

Around the Spire

Saint James
&
Saint Mary Magdalene



July 2021
Issue 71



Church Notice Board

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

Sunday 18th July (at latest)

Sunday

Worship

Every Sunday

10.30am

A Prayer for mindfulness and patience during the continuing presence of Covid19

Risen Lord, we thank you for all the members of our National Health Service - the admin staff as well as the doctors, nurses, ambulance crews, first responders, and the staff in our care homes; strengthen those who give their skill and care to return us to health and well-being. Guide and prosper the work of all who are involved in medical research and development, and all who involved in the vaccination programme. Give us patience and the strength to endure; teach us never to take our health and freedom for granted, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. Through him who is always the resurrection and the life Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN .

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS!

Many copies of 'AROUND THE SPIRE' are delivered to people in their homes who have expressed interest in what goes on in the life of the Parish Church of St James here in Quedgeley.

Seven of us do these deliveries each month and in this way keep in touch with such people in our area, most of whom are not regular attenders of our church. (Most of those who do come to our church collect their copies when they visit the church for services or to pray).

In my case I deliver about 30 copies to local people who do not come to church regularly.

We do these deliveries willingly and enthusiastically because we want to keep in touch with such people. Quite often we see these people and have opportunity for a quick chat. When this does happen I do invite them to come along to one of our services where they can be assured of a warm welcome! In normal times we enjoy being as part of our services some lovely hymn singing, music and much more. When we are able to - hopefully later this month we also end with refreshments and the chance to have a chat and get to know one another.

So - you who are out there, do respond to this article in any way you would like to because

WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOU! AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do let us know who and where you are, because you live in this parish of St James!

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

If you have things about the life of the parish and its Church, do please ask - we would love to hear from you.

You can be sure that if you have such questions, someone else would have the same or similar ones!

IDEAS IDEAS IDEAS

Do please let us know of any subjects you would like to see in this magazine!

We believe we have a magazine which is of the best in appearance and content.

Can you give us some ideas with which we can make it even better?

SO - HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Fr. Hugh

Saints of the Month—JULY

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



3rd: Thomas the Apostle All the gospels name Thomas as one of the twelve, but it is in John's gospel that his significance is revealed. He is heard encouraging the others to go to Judea with Jesus; then his puzzlement draws the answer from Jesus that he himself is the Way. Most famously he is the Apostle notably unconvinced by reports of the resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to show him the marks in his hands, feet, and side. Thomas then proclaims the words that have been described as the great climax to John's gospel by saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!".

6th : Thomas More and John Fisher, Reformation Martyrs

Thomas More was born in 1478, studied classics and law, and became a barrister. His honesty and integrity impressed Henry VIII, who appointed him his chancellor. He supported the king in his efforts to reform the clergy but disagreed with Henry's disputes with the papacy and his attempts to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He refused to take the Oath on the Act of Succession, which declared the king to be the supreme head of the Church in England and was executed for treason, declaring "I die the king's good servant but God's first."

John Fisher was a close friend and ally of More's. Following an academic career at Cambridge, he became bishop of Rochester and proved to be a worthy pastor of a small diocese. He also opposed the king's stance against the pope, and despite indifferent health he was imprisoned in the tower and was executed two weeks before Thomas in July 1535.

14th: John Keble, priest, Tractarian, poet Born in 1792, John was the son of the vicar of Fairford. He was an outstanding scholar at Oxford, becoming professor of poetry in 1831 – his collection “The Christian Year” is still in print. Following ordination he spent some time as his father's curate before becoming a parish priest near Winchester, where he remained until his death in 1866. He was a leader of the Tractarian movement, which protested at the threats to the Church from liberal developments in politics and theology. A sermon preached by John in Oxford in 1833 is considered to be the beginning of the “Oxford Movement” which sought to maintain the traditions of daily prayer in church, a regular celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays, and which spoke out against the practice of clergy not residing in their parishes. John was a well-known writer and spiritual counsellor, and is of course a saint of Gloucestershire!

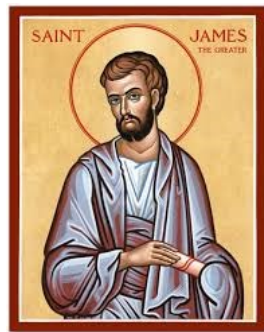
18th: Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England

Elizabeth approached Bishop Tait of London and expressed a wish to be more involved in “Ministering to the necessities of the Church”. He encouraged her to visit deaconess institutions in Germany, and on her return in 1861 she and a group of women committed themselves to work as servants of the Church. In 1862 Bishop Tait conferred on her the first deaconess licence in England and she was placed in charge of a small religious community of deaconesses, working first of all in a poor parish in the King's Cross area of London and then moving to Notting Hill in 1873.

22nd: Mary Magdalene All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among the followers of Jesus. She was a Galilean, healed by Jesus – St Luke dramatically tells us she was freed from the grip of seven demons - before accompanying him during his ministry.

Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was privileged with the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples.

25th: James the Apostle James was a Galilean fisherman who, with his brother John, was one of the first disciples to be called to follow Jesus. The two brothers were witnesses to the Transfiguration, and were close to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of his arrest. They are named as being present for the appearances of Christ after the resurrection. James was executed on the orders of Herod Agrippa, who hoped in vain that by removing the leaders of the Christian community he could stem the flow of those following the New Way. James' martyrdom is believed to have taken place in 44AD. James (also called "The Great") is patron saint of the parish of Quedgeley.



26th: Anne & Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A document entitled "The Gospel of James", written in the 2nd century AD, names the parents of Mary (and therefore the grandparents of Jesus) as Anne and Joachim. The Church maintains their feast day to



emphasise God's plan from the beginning to send his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem fallen humanity; and also to show God's faithfulness in keeping his covenant with all generations.



Thank You

to everyone who helped or supported us. Everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon and we made over £1,000!

★ Well done to Tricia who made well over £400 on plant sales!



Two very happy winners of knitted scarecrows, Jon and Pip Preece. They were over the moon and so admiring of the time and skill taken.



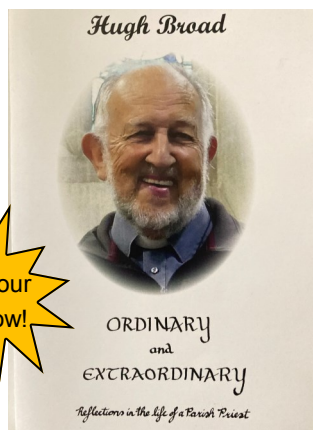
ORDINARY AND EXTRAORINARY

Last month we announced the launch of this Memento of a Parish Priest!

This has met with an enthusiastic response and in a couple of weeks close on 100 copies have been sold responding in a profit for church funds of almost £80!

The book remains available for anyone interested.

Just £5 a copy - please let us know



The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation:
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn:
that sings a new creation.

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging;
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?*

Over the last few weeks, the words of this hymn have frequently come to mind – especially the last line of the chorus: How can I keep from singing?

Frustration and anger has been building for some time because our government and their advisers are preventing us from doing something that is second nature to all church families as well as to those who belong to community choirs and choral societies all over the country – the joy of singing. It is, quite simply, being kept from us. There is better news on the horizon as we hear that the Bishop of London and others are strongly lobbying the government to change their minds on this issue. The loss of singing in our weekly worship has been one of the hardest things to bear during the pandemic. At least we have been able to manage some outdoor singing in recent weeks!

As well as being good for us (singing is known to be beneficial for our mental and physical health), singing is a means of engaging us in the praises of God. If you read through the psalms, you will find many references to the importance of lifting our voices in praise. The opening verse of Psalm 149 is a good example:

*O sing unto the Lord a new song, let the congregation of saints
praise him.*

Here is another, from the first verse of Psalm 100:

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands,
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence
with a song.*

The hymn, part of which I have quoted above, was written in the mid nineteenth century and was promoted by Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Lowry is best known for the Easter hymn *Low in the grave he lay* as well as for an old favourite, *I need thee every hour. My life flows on in endless song* is hugely popular in America. No one is sure who wrote the words, but the tune used is a traditional American melody. The hymn has seen something of a revival in this country in recent years – perhaps we shall be able to sing it soon in Church! I love the idea of our life flowing on as a song that never ends above the lamentation of the world. That is not to say that we can live our lives oblivious to needs around us, but that our trust in the love of God and the necessary actions that flow from that can be life-changing for others.

Another American hymn writer, Thomas Troeger, has been providing several eye-catching texts in recent years. In one of his hymns published just eight years ago in 2013, he too explores the joy of singing and all that it stirs in us. Here is the opening verse and chorus:

We need each other's voice to sing
the songs our hearts would raise,
To set the whole world echoing
with one great hymn of praise.
We blend our voices to complete
the melody that starts
with God who sets and keeps the beat
that stirs our loving hearts:

*We give our alleluias
To the Church's common chord:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, O Praise, O Praise the Lord!*

Fr. Michael

More Photos from our Mini Fayre



TARTA DE SANTIAGO

Almond Cake

25th July—Saint James' Day



Ingredients

- 250g blanched almonds (you can use ground almonds)
- 6 eggs, separated
- 250g caster sugar
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 4 drops almond extract
- Butter, to grease the cake tin
- Flour, to dust the cake tin
- Icing sugar, for dusting the cake

Preparation method

Grind the almonds finely in the food processor.

Beat the egg yolks with the sugar to a pale cream with an electric mixer, then beat in the orange and lemon zests and almond extract. Add the ground almonds and mix very well.

With the cleaned mixer, whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold them into the egg and almond mixture - the mixture is so thick that you need to turn it over quite a bit into the egg whites.

