

Around the Spire

Saint James'

&

Saint Mary Magdalene

May issue No. 57



STAY AT
HOME
save lives

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The best answer we can give is that we really do not know!

If you are like me you will be filled with unease of a kind!

We long for this brutal virus to be defeated and for normal life to take its place.

But HOW? if only we knew the answer it would be such a help. Sadly, very sadly this is unlikely to happen in any recognisable way very soon because those who strive so hard to find a cure so that we can get back to some semblance of human life have so far not succeeded. In fact as I write, the shutdown which affects all our lives has just been extended for another three weeks! Cut off from friends and family, for making journeys, going on holidays, enjoying trips to the countryside to see the lovely signs of spring time - need I go on- you will all have your own frustrations to add!

Well, that's enough of the doom and gloom! As always there is another side to it all. Last month I mentioned the spirit around when I was a small boy as the war came to an end. I remember the procession through Leckhampton led by a military band from the primary school to St Peter's Church to be met by a very happy vicar - Fr Eric Cordingly was his name, and he of all had good cause to give thanks because he, as an army chaplain had been a prisoner of war!

And now, in spite of all the bad and sad news and every night having watched the evening news I go to my study and say Night Prayer with special intention for all those who have been mentioned.

What about Captain Tom who set out at the age of 99 to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th birthday, sponsored in aid of the N.H.S. His great birthday is still several days away but as I write his efforts have already raised a staggering 21 million pounds, and he says as long as people give, he will keep walking! No wonder people are saying he should become 'Sir'!

And there are many others who are making real efforts in so many ways to help all those less fortunate and those who care for them. Truly something which we should all support and give thanks!

So what about us who are Christians, and indeed members of other faiths? Our places of worship which mean so much to us are locked and deserted; the organisations which we get so much pleasure from; even little provision for the big events - Baptisms, Weddings and even Funerals!

In her Maundy Thursday sermon, Bishop Rachel pointed out that in spite of all these restrictions we are still THE CHURCH! The true definition of this word Church is The People of God! So we are all called upon to be the modern day disciples of Jesus like never before.

With my love and prayers for all who read these words!

FATHER HUGH.

REGISTERS FOR MARCH

HOLY BAPTISM - March 15th - MADDISON SUMMER HORSMAN

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S FAMILY

FUNERALS - March 4th - CHRISTOPHER BLICK (55)

March 5th - DOROTHY MILLICENT McDONNELL (84)

REST ETERNAL GRANT TO THEM O LORD

A prayer for these uncertain times



Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Keep Smiling - a poem by Angie Wright

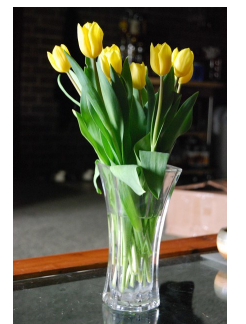


Into each life at times
A little rain can fall
And when life gets tricky
It doesn't seem fair at all
So when the rain is heavy
And the clouds make us frown
We need to look for rainbows
To stop us feeling down
So put the kettle on
To make a favourite brew
And get out the cake tin
It'll raise spirits, it's true
With the cat loudly purring
Curled up on our knee
Stroking him will comfort us
Between sips of our tea
Find a book that suits us
Escape to another place
With a plot that really hooks
And moves at lightening pace

Or find a favourite CD
Twist, boogie or jive along
Or sit quietly and savour it
Raise our voice in song
Make our favourite snack
Be it beans or cheese on toast
Or go the whole hog
And cook a Sunday roast
And when we go to bed at night
Enjoy a fresh laundered sheet
Or a hot water bottle
To pamper our cold feet
So let's raise a glass
Be it wine, cocoa or beer
We'll toast all life's joys
As we wipe away a tear
The cup considered half full
Is best for a happy life
The 'cup half empty' attitude
Only brings sorrow and strife

Good Friday thoughts

My vase of yellow tulips from Richard bring me joy
There were so many flowers an extra jug I had to employ.
The yellow colour so delicate reminds me of the sun,
But also in my mind today I think of God's dear son,
Who suffered pain and death for us that victory may be won.
Let's pray to Him and ask for help in this global situation
That we can trust and forward look to the betterment of our nation.



