

Around the Spire

St James' & St. Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway

April issue No. 56



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS IN FEBRUARY

HOLY BAPTISM

16th LUCY ELIZABETH HUGHES

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S FAMILY

FUNERALS

10th MILLICENT HUGHES (94)

12th VINCE DEMARIO (78)

19th ALBERT MORRIS (90)

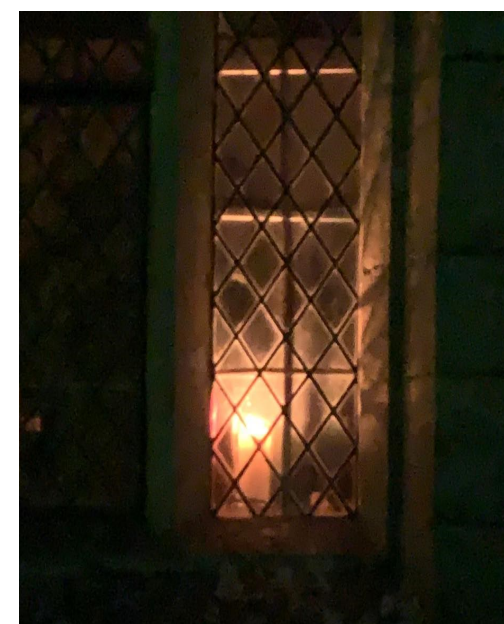
21st PETER JONES (75)

26th EMILY WHITE (92)

28th PAUL BODDY (83)

REST ETERNAL GRANT TO THEM, O LORD

Mothering Sunday



On Mothering Sunday March 22nd. Christians throughout the country came together by lighting a candle in the windows of their homes. This was to remember all those who are sick or anxious as well as our NHS and other health workers who are doing a fantastic job at this particular time. It was an act of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. The photo on the left is of the solitary candle lit in the Lady Chapel at Saint James'

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



IT'S A MAD, MAD, WORLD!

Some one said to me recently – 'What is the world coming to!' What indeed!

Such is the situation we are all faced with through the Corona virus, that by the time you read this article everything may well have changed drastically.

As I write this on a Sunday evening in the middle of March I have just received an e-mail from the Anglican Church in southern Spain where I served as a priest before settling back in this country. The situation there is severe – all schools and colleges have closed, so have almost all shops and social activities. No church services are allowed or activities which bring people together. My successor there, Father Vincent can only communicate with the church members by e-mail as no travel is permitted – as he says, he has not idea what will happen if someone dies!

Now you may quite rightly claim that our country is not in the, same situation as Spain or Italy today – but what of tomorrow?

Or what will it be like by the time you read this in a couple of weeks' time? So clearly we do need to be as prepared as we can, both as a nation but also as a local community for all eventualities. To take one example the suggestion that all those aged 70 or over should be confined to their homes, as they are the most at risk to this virus. As one who comes in this category, I view this prospect with dread because it will mean a complete change of lifestyle!

Although we quite rightly see this all as a very grave matter, not to be taken lightly in any way, we do need to recall that this is by no means the first time that our nation and indeed our world, has been faced with a situation of great peril and danger.

Many of my generation can remember a bit of what it was like in World War 2! For example, I remember at the age of about 6 when at school in Cheltenham we all had to troop into the air-raid shelter in the playground in case there was a daytime raid .

The impact of Nazi-ism had on the whole of the free world was horrific to say the least! Yet, somehow, and as Christians believe, by God's grace, freedom was restored, and we once again live, at least in our part of the world, the freedom which we should never take for granted!

As we prepare for the joy of Eastertide and the Risen Christ once more, let us not forget the time of what the church calls Passiontide which leads up to it. In this way perhaps we who are Christians, and indeed those of other faiths, may never forget the sacrifices of those in the past.

Perhaps then, we can see this present time of great challenge in a rather different light!

God Bless you all, and may you keep safe!

Father Hugh.

