

Around the Spire

Saint James' & Saint Mary Magdalene

Quedgeley & Kingsway



April 2021
Issue 68

Church Notice Board

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

Sunday 11TH April (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.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

See Page 13 for more details!

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



“PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE”

Could the Prime Minister's 'ROAD MAP' really be the light at the end of a long tunnel?

After a long year of constant messages, warnings, restrictions, serious consequences in the lives of so many people, could it really be a sign of hope for better things to come?

On the day that I write this in mid March it is a lovely Spring day with warm sunshine, blossoms in the hedgerows, and singing of the birds.

Could this really be the time of a return to normality that we all long for?

In the life of the Church we, like everyone else been feeling the effects of this time of restrictions, specially singing hymns, lively worship that we at St James Church are used to, the chance to gather socially in so many ways, and of course all else that goes with being a church family.

Oh – how I for one miss all that we are used to in active worship ! I did not realise, for example how much I would miss singing hymns!

There is so else as well of course including Chatterbox and Chit-Chat, visits to and from our schools – the list really is long.

And – although we are so pleased that some one third of our church congregation have stayed with us through this period in our offering of worship each week, we do miss those who feel uneasy about coming to church in this present period of uncertainty. If you who are reading this now, please be assured that you are really missed!

Could it just be possible that as we worship Easter Day – known as the Queen of Festivals, it us the time and place for us once more be together in worship? By the time you read this, you will know what the answer is!

Whenever it is, however, let us all realise that -
PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE!

Love and prayers to one and all!

FR HUGH

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals and Cremations

PHILIP PARKER (103)

PAT LAWBACK

JOHN JAMES (71)

ANN SHEPPARD (76)

*"Rest Eternal grant to them O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them"*

"ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY"

What does this mean??

Look for the answer very soon!!



How lovely it was to receive a welcome email from Fr. Hugh, March 8th was a very special day for us as we were delighted to have all our children here in our amazing new school building for the first time. The space both indoors and outside has really helped with all the social distancing and keeping to our designated bubbles as required. The children have kept working diligently throughout and particularly enjoyed World Book Day and a very investigative Science Week. There are pictures on our website and Facebook page. We are very much looking forward to the time when we will be able to visit St. James Church. In the meantime, we hope everyone in the community keeps happy and healthy. With best wishes from all at Clearwater Primary Academy

Kate Moss

Head Teacher



Wanted!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our new church Treasurer is now unable to take up the post - so we must once again ask for a volunteer to take on this important task. Please do think and pray carefully about this; we need someone with basic computer skills - but you do NOT have to be an accountant, just comfortable with figures, and help will be available for whoever comes forward.

This is an urgent request.

Please don't be shy in getting in touch - and do feel free to talk to either of us before committing yourself.

Contact: Paul Price 07595264559

or Ian Pearce 07867502469

We are anxious to hear from you!



Thank You Revd. Jenny



A physical distanced congregation gathered on Sunday February 21st to say 'Farewell' and wish Revd. Jenny d'Esterre all the very best for the future.

Revd. Jenny is moving from the area to live in the Forest of Dean. Jenny joined Saint James' several years ago and became a very dear and cherished member of our church family. She took a keen interest in Education and as a former Head Teacher she had a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

In her role as Foundation Governor and Vice Chair of Field Court Infant Academy she helped to develop and strengthen links between the school and the church.

Revd. Jenny was also a great hit with the youngsters and parents at Chatterbox and would make time to visit Chit Chat (our group for the 'young at heart') every Thursday morning. We send Revd. Jenny and her family our love and prayers and hope she'll pop in to see us at some point in the future.

Saints of the Month—April

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



9th: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor Dietrich was born in 1906 and after ordination in the Lutheran Church he became a lecturer in theology – in Spain, in the USA, and then in 1931 in Berlin. He was opposed to the philosophy of Nazism and became a leader of the Confessing Church, a movement which broke away in 1934 from the Nazi-dominated Lutherans. He was banned from teaching and harassed by Hitler's regime but bravely returned in 1939 from the USA, where he had been on a lecture tour, to Germany. His defiant opposition to the Nazis led to his arrest in 1943 and he was eventually murdered by the Nazi police in Flossenburg concentration camp on this day in 1945. His experiences had a major effect on his writings, which in turn influenced post-war theologians.



16th: Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess Born in 1842, Isabella was the sister of William Morris. She trained as a nurse at Guy's Hospital in London and in 1886 was asked by Bishop Thorold of Rochester to pioneer deaconess work in his diocese, and together they planned for an Order of Deaconesses along the lines of the ordained ministry. She oversaw the setting-up of a training-house on Clapham Common, later to be called Gilmore House in her memory. During her years of service she trained the head deaconesses for at least seven other dioceses. At her memorial service she was praised for being the “origin and root of the revival of the Deaconess Order in England”. She died on this day in 1923.

19th: Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury Alphege was a monk at Deerhurst near Gloucester before moving to Somerset where he planned to live as a hermit. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, called him back to be Abbot of Bath, and, in 984, to be Bishop of Winchester. In 1005 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury, where his austere life and lavish almsgiving made him a revered and much-loved man. In the year 1011 the Danes overran south-east England and took Alphege prisoner. They put an enormous ransom of £3,000 on his head, but Alphege refused to pay it and forbade anyone else from doing so, knowing that it would impoverish the church members even more. He was brutally murdered by his captors at Greenwich on this day in 1012.



