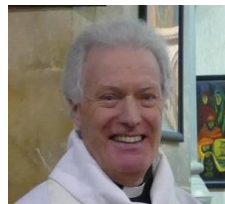
We have reviewed the current situation. The good news is that a vaccine is now available! However, until we can ensure a safe environment for all, we shall remain closed.

Keep safe and stay well.

Jackie Hall

Saints of the Month—January

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



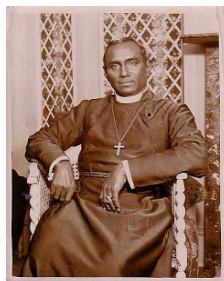
2nd Basil of Caesarea & Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops:

Two friends bound together by their desire to uphold the true and genuine Christian faith as described in the Nicene Creed, against a seemingly overwhelming pressure from both Church and state for the establishment of Arianism, a school of thought which denied the divinity of Christ and thus the whole doctrine of the Trinity.

Basil was described as “strong and forceful” while Gregory was given to a contemplative lifestyle, but was also a gifted orator. Together they were drawn into the midst of the argument and their joint persuasive eloquence convinced the first Council of Constantinople, which met in 381, that their teaching was truly orthodox and the council ratified the text of the Nicene Creed in the form in which we still use it today.

2nd: Samuel Azariah, bishop in South

India : Samuel was born to Christian parents in 1874 and brought up in a home where there was a deep love for the Scriptures. At the age of nineteen he became a YMCA evangelist, and secretary of the organisation in South India a few years later. He believed that if the Church in South India was to grow and attract ordinary Indians, it had to have an indigenous leadership and reduce its almost totally white, western, influences. He was ordained priest aged thirty-five, and bishop just three years later; a major part of his work was in the training of more Indian clergy and the raising of their educational standards. He died in 1945, just two years before the creation of a united Church of South India – a goal he had worked for throughout his episcopacy.



10th: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury:

William was appointed Archbishop by his friend and ally, King Charles II, in 1633. Their joint aim was to counter the Puritan movement, which emphasised personal and ecclesial austerity as a means of sustaining conversion. Laud was a High Churchman who felt that the majesty of God should be reflected in the liturgy of the Church, and he set about ensuring that its ministers should practise what he preached. The Puritans would not yield to his arguments, and having the upper hand in Parliament impeached and imprisoned him in 1640. The king did not – or could not – come to his assistance and he was beheaded on this day in 1645.

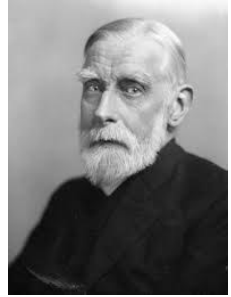


12th: Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167:

Born in Hexham in 1109, Aelred entered the Cistercian Order at Rievaulx in 1133, after spending some years in the court of King David of Scotland. He was elected Abbot of Revesby in 1143 and returned to Rievaulx four years later to become abbot, and to spend the remainder of his life there. His spiritual writings, begun at the request of Bernard of Clairvaux, the two of them having a similar approach to the spiritual life, had a profound influence on the lives of many. He was often referred to as “The Bernard of the North”; he died at Rievaulx in 1167.



17th: Charles Gore, Bishop & Scholar: Born in 1835, Gore became one of the most influential of Anglican theologians. He helped reconcile the Church of England to some aspects of Biblical criticism and scientific discovery, yet was Catholic in his interpretation of the faith and sacraments. As an Oxford don and then as a canon of Westminster, he was renowned for his preaching. In the 1890's he was the founder – and first leader – of the Community of the Resurrection, which in later years settled at Mirfield in Yorkshire and became a centre for the training of the clergy. From 1902, he was successively bishop of Worcester, Birmingham, and Oxford. He died on this day in 1932.



25th: The Conversion of Paul: The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot, Saul, to the apostle of Christ, Paul, is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles – but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: Saul took some time to become Paul, and some time to begin to understand that his call to preach – to Jew and Gentile – the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was to be a whole life's journey. Paul testifies in his letter to the church in Galatia: "God set me apart and called me through his grace...three years after (the experience on the Damascus road), I went up to Jerusalem". This feast-day has been celebrated since the 6th century.

30th: Charles Stuart, King of England, martyr: The second son of James I, Charles became heir apparent when he was twelve years old, on the death of his brother. He succeeded to the throne in 1625, where he came up against the increasing power of an antagonistic Parliament. This, combined with a prevalent religious puritanism, made Charles staunch in his resistance to the power of either force in the land. He frequently dismissed Parliament and tried to enforce High-Church Anglican practice on all throughout England and Scotland; opposition resulted in civil war.

