



Around the Spire Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene Quedgeley & Kingsway



*At the going down of the
sun*

And in the morning

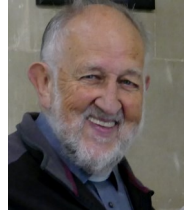
We will remember them

Issue 63

November 2020



Your Editor Fr. Hugh



END OF AN ERA A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO FATHER JOHN

By way of introduction:

My wife, Jackie and I came back to Gloucester to retire after ten very wonderful years in the sun of the Mediterranean and a very live church and a parish about the size of Gloucestershire!

The reason I start this tribute in this way to say what a change it was to return to my home county to retire to.

One of the main factors was to find an area with a church where we could settle happily and where I could have an effective retirement. I knew Gloucester well having been incumbent of two parishes – Matson and Tuffley, and it would have been wrong to live in either of these – so where?

At this stage of dilemma, Bishop Michael, then the Diocesan Bishop took a hand – I had known him well for many years so trusted his judgment. I well remember his words on this subject - “Go to St James in Quedgeley – there is a new priest there and he needs some help as it is a very big parish and you are just the right person!”

And so it came to pass! Just after Easter 2013 we moved here and I got involved at St James where Father John gave me a terrific welcome!

I soon realised how fortunate I was – here was a priest with very similar views and background to mine. We both embraced the liberal catholic tradition within the Church of England (for readers who do not know what that is it is best described as 'high church with lots of colourful worship and very much in favour of women priests').

John and I soon became very good friends and had so much to share in the life of this exciting parish with so much potential. I shall always remember these days – John will recall that I always spoke my mind and this helped so much in the bond that we built up. As he will agree it was not always easy, and there were times when I had to speak very candidly to him and this strengthened our relationship.

My admiration for Father John was especially strong in our love for the Holy Eucharist – Mass as we preferred to call it; he was, rather I should say IS a fine preacher and is clear and meaningful in what he seeks to put over.

But the thing I admire most about him is that he has a great rapport with youngsters. He can communicate very easily with them and they listen to his every word. I only wish I had this talent and I am always filled with wonder at his gift in this direction!

So now this era in the parish of St James has come to its end, and I extend to him at this time

THANK YOU DEAR FATHER WITH LOVE!

Fr. Hugh

On the record - with the Rector

Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This will be the last time, I write to you as Rector and Parish Priest of St. James' Quedgeley and Kingsway.

As many of you know, I have been struggling with health issues for some months and I believe the time has now come for me to retire. I shall be retiring at the end of this month.

Over the last thirty six years in the ministry, I have served parishes in Wales, Birmingham and parts of Gloucestershire.

In July 2012 I became incumbent at Saint James'. I hope you will agree with me that throughout the ensuing years Saint James' links with the Community have been strengthened.

Working with members of my congregation and community we began setting up two community groups Chatterbox and Chit Chat. Unfortunately due to Covid they have had to close for the time being, but I'm sure once this pandemic is over they will be up and back on their feet.



Both groups enabled local residents to socialize and get to know members of the clergy and church community better. It didn't stop there. We introduced Pet Services, Family services and welcomed the local Scout and Guide group to our Remembrance Day services. Our links with the local schools grew considerably; 'Open the Book' has played a huge part in making this happen, whilst members of the clergy now attend school assemblies and some are school governors.



Local schools visited the church on a regular basis. Whilst all these activities were taking place, the church was still there for you – open for private prayer each day. Our weekly and Sunday services are still in operation, baptisms, funerals and weddings taking place *(be it slightly different at present!)*.

We've held Summer Fayres in the church grounds, Christmas Fayres, opened up the church to community fund raising events for national charities e.g. Macmillan Cancer Support and Breast Cancer Awareness. All involved church members and local residents. We have a fantastic parish magazine printed for us at low cost by a local printing company, whilst another local company kindly provided us with a free website.



Photos show left to right Fr. John –Pet Service 2017. Two Fr's –Christmas Fayre 2019 and Fr. John with former Citizen Editor Jenny Eastwood at our Summer Fayre

Through these initiatives Saint James' has benefitted enormously and I genuinely believe it is now playing its part through outreach. There is more to do ... but it is a start.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues-members of the clergy, Churchwardens, members of the PCC and members of the congregation, who without their help, love and support none of this would have happened. I'd also like to thank local residents who volunteered and rose to the challenge when needed.

