

Around the Spire

Saint James

&

Saint Mary Magdalene

Quedgeley & Kingsway

**Where do we go from
here?**

Page 3

- ◆ Test your knowledge—page 9
- ◆ Hallelujah Flash mob—page 14

Issue 69



May 2021



Church Notice Board

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

Sunday 16th May (at latest)

Sunday

Worship

Every Sunday

10.30am

Please continue to remember The Gloucester Food Bank when you go to buy food. Most of our supermarkets have a place where you can leave gifts for the Foodbank.

Look out for ' *Ordinary and Extraordinary* '

See page 15

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Once more I find it difficult to answer this question!

We cannot be sure just how and when we shall be affected by the pandemic and its consequences. It does appear that the results of the vaccination process in this country are to put it mildly, a great success.

However it does beg the question, will life ever be the same again? When, all being well the last rung of the ladder is reached in June, what then?

It does seem that no one really knows the answer. Politicians, the medical profession, statisticians or indeed anyone else can be really sure.

However, the time will surely come, in summer or autumn., when there are some positive signs for the future.

SO – WHAT WILL BE OUR RESPONSE?

Here I do believe that for people of Faith it is a matter of reaching out to God for guidance in the way we should respond to the needs and opportunities which are before us.

Let me give you an example. I meet many people in the course of a day – not by visiting which is not permissible, but when I am out walking our dog, Nina. We meet many people. almost every one speaks, and it is often the case that we indulge in conversation. Many such people are keen to seize the opportunity to share views across a wide range of subjects.

I am frequently asked how the Christian faith fits in to this picture. It is true that the majority of these people do have a desire to understand just how they might fit into this vast picture of dealing with something which is completely unknown.

I find that most of these good folk are open to being guided to deal with these issues in a practical way. After all, they are as anxious as we all are to seek some way forward which they can feel is worthwhile both to them as individuals and to the community as a whole.

SO TO PRAYER!

I point out that although this is a good way of responding to a call to prayer, it is still the case that it is quite possible to pray anywhere and at any time. In fact that in such places as these where we meet, it is often a good background to offer up prayer for any such needs as are before us.

So I for one do ask the question which heads up this Editorial – 'Dear Lord- show us the way to respond just how we can find the way!'

Now I am well aware that many people who are reading this are not churchgoers, but you do have an enquiring mind of this whole issue and I feel quite sincerely that the matter we have before us now is one where we can all do so much through saying our prayers!

God Bless you all!

FATHER HUGH

Saints of the Month—May

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



1st: Philip & James, Apostles All the gospels list these two among the twelve Apostles. In John's gospel, Philip has a more prominent role, being the third of the apostles to be called by Jesus, and then himself bringing his friend Nathaniel to the Lord. He later is the spokesman for a small group who are questioning their capacity for feeding the five thousand, and at the last supper he prompts a dialogue with Jesus which leads to the Lord's Farewell Discourses.

James is called the “son of Alphaeus” and is often known as James the Less to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee. He could well be the “James the Younger” who, in Mark's gospel, is a witness to the crucifixion.

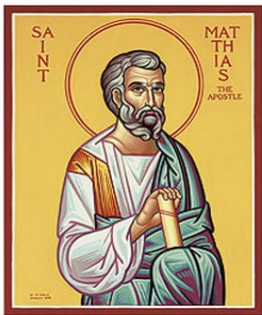
They are celebrated together because the church in Rome, where their relics rest, was dedicated on this day in 560AD.

8th: The Lady Julian of Norwich On this day in 1373, when she was thirty years old and apparently suffering from a terminal illness, a woman of Norwich – whose own name is unrecorded – experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following a dramatic recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, “The Revelations of Divine Love”. At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the church of St Julian in Norwich, and it was by this name that she came to be known to later generations. She died around the year 1417 and her great literary work is still in print today.



14th: Matthias the Apostle

After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles felt compelled to bring their number back to twelve. Acts chapter 1 describes the process by which Matthias was chosen; the author (who was most likely to have been St Luke) repeats what he has already stated in the gospel which bears his name, that the number had to be restored so that they might “sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel”. It was conditional that all apostles had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot indicated the election or choosing by God rather than by mortals. Matthias is credited with being one of the founders of the Church in Egypt.