Pam Westwood - 10th April 2020

On the record - with the Rector

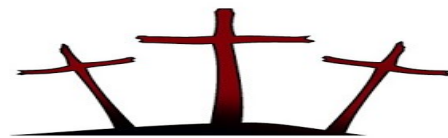
Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

EASTER AND THE CORONAVIRUS

Good Friday



GOOD FRIDAY – The Day of Sacrifice

On the surface, Good Friday seems an ironic name. It is the holy day to commemorate the arrest, beating, and death of Jesus. I usually take time on this day to reflect on Christ's suffering and my part in sinning that required his sacrifice on the cross.

On the Cross Jesus defeated and conquered eternal death. It was a death that became a victory - it was a price that had to be paid.

It was not a victory that excluded evil forever- we still are in the midst of evil - but it was a victory that placed unbreakable chains on its hold and power and limited control on false claims of evil and of the evil one. We affirm this every time we offer the Lord's Prayer, when we say "deliver us from evil"

So with this virus - the work of foolish and selfish humanity, and not the will or the vengeance of God, and from this pain we shall be delivered.



HOLY SATURDAY – The Day of Patient Waiting

Holy Saturday is less celebrated by Western churches. It is interesting to note that in the creation story in Genesis God rested on the 7th day, a Saturday. Jesus stayed, waited quietly, silently in the tomb the entire day of what we now call Holy Saturday.

Quietly, silently and prayerfully we too must wait for deliverance, indeed resurrection from this virus, which in one way or another has affected us all.

The stone of release from this painful virus catastrophe is set before us and we await in faith and with patience for it to be rolled away. For the burden of worry and anguish to be lifted from our lives, hearts and minds.

EASTER SUNDAY – The Day of Deliverance

Early Sunday, we don't know exactly when, Jesus rose from the grave. "He is risen!" is a popular Easter day phrase. It is a time to celebrate life. We celebrate a new life and a new beginning.

A resurrection life that says we have him now and always, a new life that gives us Hope if we trust in him in Faith. The guidelines we are asked to live by are to protect us from the virus, and we know for our own good.

However they are temporary because if we and the worlds society keep to them we will be delivered (until the next disaster) from the dreadful effects and consequences of Covid-19.

EASTER AND THE VIRUS – Victory over Hell and the Promise of Heaven

The virus finds its end in the death that Jesus suffered for us, this virus too will be conquered and defeated. The life of the virus can only end in its defeat, but of course it carries with it a lot of pain, suffering and sadly human death.

We must not forget the pain of those who have lost loved ones and always hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

However, Easter of the other hand, holds out the eternal promise that it always has done since the first Easter Day. The promise of the flame of the pascal (Easter) candle when it is burning; reflects the truth of the resurrected Christ, the flame is his flame of Hope and Trust which can never be extinguished. This flame points to that promise of resurrection and the offer of eternal life. The Easter Flame of Love.



Keep well, Keep Safe until this virus darkness is expelled into the Light.

With my continued Easter Blessings,

Fr John

The Reverend Canon Fr John F. Ward
Rector of Quedgeley and Kingsway
Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.

*Times & Seasons:
Ascension & Pentecost
By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb*



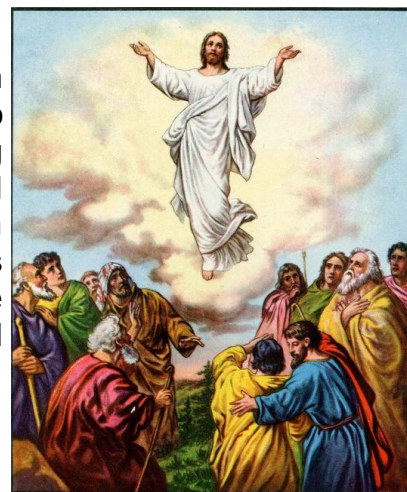
The next step in the plan of Salvation:

“If I do not go, the Spirit will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you”.