A special mention and personal **THANK YOU** to **Quedgeley Community Trust** who helped fund our architect reports for the repair of the church. **Help if we Can** who kindly donated to the church over the years. Thank you, to our **City and County Councillors** who provided funding for us, in order to set up some of our community work. The latest project - providing sound equipment in the church!



Kevin Tudor Chair QCT & Fr. John

Finally, it has been a great honour and privilege to have been your Rector and Parish Priest.

Quedgeley and Kingsway is a generous and loving community. I know that the last few months have been difficult for everyone, but with God's help we shall get through this. As I look forward to my retirement, I wish you all well for the future.

May the Blessing of Almighty God, and the prayers of the Virgin Mary, Saint James and Saint Mary Magdalene rest upon you and all those you love.

With my personal thanks, prayers and blessing,

Fr. John.

Rector and Parish Priest

Quedgeley and Kingsway

Canon of Gloucester Cathedral



Saints of the Month—November

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



1st : All Saints Day

From its earliest days, the Church has recognised as its foundation stones those heroes of the faith whose lives have excited others to holiness and have assumed a communion with the church on earth and the Church in heaven.

Celebrating the feast of All Saints dates from the 4th century; it was originally observed on the Sunday after Pentecost, linking the disciples who received the Holy Spirit as the foundation of the Church with those who were subsequently martyred – witnesses to the faith in their own generation. In the 8th century, a chapel was dedicated in St Peter's Rome to All Saints on 1st November and since then the feast has been observed on this day.

2nd: Commemoration of All Souls

“In Christ all the faithful, living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer”. Since its foundation, Christians have recognised that the Church, the ecclesia, the assembled people of God, is at its most perfect when it recognises its unity in God's redeeming love with all who have said, who say now, and who will say in the fullness of time, “Jesus is Lord”.

9th: Margery Kempe, Mystic

Margery was born in Lynne, Norfolk, in the late 14th century and was a contemporary of the Lady Julian of Norwich. She received many visions- of the crucifixion and of the Holy Family – and had conversations with the saints. She was much sought -after as a visionary, was endlessly in trouble with the Church, rebuked by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and more than once imprisoned. She undertook pilgrimages to Walsingham, Canterbury, Compostela, Rome, and Jerusalem – often setting out penniless. She seems to have been favoured with signs of God's love and a consciousness of a close communion with him. ,

Her autobiography “The Book of Margery Kempe” recounts her remarkable life. She died towards the middle of the 15th century.

16th : Margaret of Scotland

Margaret was born in 1046, the daughter of the Anglo-Saxon royal house of England. She was educated in Hungary where her family lived in exile during the reign of the Danish kings of England. Following the Norman invasion, she was welcomed in the royal court of Malcolm III of Scotland and married him in 1069. Theirs was a happy and fruitful union and Margaret proved to be a civilising and holy presence. She founded a number of monasteries, churches, and pilgrim hostels. She was a woman of prayer as well as good works who seemed to influence for good all with whom she came into contact. She died in 1093.

18th: Elizabeth of Hungary

Elizabeth was born in 1207, the daughter of a king of Hungary, and was given in marriage to Louis IV of Thuringia. Sadly, after only four years of marriage, Louis died and Elizabeth was driven from the court; she settled in Marburg. She suffered mental and physical abuse from a confessor, Conrad of Marburg. She was able to join the third order of Franciscans and gave her life to the caring for the poor, cooking and cleaning for them. The severe regime under which she lived had a fatal effect on her life and she died aged just twenty-four, in the year 1231.

19th: Hilda, Abbess of Whitby

Hilda was born into the royal house of Northumbria in 614AD. She was baptised in York at the age of twelve by the Roman missionary Paulinus, and grew to become an influential lay leader of the Church. Aidan of Lindisfarne encouraged her to enter the religious life, and she subsequently went on to establish a monastery in what is now Whitby.