16th : Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer

Caroline Jones was born in 1808. On her marriage to Archibald Chisholm, she took her husband's Roman Catholic faith. They emigrated to Madras in 1831 where she set up a school for soldiers' daughters. In 1838, the family moved to Australia, where Caroline almost immediately began to work for the vulnerable immigrants arriving at Sydney. She was especially concerned for the women, who were often lured and



bullied into brothels. She set up a free Registry Office to help them obtain legitimate work and shelter, and she campaigned for improved working conditions. She returned to England in 1846 to press for emigration reform and founded the Family Colonisation Loan Society. Her Christian ministry and action led to the ending of what had virtually been the institutionalisation of the abuse of poor women.

23rd: Petroc, Abbot of Padstow Often known as the “captain of Cornish saints”, Petroc was the son of a Welsh chieftain who, on arrival in Cornwall, founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc, now called Padstow (from Petroc's Stow), and later on another at Bodmin. Most of his life seems to have been lived as a Christian hermit, though he travelled regularly to visit monasteries. He died at Treravel and was buried at Padstow. Many Devon and Cornwall churches are dedicated to his memory.

25th: The Venerable Bede Born in 670, Bede was given by his family to the monastery of St Peter & St Paul at Wearmouth in Northumbria. As an adult professed monk, he moved to Jarrow where he lived the rest of his life, never travelling further than York. His abbey at Jarrow was a centre of learning and Bede used all the resources available to write the most complete history of Christian England up to the year 729, as well as commentaries on books of the Bible. He was renowned for his monastic fidelity and his love of teaching, and died peacefully in 735.

26th: Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury

Pope Gregory I had heard about the persecution which had led to the death of the church in southern England. In 596, he chose Augustine to lead a group of 40 monks to restore the English Church. They landed in Kent in 597 and were received by King Ethelbert, whose wife, Bertha, was a Christian. She persuaded the king to grant Augustine's request for a piece of land on which he could build his base. Once it was established, Augustine returned to Gaul to receive ordination as a bishop.



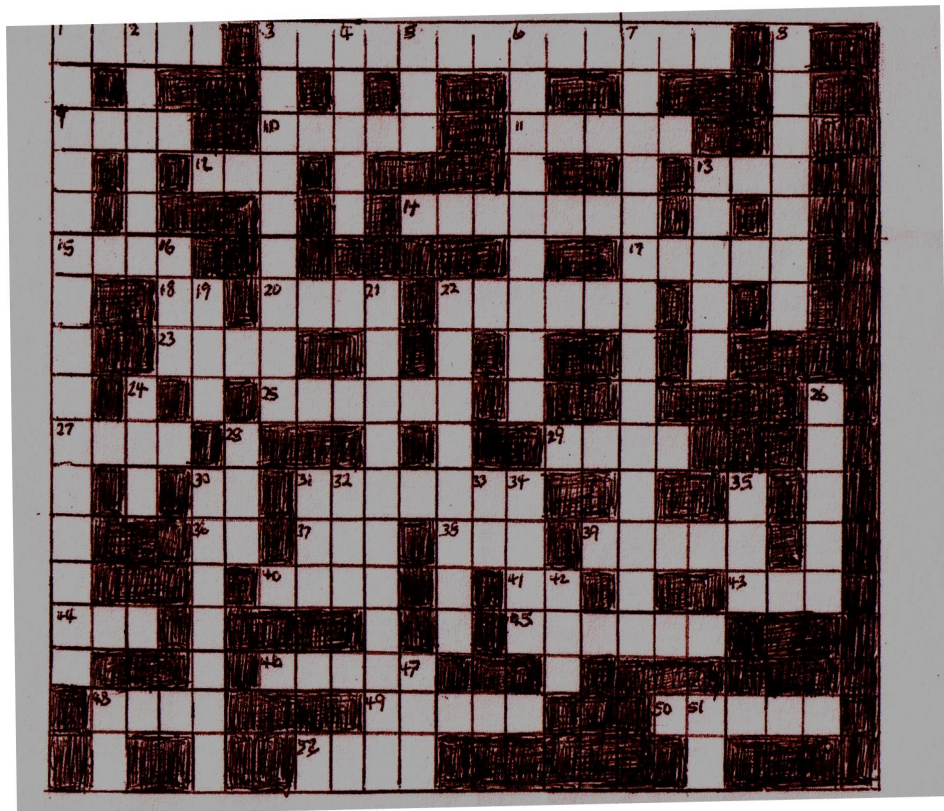
He persuaded Gregory to name Canterbury as the primate see and hence Augustine became the first Archbishop. The remains of Augustine's abbey can be visited outside the eastern boundary of Canterbury cathedral. In the cathedral itself, to the east of the high altar, can be seen the stone chair said to be that of Augustine himself. He died in 605.