I often wonder what the majority of the disciples thought once the excitement of being reunited with the resurrected Jesus had calmed down: That everything was alright and they could carry on as before? Or was now the time when the Kingdom would come on earth and they would all be rewarded with special places close to the Lord? The Gospels record next to nothing of what Jesus said to them during the forty days after Easter other than words of preparation for his departure. During that period it would seem that he was not always with them, so they had plenty of time to think and discuss together; the question they shared in common seems to have been one of concern for the coming of the Kingdom: “Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom...?” They were looking for an ending, but what Jesus was preparing them for was a new beginning.

In St John's account of the Last Supper, we read that Jesus is commissioning the disciples to continue his work. He promises them the gift of the Holy Spirit – but tells them the coming of the Spirit will be preceded by his departure from them. The Spirit will be given to them, not to mark them out for special places by his side, but for a continuation of his work on earth; they are to be the foundation of his Church, the New Israel. St John also tells us that Jesus sees his own place as being “at my Father's side” - he is to return to heaven from whence he came; the Jesus of earth will once more be the Christ of heaven.

The fortieth day after Easter has, since the fourth century, been kept as a celebration of Christ's departure – his Ascension to heaven. In ancient time, when the earth was perceived as being flat, then surely heaven must be “above”, and if God was indeed the supreme ruler of all then surely He must be able to look down on all his creation. In order to be reunited with the Father, Jesus has to ascend. This concept might seem strange to us, who have seen pictures from space which prove that the Earth is indeed round – so heaven is not only “above” but also all around us.



In her play “Man born to be King”, Dorothy L. Sayers imagines a conversation between Pilate's wife (who, according to St Matthew, was “much troubled over this man”) and the centurion on duty at the crucifixion: “Is it all over? Do you believe he's dead?” “No, my lady, I don't.” “Then where is he?” “Gone into all the world...”

And that is what we celebrate – Christ lifted from the earth, no longer a victim but a great victor over sin and death, and also the reassurance of his eternal presence with us, and the beginning of the Church's mission to the world.

The good news for the disciples was: “I will not leave you bereft; the Comforter will come..” and on the fiftieth day after Easter, they did indeed receive another revelation of God – the Holy Spirit empowered them to perform the mission which the risen Christ had entrusted to them. Not only is Pentecost (from the Greek word meaning “50 days”) the climax to the Easter season, it is also the birthday of the Church – the day when the twelve ceased to be disciples (pupils) and were confirmed as Apostles (those who are “sent out”). Having been born again in the waters of baptism, they were then immersed in the Spirit of God and given the strength and courage they needed for all that lay ahead of them.

The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; from Pentecost onwards the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit. The promises that Jesus gave to them at the Last Supper have been fulfilled: his departure has meant that God has intervened in a new way by sending his Spirit on the infant Church, and whenever they shared in the Eucharist together, they would be reassured that Jesus was indeed still with them in a new and even more powerful way – no longer limited to a particular place or time, but with them wherever they went and in whatever situation they found themselves.

In the earliest days of the Church's mission, Pentecost became (along with the Easter vigil) the preferred time for Baptism (and for adult converts, this would also include the rite we now call Confirmation – the sealing with the Holy Spirit).



Confirmation Service with Bishop Robert at Saint James' Quedgeley

The Sunday after Pentecost has come to be kept as “Trinity Sunday” when the Church affirms the oneness of God at work in creation, redemption, and sanctification. It is a day for reflecting on the revelation of God's self, revealed in three unique ways: the Father who created us, the Son who rescued us from eternal death, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us for lives of service. Trinity Sunday is almost the “Amen” to all the times and seasons that we have celebrated, from Advent to Pentecost, in thanksgiving for our lives in the Christian family.