This house became a centre for Christian learning and was the meeting-place for the important Synod of Whitby, at which Hilda proved to be a reconciler between the Roman and Celtic traditions. She is remembered as a great educator, and died on this day in 680AD.



Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230AD

We know nothing of Cecilia's early life; all that is certain is that a woman called Cecilia allowed the Church to meet in her house in Trastevere in the city of Rome, and that subsequently a church bearing her name was erected on the site. She was remembered as a brave woman who risked giving hospitality to the Christian Church at a time when it was very dangerous and unwise to do so. Tradition says that she brought about her husband's conversion, and that of his brother. She is honoured as the patron saint of music.

Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr

Catherine was born into a noble family and because of her Christian faith, she refused marriage with the emperor, claiming that she was already a "bride of Christ". She is said to have disputed with fifty philosophers whose job it was to convince her of her error, but she proved superior in argument to them all. She was then tortured by being splayed on a wheel and finally beheaded.



Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tend'rest blessing
May our eyelids close.

The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



At the beginning of the month of November we find ourselves looking back. This is a time for remembrance, when we bring the past into the present. We remember the Saints who have gone before us in the way of faith; we remember loved ones who have died for whom we hold a special place in our hearts, and on Remembrance Sunday, we remember all who have been killed in wars and conflicts over the last 100 years or so. We honour their giving of themselves in the service of our nation and for the cause of freedom.

A hymn often sung with great feeling and conviction on Remembrance Sunday is a paraphrase of Psalm 90 which opens with these words:

Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made; thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

In 1719, Isaac Watts published a collection of new hymns entitled *Psalms of David*. These were all refreshingly new paraphrases and a welcome change from all that had existed before. Here are the opening verses of a hymn that was written under the heading, 'Man frail, and God eternal':

O God our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

This hymn seems to have become a national treasure and it would be very surprising if we did not hear it sung around Remembrance-tide. It reminds us of life's fragility but also of the eternal and abiding presence of God. In recent years, there has been some discussion about the lines of one verse where Watts writes this:

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

It is hard for some to sing those lines on Remembrance Sunday with the suggestion that loved ones 'fly forgotten' when their memory is very precious. Recent hymnbooks have made a revision which may seem more acceptable:

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

'O God, our help in ages past' is a truly outstanding hymn by Dr Isaac Watts, sometimes referred to as 'The Father of English Hymnody'. The hymn is almost exclusively sung to a strong tune named 'St Anne' probably composed by William Croft, Organist of Westminster Abbey in the early part of the eighteenth century. Handel and Bach thought highly of it and included in choral and organ compositions of their own.

You can listen to this hymn at:

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

HOWLERS FROM AN R.E. TEACHER - continued



Spellings and grammar as original!

David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar.

He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who livid in Bible times.

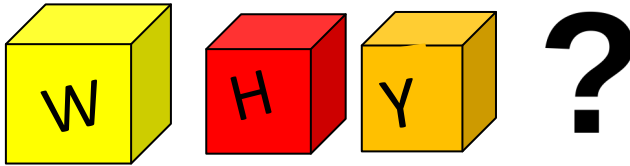
Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.

Harvest 2020





Wisdom is not knowing all the answers
to all the problems of each day.
Not knowing why this has happened to me
and not to someone else.

Not soaking up all the knowledge
the world can offer, but knowing that
behind the whole of life, for now and evermore,
God is sovereign and though I may not understand,
he is working to make each of us
according to his plan.

If we ask, there is an answer to each problem,
though it may not be the one we want to hear:
believe your God will take you by the hand if you allow.

Let him guide your every step,
and when you feel unsure,
believe that he knows best!

Thanks to Mary Ellis for these thoughts!

Fr. John's farewell service at Saint James'



Answers to last month's Crossword



Articles /photos for the December edition of 'Around the Spire' should be with the Editor Hugh Broad, hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 15th November (latest)

The church is open from
9am –5pm
every week day for private prayer

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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 mornings only.**

Saturday - 9.00am –10.00am

Just pop along—no appointment
needed

WEAR A SMILE



WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

Fr. John is now taking annual leave and preparing for his retirement at the end of the month. If you wish to contact a member of the clergy please refer to the contacts below.

Thank You.

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