Grease a spring-form cake tin around 28cm in diameter (preferably non-stick) with butter and dust it with flour, then pour in the cake mixture.

Put the cake into an oven preheated to 180 degrees C/gas mark 4 for 40 minutes until it feels firm. Let it cool before turning out. Dust the top with icing sugar. If you like, cut the shape of a Santiago cross out of paper and place it into the middle of the cake before dusting with icing sugar. Then remove the paper shape.

**Thank
You!**

You may remember that last month we launched an appeal for ten people to pledge £5 a month to keep our magazine afloat and presented in the way which our readers are familiar with.

We are delighted to announce that almost immediately we had the response which was needed!

In fact it was more than we asked for, so the balance will be held in reserve should it be needed in the future.

SO WELL DONE EVERYONE - THIS IS MOST ENCOURAGING!

Fr Hugh

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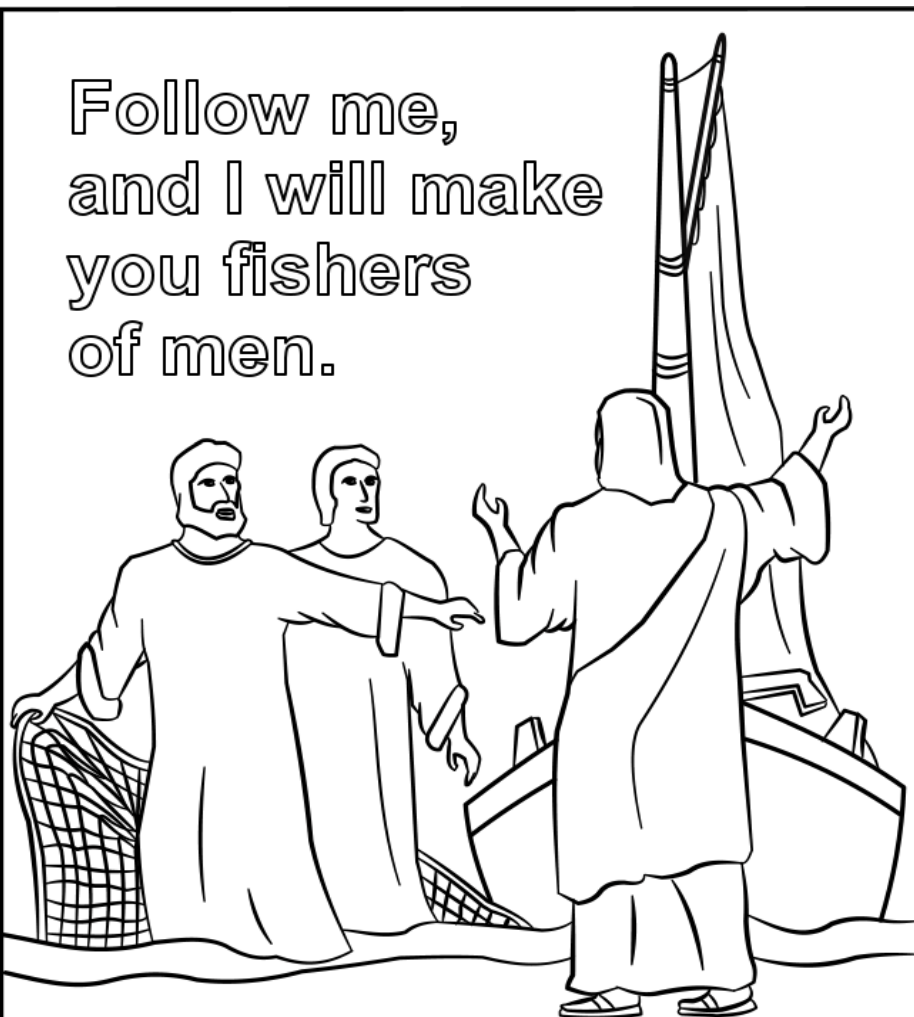
BPIf member  



For our younger readers

Colour in the picture below. God wants us to love others and introduce them to Jesus. Jesus wants us to share the gospel by sharing Jesus' love.

Follow me,
and I will make
you fishers
of men.



Matthew 4:19

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Assistant Priests	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	iobb925@gmail.com
Revd. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Revd. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872		michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Revd. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
CHURCHWARDENS			
Mr. Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
Mr Paul Price	01452 537464	07595264559	thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk
PCC Secretary -			
Mrs Lu Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
PCC Treasurer -			
VACANT			
Outreach Grps			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jacqueline.lhall@btinternet.com
Knit & Natter			
Mrs Angie Wright		078447462416	anglewright@btinternet.com
Organist—Chris Baldwin	01452 534105	07811589867	bonebaldwin@hotmail.co.uk
Baptism Ministry Team -			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Flower Arrangers			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Bell Ringers —Dave Franklin		07899907125	dfepc-qsjbells@yahoo.com
Open the book - Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers—Angela Hughes	01452 722825	07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk

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