Fr Ian

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The Faith We Sing—Easter

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



If I had to name my favourite Easter hymn, then it would have to be this:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

It's a big hymn for a big festival and for Christians all over the world, Easter is the Queen of Festivals. Interestingly, and like many of our well-known hymns, the hymn was conceived and written in a language other than English. It's author, Edmond Budry, was a Swiss Pastor who ministered near Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. Following the death of his wife in 1884, the theme of Christ's resurrection became very real to him and so in that same year he wrote the three verses of his majestic hymn. His mother tongue was French, so this is how the hymn began:

*A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité! A toi la victoire pour l'éternité!
(To you the glory, O Resurrected One! To you the victory for eternity!)*

Forty years after Budry wrote his hymn it was translated into English by Roland Hoyle, an English Baptist Minister. It rapidly gained popularity partly due to the stirring tune MACCABAEUS with which the words are always associated. The music is by George Frederick Handel from his Oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* and composed in 1746 where it was set to the chorus 'See the conquering hero comes'. Was it this word 'conquering' which inspired Hoyle to use it in the first line of his translation? The same thought is expressed in the last verse too where we sing:

*Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.*

Notice here the reference to us being brought through Jordan – an allusion which Hoyle may have borrowed from the last verse of the great Welsh hymn 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer':

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Each of the verses in Hoyle's translation makes an allusion to different aspects of the Easter story – the rolling away of the stone from the tomb in verse 1 (Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away); the appearance of the Risen Lord to the women in verse 2 (Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb), and the dispelling of doubt in verse 3 with a reminder to us of how the disciple Thomas initially doubted but later saw and believed (No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life).

So it is that the words of Edmund Budry and the translation of them by Roland Hoyle set to Handel's magnificent tune help us to raise our voices at Eastertime to praise God for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In reflecting on this hymn, we give thanks for all hymn writers and musicians nor forgetting the invaluable work done by translators which bring hymns written in other languages to a wider circulation and appreciation.

Fr Michael

I know many of those who attend Chit Chat on a Thursday morning will be missing their slice of Tricia's Courgette Cake. The cake is gorgeous and always goes down a treat with a cup of tea or coffee! Sorry we can't provide you with the 'real thing' at the moment but as a substitute here is the recipe. If you can buy the flour perhaps you can make it at home. Good luck!



Courgette Cake with Lime curd filling

Ingredients

For the cake;-

90g raisins

375g courgettes (weighed before grating) 3 large eggs

197ml vegetable oil

225g caster sugar

¾ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

¾ teaspoon baking powder

For the filling;-

50g unsalted butter

2 large eggs

50g caster sugar

80ml lime juice (approx 2 limes)

Zest of 1 lime

Icing;-

200g cream cheese

100g icing sugar

Juice of 1 lime

2-3 tablespoons chopped pistachio nuts

Grease & line 2 21cm sandwich tins

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180 C

Put raisins in a bowl of warm water to plump up.

Wash courgettes and then grate coarsely, then turn into a sieve and knead with your fist to squeeze out excess water.

Put eggs, oil & sugar in a bowl and beat until creamy. Sieve in flour, baking powder & bicarb, continue to beat until well combined. Now stir in grated courgette and drained raisins. Pour mixture into tins and bake for 30 minutes till soft to the touch and slightly browned. Leave in tins for 10 minutes before turning onto a rack to cool.

Lime curd filling

Melt the butter in a saucepan, add all the other ingredients and whisk to a custard over a gentle heat. Leave to cool before filling the cake.

Icing

Beat the cream cheese till smooth, add sieved icing sugar, beat well and add lime juice to taste

Put one cake on a plate and spread with the completely cooled lime curd, put on the top cake covered with the icing and scatter with the chopped pistachios.

Enjoy!