Guess where the cathedral is!



Answers Next Month!

Cross word Puzzle for May



Clues Across

- 1 Kojaks favourite (you will need cash for this)
- 3 It's an ill one that keeps you here
- 9 Beat this and you will (H) ear about it
- 10 Receiving radio signals in short
- 11 Ship of the desert
- 12 Do this to Peter to pay Paul
- 13 Large one found in the jungle but you would not want one on your lap
- 14 I take my camera for a trip to the USA
- 15 Condiment once used as currency



Clues Across (Cont'd)

- 17 Putting on this colour makes you envious
- 18 This for example in short
- 20 An alternative word for stupid. Don't be this
- 22 You won't find this elf on the hob
- 23 An illustration of sorts
- 25 He came to conquer but was he wise
- 27 Not even close
- 29 The boy turns out to be handy in the kitchen and at weddings
- 30 Not you? Just the opposite
- 31 Climbing frame but not for toddlers
- 36 No I haven't gone out
- 37 A breath of fresh in this Scottish town somewhat
- 38 Did this musical group bring you out in spots
- 39 See 7 down and you will get this number
- 40 Length x breadth. A designated space?
- 41 - - only
- 43 Caspian for example
- 44 Keep hair or fish in this
- 45 She wasn't ugly
- 46 Bellow but not so loud
- 48 Definitely not rich
- 49 Villain
- 50 Are diamonds her crowning glory?
- 52 Grow it in the garden and enlist the Family

Clues Down

- 1 Does Her Majesty employ a number of these for almost nine months
- 2 This Hardy companion is evergreen
- 3 Wombles and tennis players favour this place
- 4 Is everything going South. No just the opposite
- 5 A girls name or a legal procedure
- 6 This colourful chap was killed by an arrow but not in 1066
- 7 They are truly great films but require 39 across to make it (3 and 11)
- 8 Doing this while having your portrait painted (with 45 across)
- 13 No colour bar on this board
- 16 Roosevelt's favourite toy in short
- 19 Precious. Whether a true friend or a stone
- 21 Feverish? Check this then
- 22 Would you order one of these at Harry's bar (3 and 5)
- 24 A chasing game or a label
- 26 You would have seen gladiators here
- 28 Nine, but you need an extra one for a perfect score
- 30 You can see your alter ego in these
- 31 Jack (the sailor) a road covering
- 32 Was he caught in the cereal crop (maybe in East Sussex)
- 33 I have not gone out
- 34 Jump the rope and throw rubbish in it
- 35 Printing term for this letter. Domestic fowl dropped their 'aitches'
- 42 Too and - - -
- 47 Big on the feet
- 48 Mathematical term or his 'life' in a book
- 51 What goes down must come - -

HOMEMADE MASKS

I made myself a mask
Out of Grandad's old string vest
As the air holes were rather large
It wasn't perhaps the best



I attempted another mask
I stitched all through the night
I used a pair of old net curtains
It still didn't seem quite right

I made yet another mask
Using old knickers, I sewed all day
The gussets made an extra layer
To keep the germs at bay

I went into mass production
Using tea towels, tablecloths and shirts
Old pyjamas, nighties, sheets and jeans
Old dresses, jackets and skirts

I have made so many masks now
Created with such loving care
If you would like some, help yourself
I have more than enough to spare

In fact, I have enough masks
To last until the end of time
But if I never have to wear one again
That would suit me just fine

Angie Wright March 2021

The Faith We Sing

By *Revd. Canon Michael Garland—
The Hallelujah Chorus*



Messiah
an Oratorio

From the title page of Handel's 'Messiah'

“We are an Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.” These words, often attributed to St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in North Africa in the Fifth Century, seem especially relevant as we consider one of the best-loved choruses known simply as ‘Hallelujah’ from ‘Messiah’, the hugely popular oratorio by George Frideric Handel. The word ‘Hallelujah’ comes from a Hebrew phrase meaning, ‘Praise God joyfully’.