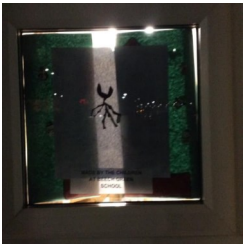
The king was imprisoned and tried, and executed on this day in 1649. Although some see him as victim of his own pride, his faith and willingness to suffer and die for what he believed in are not in doubt.



Real Life Advent Calendar



Some of the window displays in Quedgeley! More photos next month. Well done Alex Cooke for organising the event.



Lockdown Photos

Photos taken in walking distance from Quedgeley! If you've taken any photos during lock down send them to Fr. Hugh the Editor—hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk and we'll aim to publish them.



**As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.**

The Faith We Sing
By Revd. Canon Michael
Garland



The Faith We Sing

When we were young, the first music we heard was often in the form of nursery rhymes. One of these musical miniatures was undoubtedly, *'Twinkle, twinkle, little star; how I wonder what you are'*.

It is interesting to note that in one of our well-known carols, 'We three kings of orient are', the chorus reflects the sentiments of the nursery rhyme: 'O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright'.

Looking up at the sky on a clear and frosty night is magical. Children and adults alike really do have cause to wonder.

One of our favourite Epiphany hymns is also about a star, or should I say *the* star, which guided the Wise Men, or Magi, to the place of Christ's birth:

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Its author was Reginald Heber, who enjoyed a brilliant academic career at Oxford University, winning a prize for poetry whilst he was there. He was ordained in 1807 and served as Rector of the parish of Hodnet in Shropshire. In 1823, he was offered the post of Bishop of Calcutta which he accepted, after some initial hesitation. Sadly, his ministry there was cut short when, in 1826 he suffered a fatal stroke.

Fortunately for us, Heber's poetic gifts live on in some memorable hymns including 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty', 'God, that madest earth and heaven', 'Bread of the world, in mercy broken' and 'Brightest and best of the sons of the morning'. Heber was instrumental in writing a number of hymns based on the epistles and gospels of the Church Year. These hymns were gathered and published posthumously in 1827.

In the first verse of this hymn, we are invited to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, to offer worship and praise to our Redeemer. The opening lines seem to be addressed to the star but could equally well apply to Jesus, who lightens our darkness by his coming into the world. The gifts of the Wise Men are recalled in verse three and we find ourselves questioning what we may have to bring:

*Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountains, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?*

In similar vein, the lovely carol by Christina Rossetti, 'In the bleak mid-winter', has in its last verse: 'What shall I give him, poor as I am?' The answer is given in the final two lines: 'Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.' Heber's answer is equally emphatic in stressing that what matters most of all are the gifts of adoration and prayer:

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

'Brightest and best' is one of those hymns that has attracted many different tunes over the years. By far the most popular tune that we sing today is called, quite simply, 'Epiphany'. It was composed by Joseph Thrupp especially for Heber's hymn and was first published in 1863.

If you have access to the internet, you can listen to the hymn by Clicking [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5ACL94B4rM)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5ACL94B4rM>

Fr. Michael

To make you smile



Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the world do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

Clearwater Primary Academy

Many thanks to Clearwater Primary Academy for their lovely Christmas display this year. If you have time, please do go and have a closer look!





Shirley's Psalm

The Lord is my writer.
I shall not lack words that rhyme.
He leadeth me through the pages of books.
I see the beauty of the illustrations.
His pen and his paper give me great courage.
Even though I think I have writers block,
I always manage to find the right words to convey my feelings.
He layeth out a desk before me
filled with paper, pens, words and sentences.
Surely His goodness and His mercy
shall be within my writing all the days of my life
as I will live in His kingdom forever.

Amen.
By Shirley Wilce.

Shirley has just published a collection of her work: ***“Walking with Angels”*** - poems, prayers, & prose.

She hopes that you will feel moved to buy a copy -

she promises that all the proceeds will be given to our Church Funds. Copies are £6.50 from Shirley direct, or £6.50 + £2.40 p&p by mail. Phone 07845 962457 to order.

For our younger readers

Colour in the picture below of the Magi (Wise men) who visited baby Jesus. Can you remember the names of the gifts they took?



CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Looking to arrange a wedding or a baptism?

The church office is located in the vestry at the church.

The office will be open on Saturday morning only.

Saturday - 9.00am –10.00am

Just pop along—no appointment needed

The Church is open every day for private prayer from 9am –4pm to light a candle or to place requests for prayers on the prayer board

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**Articles /photos for the February edition of 'Around the Spire' should be with the Editor Hugh Broad,
hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by**

Sunday 10th January (latest)

If you wish to speak to a member of the clergy please see the contacts list below. Thank You

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