POSTSCRIPT

Reading my Editorial you will be aware that, as forecast, events have moved on substantially. I quoted what is happening in Spain and Italy, now apply largely here in our own country. Closure of schools, pubs, restaurants and so on. As the number of confirmed cases, and therefore deaths rise, the feelings of many people are to put it mildly those of dread and concern for loved ones.

So to us in the Church, the necessary cessation of worship, activities and other matters of church life invoke feelings of unreality and uncertainty. On Mothering Sunday I felt desolate! As I recall, except when on holiday or unwell, I don't think I have gone a Sunday without being in church for the last 53 years as a priest!

SO WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Well, we just don't know do we. We are all in unknown territory, and how things will pan out in the next weeks and indeed months is just not possible to predict. I do feel a great deal of sympathy for those in positions of authority in our nation as they seek to do the right thing.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Let's be positive! Yes, it is all too easy to say we are powerless to do anything. But in our hearts, as Christians we know that the power of prayer can and will see us through.

FATHER HUGH

X

S - M - I - L - E !!!



We are all confused, worried, lost - just three words which can describe how we feel at the present time!

To make it worse we are told we must not touch other people, give them a hug or a kiss or any thing else

which will bring us in direct contact. I have always been one of those who believe that the Ministry of TOUCH is of great importance in our dealings with one another.

So what now?

The natural impulse is to forget the warnings and just to act as we have always done. But clearly just now that is not the right attitude!

But we can do this -

SMILE ! Yes go on - give it a go - you will find it does make you feel better, and does wonders to build up relationships!

Some one once said this:

"Every time you smile, a brick is added to your home in Heaven!"

Smile though your heart is aching
 Smile even though its breaking
 When there are clouds in the sky
 You'll get by - if you smile
 Though your fears and sorrows
 Smile and maybe tomorrow
 You'll see the sun come up
 Smile then for ages, just smile!



(Nat King Cole)

On the record - with the Rector

Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

My hope and my prayer is that by the time you read this letter I will be back in harness as Rector of the parish of Quedgeley and Kingsway after a period of ill health from which I was signed off work by my doctor.

Depression, as many of you will know is a very disabling condition, if you break your leg you can show it by the plaster that will encase the leg not so with depression. Depression is something wholly experienced and felt by the person concerned. Understandably many of those around you because they cannot see the illness or have never experienced it find it difficult to understand and equate towards.

During my weeks of recovery I have been able to rest and reflect and to prepare myself for the future challenges ahead in my ministry.

I sincerely thank the bishops and humanities department at church house for their love and support along with my clergy colleagues, churchwardens and parishioners who have held me in their love and prayers during this difficult time.

The other person I thank is Almighty God who has remained close to me in what sometimes felt like isolation and reminded me that His love for me was constant and unending and who has brought me safely back to good health.

In this Coronavirus-19 situation and outbreak, isolation is going to become an experience we will all encounter one way or the other, but it is seen as a positive way of defeating and removing the virus from our lives and the life of our community and country as well as the whole world.

Isolation may make us miserable and agitated but it will be easier to bare if we have the company of family and friends. So we need to consider what we can do for those who are alone.

The church has suspended all church services and the social activity that takes place within them for the foreseeable future (*No Church on Sunday's or Mid-week*) but let us look where we may be able to help – shopping for the housebound or perhaps a daily short phone call to someone who is alone in this situation, to quote a famous super market “Every little Helps”.

STJ's David & Goliath



There are restrictions on house visits and these apply to us all, but there are solutions and we will look where this can be helpful as well as practical within the guidelines given by the government and the Church of England.

At a Spiritual or Religious level I would like you all to know and especially those of you who are alone that you can always welcome to give me a telephone call for a prayer or just a chat on **01452-720411** at any time.

If we trust and are faithful the God who stayed close to me during my illness, will remain close to us all during this trying time of the virus. If we call on him he will not leave us on our own or isolated. The virus will be defeated.

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter the joy of your master’” (Matthew Chapter 25: Verse 23)

With every blessing

Fr John

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



Times & Seasons: Eastertide
By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



The climax of Our Lord's earthly ministry:

“Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render.” (*John of Damascus*)

Easter – the day of Resurrection, when Jesus was raised to new life, victorious over sin and death; surely one of the greatest mysteries of all, and for Christians the most important, for it is our belief and trust in the power of resurrection that marks us out as different from all other faith communities.