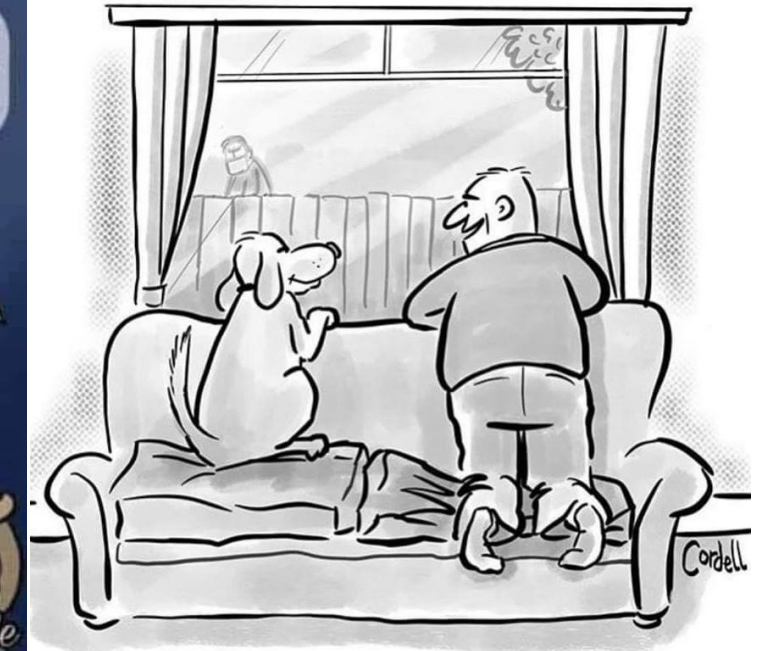
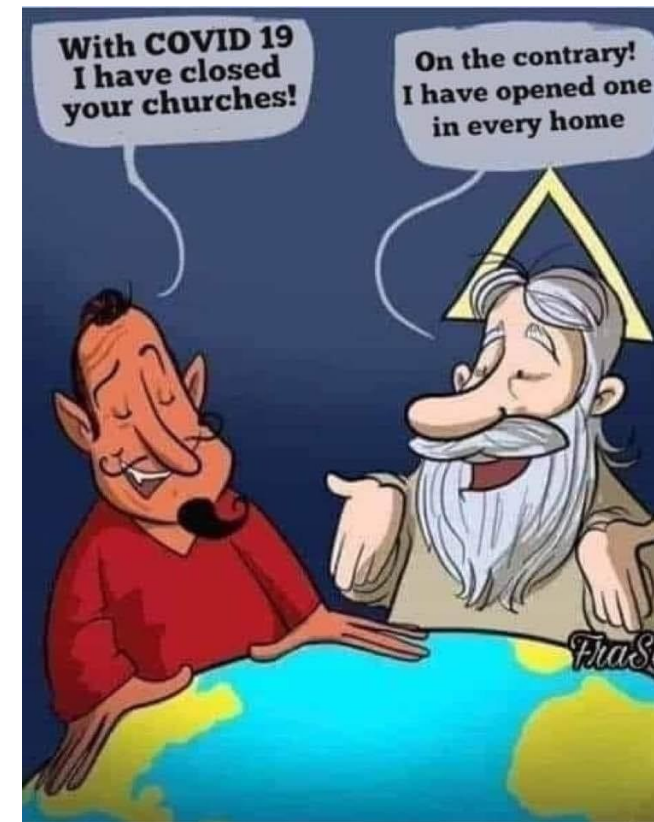
If you've a tried and tested recipe you'd like to share with us please send a copy by email to Fr. Hugh Broad hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

If during this 'lockdown' you've been curled up with a good book, then don't keep it to yourself, tell us about it and we'll publish your article in a copy of this magazine.

Cedric's Corner



For our younger readers - Cedric says can you spot the **six** differences between the photos !



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."

Summer Fayre 2020

Several people have rung me over the past few weeks asking if the Summer Fayre is going ahead. The answer is; I simply do not know.