Handel was born in Halle in Germany in 1685, the same year as Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Leipzig, just a short distance away. I have been fortunate enough to have visited Halle on three occasions where there is a fine museum honouring the life of this famous composer. On each occasion I have paused in the town square by Handel’s statue where he can be seen holding a copy of ‘Messiah’ in his right hand. The full music score of the work runs to 230 pages and it is quite amazing to think that Handel completed it in just twenty-four days. The Hallelujah Chorus forms a fitting climax to Part Two of the Oratorio, and it begins with ten triumphant Hallelujahs before the singers proclaim the majestic text from the Revelation to John:

Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! (Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16)

Although the Hallelujah Chorus is often sung in isolation from the rest of the work, we do well to remember what a great job was done by Charles Jennens the librettist, who gathered biblical texts to form a united whole which told the story of Jesus from the prophecy of his coming, to his birth and life, his death and resurrection, and his reign in glory. The first performance of 'Messiah' was given at a Music Hall in Fishamble Street, Dublin in 1742 where it was enthusiastically received. The same cannot be said of its first performance in London where those who attended were confused by a sacred work being sung in a theatre, a place normally associated with opera rather than religious works. Fortunately, it did not take long for the music and the story conveyed by it, to catch on.

Some of you may have watched a shortened version of 'Messiah' on Easter Eve (3rd April). It was broadcast at 6.00pm on BBC 2 from the Coliseum Theatre in London with members of the English National Opera and may still be available on BBC I-Player. The Hallelujah Chorus was a highlight, of course, and the singers and players, all socially distanced in the theatre, gave a wonderful performance. Do listen to this if you can.

For members of choirs and choral societies, singing 'Messiah' is always a challenge but it is richly rewarding. In the nineteenth century choirs of 200 plus singers would give roof-raising performances. In more recent times, smaller groups have performed the work with great success, often accompanied by a small orchestra using instruments that would have been familiar to Handel himself. I have always relished the prospect of being part of a flash mob to sing the Hallelujah Chorus. For those of you who are not sure what a flash mob is, let me explain. A group of singers agree to meet in a public space like a shopping mall or a pedestrianised area or on the concourse of a railway station and, at a given signal, start singing wherever they might be scattered. The results can be impressive and often create quite a stir! Have a look online by searching: [Christmas Food Court Flash Mob Hallelujah Chorus](#)

Handel was really an adopted Englishman and so much of his music is readily accessible. He wrote music for great occasions – Royal Fireworks and Coronations to mention but two. We have cause to be grateful to him for so many compositions but especially for ‘Messiah’ and its Hallelujah chorus.

Fr Michael



One of the blessings of getting older is that we have more of our life on which to look back and reflect. Thanksgiving may be one of the key themes of this exercise, but other emotions will be raised as well. There will be times when we might have wished we had acted differently; when we regretted a misplaced word or a rash action and times when we held back and missed an opportunity. Fr Hugh has been busy in recent months in writing up his reflections on being a priest for the last fifty-three years and in recounting the people who have played a major part in that journey. Copies of the booklet – ***‘Ordinary and Extraordinary’*** – will be available in May and we are very hoping that you will want to have a copy. We are suggesting a minimum donation of £5.00, with all profits raised going into church funds.

Fr Michael

A banner for Alpha Colour Printers. The top part features the company name "alpha colour printers" in a bold, lowercase font, followed by a stylized alpha symbol. Below the name, there is a list of services: "design • pre-print • litho digital large format finishing • packing • storage • distribution". To the right of this list are several logos, including the BPIF (British Printing Industry Federation) logo and others. Below the service list, it says "follow us on" followed by Facebook and Twitter icons and the handles "facebook.com/AlphaColourPrinters" and "@Alpha_Colour". The bottom part of the banner is a green and white section with the text "print green with us on the first carbon neutral press in the country". To the right of this text is a logo for "CO2 neutral" and a small image of a green plant. At the bottom right, there is a call to action: "ask us for the logo to add to your print".

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