23rd: George, Patron Saint of England George is said to have been a soldier living in Palestine at the beginning of the 4th century. He was martyred at Lydda in about 304, at the beginning of a period of persecution of the Church ordered by the Emperor Diocletian; he became known as “The Great Martyr”. There were churches in England dedicated to St George before the Norman conquest. The story of his slaying the dragon is probably due to his being mistaken in iconography for St Michael, himself usually depicted wearing armour, or it may also be a mistaken identity representing Perseus' slaying of the sea-monster – a myth also associated with the area of Lydda. George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron of England after the Crusades, when returning soldiers brought back with them a renewed veneration of St George. Edward III made St George patron of the Order of the Garter, which seems to have confirmed his position.



25th: Mark the Evangelist John Mark was a Jew and cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, eventually returning to Cyprus with Barnabas. His family home may have been the venue for the Last Supper. He later travelled to Rome where he met up with Paul, and together they shared imprisonment. During incarceration he composed what is in fact the earliest written Gospel, based largely on the remembrances of Peter as well as on his own memory. (Bishop Papias in the 2nd century testifies: “Mark was the interpreter of Peter, faithfully recording that which Peter remembered...”.) His work has a sharpness and immediacy about it, as though written because time was short, necessitating the preservation of the apostles' record. Matthew and Luke were later to rely heavily on Mark's account when they compiled their own works.

27th: Christina Rossetti, Poet Born in 1830, and associated with the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, of which he brother, Dante, was a prominent member. Christina's fame rests on her poetry, which dealt mainly with religious subjects but also with the sadness of disappointed love. She was the author of the carol “In the bleak mid-winter”; you may also have heard or read her poem “Remember me”.

29th: Catherine of Sienna Catherine Benincasa was born in 1347, the second youngest of twenty-five children. Overcoming family opposition, she became a member of the Dominican Order of Sisters at the age of eighteen. Nourished by a life of prayer and mystical experience, she devoted herself to active care for the poor and sick. She was increasingly sought out as an advisor on political as well as religious matters and in 1376 she became an ambassador to the pope (who was then based in Avignon) and she played a major role in influencing his return to Rome. Her major written work was “A Dialogue” on the spiritual life, along with a collection of her letters of counsel and direction. She suffered a stroke which led to her death on this day in 1380.

The Faith We Sing
By Revd. Canon Michael
Garland—An Easter Carol



This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified
hath sprung to life this morrow:
*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen.*

Whenever we talk about carols, we tend to think of them being exclusively associated with Christmas. Is this true? you might ask. The writer of the preface to the first edition of *The Oxford Book of Carols*, published in 1928, was keen to remind us otherwise. Carols were sung at Candlemas, in the Springtime and at Harvest, on the feast of Corpus Christi, and especially at Easter. What you see above is the first verse of a very well-known carol for Easter written by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934). Woodward delighted in carols and many of our Christmas favourites were written by him, including, *Ding dong! Merrily on high, Unto us is born a Son* and *Past three o'clock*. He collaborated with the Church musician Charles Wood (1866-1926) who provided his friend with many fine harmonisations including the tune which accompanies this carol. To us today, some of Woodward's language may seem a little dated, but he captures the Easter scene quite beautifully with talk of Jesus 'springing to life' on Easter Day, putting an end to sin and sorrow. In the chorus, Woodward reminds us of St Paul's fine writing on the truth of the resurrection from 1 Corinthians 15 v16: *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins.*

The carol continues with its positive theme of resurrection and the prospect of new life in Christ. This is how Woodward describes the hope that lies beyond death:

*My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number:*

Here is a reminder of another of St Paul's key verses: *For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.* (1 Corinthians 15 v52).

In the third verse, Woodward suggests that our deliverance from death may be likened to crossing a river – the passing over from one side to another. Many other writers have worked this allusion into their writing, notably William Williams in his great hymn *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*:

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.*

The spiritual *Michael, row the boat ashore* explores the same theme. Woodward, in his Easter Carol wrote this:

*Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.*

This joyful carol fits the Easter season beautifully and the tune is a superb match for the words especially as it accompanies the words of the chorus – *but now hath Christ arisen*. The word ‘arisen’

is repeated four times with the melody rising in each musical phrase to reach a soaring climax. We think that the tune dates from 1624 where it appears in a Dutch songbook. It is known by the name ‘Vreuchten’, meaning ‘fruits’. There we make another connection with the Easter story through the words of St Paul: *But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.* (1 Corinthians 15 v20)

If you have access to the Internet, you can listen to a recording of this carol by following this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tipsbcfuB4>

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Readers may recall that nearly two years ago we published details of a Holy Land Pilgrimage. This was due **to have taken place in October 2020 but, unsurprisingly, it** had to be cancelled. A new date for the Pilgrimage has been set for 12th – 21st September 2022. Please let me know if you are interested and would like further details. Printed information will be available after Easter.



Fr Michael

Around the area



Nice to see Spring has arrived!

Anyone remember this day out?



Answers last months photos

Photos from last month—the two country side walks taken in Elmore. River bank at Elmore Back. The other down Weir Green Elmore. The statues taken in Kingsway.

The church office is now closed

If you would like to arrange a baptism or wedding please contact a member from the team of clergy. Contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

The Church is open every day for private prayer from 9.30am –4pm to light a candle or to place requests for prayers on the prayer board

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