Until the government decide on lifting lockdown measures, the fayre is in abeyance. What I do know is that the church will be very short of funds if the fayre does not go ahead. Although no way, would I embark on a venture that would put public health at risk.

In light of this we may need to prepare ourselves for 2021 being a year of jumbo fund raising! So Plan B. Thinking caps on everyone and let me know your money spinning ideas! We can start that process now and those with computers can contact me on the email below. We could also hold a small 'virtual' fund raising committee using 'Zoom' a business conferencing device on the web! There are various ways using today's technology of 'meeting up'.

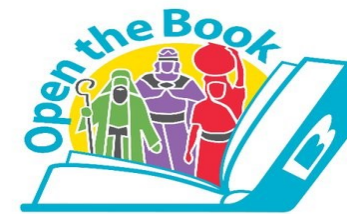
In the meantime - Stay at home and stay safe!

Jackie H

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Open the Book's 20th Anniversary Cathedral Service

Open the Book is an organisation that facilitates the forming of Bible storyteller teams which present Bible stories to local primary schools under the kind sponsorship of local churches.

A year ago on Tuesday 14th May, 1919, the St James' Church Open the Book team together with teams from many churches in Gloucestershire gathered at Gloucester Cathedral for a wonderful service of worship celebrating twenty years of Open the Book. There were lovely hymns which reflected the aims of Open the Book and it was encouraging to see so many people who are committed to this work.

We were joined by Bob Hartman, who is a professional storyteller and author who wrote 'The Lion Storyteller Bible', which is the children's Bible that is used by all Open the Book teams. He entertained us with tales of his visits to teams up and down the country. Many of those assembled chuckled as they identified with his description of garages packed with props and scenery. I realised how blessed our team is to have a large storage cupboard in the Quedgeley Community Centre. We were also told of a team he visited that has, amongst its members, a retired theatrical costume designer who makes amazing props and costumes for them. She had apparently designed a 'loaf' prop that opens out revealing more and more little loaves! This would have been used in the story of the feeding of the 5,000. Our own team were not able to produce such a sophisticated prop, but we managed to search our houses for 12 bread baskets of varying sizes to build an attractive pile of leftovers for our play.

Finally in true Bob Hartman style, he told a story about people waiting in line to see Jesus. Within minutes he had a room of adults, largely upwards of 60 years old, hopping and jumping pretending to be the various people in the story, participating with all the gusto of enthusiastic 6 year olds!



We were then commissioned by Bishop Rachel to carry on our work with Open the Book. And so we continued taking Bible stories to the next generation with renewed enthusiasm and joy. Now we pray for everyone's safety during this period of Covid19 and pray that it won't be too long before we can begin our Bible storytelling once more.

Jane Rogers and Liz Keenan



In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the Vicar, "Who are these people?" The Vicar said, "Those are members from our church who died in service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"

Make you smile!

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? Answer: He was Ruthless.

Little Johnny's new baby brother was screaming up a storm. Johnny asked his Mum, "Where'd he come from?"
"He came from heaven, Johnny."
Johnny responded: "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!"

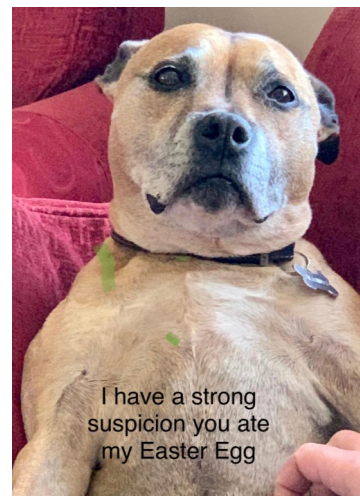
A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.
"What Denomination?" Asked the clerk.
"Oh, my goodness! Have we come to this?" said the woman.
"Well give me 50 Church of England and 50 Catholic!"

Where was Solomon's temple located? – On the side of his head. -Duh!



Open the Book team performing at STJ family service January 2020

Your Photo's !



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