Last month I wrote how Holy Week ended with the sealing of the tomb and the grieving of the disciples, which we now mark on Holy Saturday (also called Easter Eve) - a day of emptiness but also of expectation as we recall the promise of Jesus: “*I will not leave you bereft, I will come back to you*”. So our Easter celebrations begin with the kindling of the new fire and the lighting of the Paschal candle – the light of Christ – which is brought into the darkened church. Just as the Israelites passed through the Red Sea on their journey to the Promised Land, so we pass from darkness to light as we sing “Exsultet”, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, and which links our redemption to the Passover of the Israelites, and we hear the gospel-record of the first Easter morning.

In the earliest days of the Church's life, it was customary for new Christians to be baptised on Easter day, for Baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ. Our Easter worship therefore includes the renewal of our Baptismal vows and the affirmation of the faith we profess, strengthening our commitment and reminding us that we belong to the whole Church, the Body of Christ on earth. After sharing Christ's gift of Peace with each other, we continue with the Easter Eucharist, noting that the “Alleluia” which was absent throughout Lent is now restored.

Of course, Easter is more than just one day – it is too important an occasion for that! The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

“Triumphant in his glory now,
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.” (*Fulbert of Chartres*)

Early Christians gave the name “Pentecost” to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian (Early Christian Teacher, 160 – 220AD, born in Carthage, Tunisia) calls ‘this most joyful period’ (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called ‘Great Sunday’. Here at St James we follow the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter; you will see that the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services, reminding us of what St John affirms in his gospel: “*The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*”. (After Eastertide, the candle is lit for Baptisms and Funerals – the light shines as a symbol of new life for all.)

In happier days...



The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of St Paul's texts known as the Easter Anthems (to be found in the Book of Common Prayer), and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season. During Eastertide, the reciting of the Angelus and of the Rosary conclude with the prayer: "O Queen of heaven, rejoice! For he whom you did merit to bear has risen as he said. Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad, O virgin Mary, for the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia!"

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been observed the particular celebration of Christ's Ascension. (There used to be a tradition of extinguishing the Paschal candle after the gospel-reading on Ascension Day; the smoke drifting upwards to heaven marked the passing of the Lord from earth to heaven). On this day Jesus commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The Ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

Fr. Ian

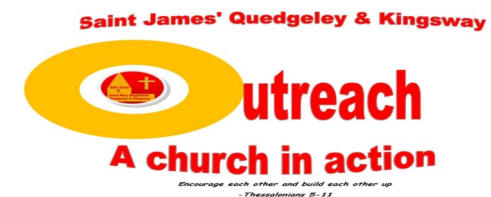
James 1 verse 2

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials".

Let's try to stay positive during this difficult time.

Think on these words from David C. Egner.

**Thank the Lord when trouble comes, His love and grace expressing;
Grateful praise releases faith, turns trials into blessing.**



It was with a heavy heart that we closed Chatterbox and Chit Chat 'for the foreseeable future'. Certainly a year ago I never contemplated a closure of this nature.

At the time, some people applauded my actions, some said that I was making a song and dance about nothing. However, looking at recent data being supplied by the Department of Health we have only to see that the virus has become more virulent over the last few weeks and spreading faster.

The Government advice certainly for elderly people over 70 is that they should avoid public gatherings and if possible isolate themselves. High risk groups are now expected to isolate themselves for 12 weeks. With this in mind we at Chit Chat organised an Action Group to assist those who were self isolating. However, this has now been superseded by a Community Hub initiative instigated by the County Council, I would recommend that you sign yourself up for this help and support if you are self isolating, or in one of the high risk groups. They have a greater capacity to deliver more swiftly than our small team and have back up if some of their volunteers go sick. Of course we are here at hand in cases of desperation!

None of us know how long this 'plague' will last. Father Hugh mentions in his editorial, that his generation went through a war. This enemy is totally invisible and we never know who it is going to strike down next. Our only protection seems to be regular handwashing and ensure we use tissues discarding them appropriately. Catch it, bin it, kill it!

I like you await more information each day and hope and pray that the end is in sight soon.

Keep safe folks!

Jackie Hall

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NHS

CATCH IT.

BIN IT.

KILL IT.

The Faith We Sing
By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



One of the things we may miss most of all during this time when public worship is suspended is the opportunity to sing hymns together. Hymns are an important part of our worship. They help to inform and affirm our faith and when words are set to music then we can lift our hearts and our voices in praise and thanksgiving to God. No wonder that the great fifth century theologian Augustine once famously said 'He who sings prays twice.' One of my favourite hymns which we would have been singing as Passiontide approaches begins like this:

*My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die.*

The hymn was written by Samuel Crossman in 1664 and featured in a collection of poems. Crossman was a priest, serving for many years as a Canon of Bristol Cathedral and eventually as Dean. For almost two hundred years his profoundly rich verses went unrecognised until 1868, when they appeared in *The Anglican Hymnbook*. Even so, the hymn was hardly heard or sung until the 1920s when it received a striking new tune called 'LOVE UNKNOWN' by the composer John Ireland (d.1962).

The story goes that Ireland wrote the tune on a scrap of paper in just fifteen minutes! The marriage of words and tune is magical, and it would be a bold person who tried to separate them now. We remain grateful to Crossman and Ireland for giving us a memorable hymn in which the story of our salvation is movingly told and the knowledge of God's amazing love and the friendship of Jesus wonderfully celebrated. As we prepare to observe Holy Week and Easter the final verse is an apt personal devotion:

*Here might I stay and sing:
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.*

Fr Michael

To keep youngsters busy! by Revd. Jenny d'Esterre



Jamie's Kitchen

First recipes for children to try - Sunny Scrambled Eggs

You will need:

- 2 medium eggs
- 15g butter
- A little milk – approximately 2 tablespoons
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large slices wholemeal bread
- Butter for spreading



How to make it:

Crack the eggs by tapping the shells on the rim of a bowl. Then split the eggs open. Whisk the eggs together using a whisk or fork with a small pinch of pepper. Put the 2 slices of bread to toast in the toaster.

You will now need the supervision and help of a grown-up.

Melt the butter over a medium heat.

Pour in the eggs and milk and keep stirring.

Approximately 2 minutes later, when the egg mixture has thickened and looks set, spoon it on to a plate.

You could serve it with some buttery 'rays' of toast fingers around your egg to make it that bit extra special.

After you've eaten your lovely breakfast you can use the shells to make –

EGG HEADS



1. Wash out the eggshells and sit them in the egg box to keep them steady (on a cotton wool cushion to raise them up a bit if you need to).
2. Draw on some crazy faces, self-portraits or funny faces.
3. Put some cotton wool inside the shells and dampen them with some water.
4. Sprinkle cress seeds all over the cotton wool – good coverage will give you a full head of hair.
5. Pop them on a windowsill and wait for the hair to sprout. It'll only take a couple of days.
6. Add a little drop of water if the cotton wool dries out, but not too much.

When your cress heads have grown, try to add some of your cress to egg sandwiches for lunch or a teatime treat.

Delicious!



In the Easter Garden

In the Easter garden
the leaves are turning green;
in the Easter garden
the risen Lord is seen.

In the Easter garden
we know that God above
brings us all to heaven
through Jesus and his love.

Perhaps you could ask a grown up to help you make your own version of an Easter Garden.

Saint James' Church
Summer Fair
Saturday 13th June
1.30pm - 4.00pm
Saint James' Church
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN
In Quedgeley Community Centre if raining
Stalls Refreshments Music
Raffle

Saint James' Church
Summer Raffle
Tickets £1.00 each
1st Prize £100 CASH
Tickets available from April onwards!



To make you smile...

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

Who's Who in the Parish

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Easter Day at Saint James' from previous years...

