

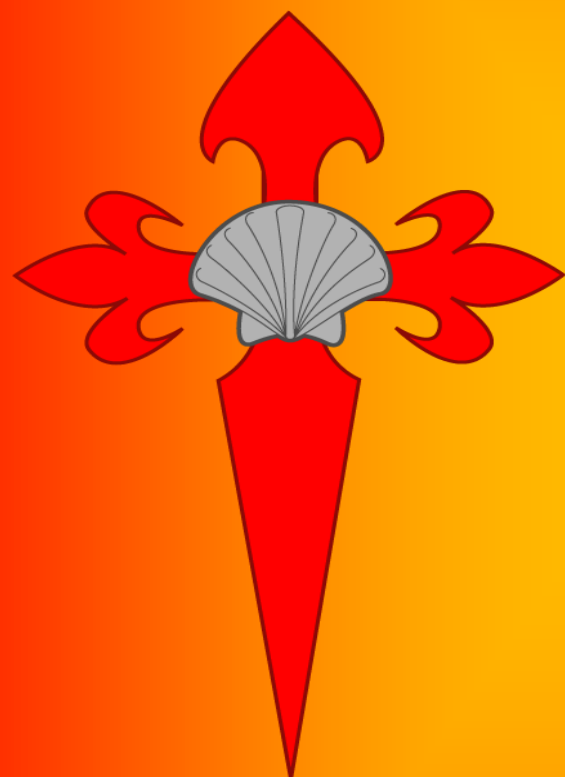
# Around the Spire

Saint James'

&

Saint Mary Magdalene

In this  
month's issue



**What do you do on lock down  
Sundays? page 9**

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**Out and about with the Canon  
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Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



## "LAST NIGHT I HAD A DREAM"

And what a dream it was! Here we were in the midst of the lovely Gloucestershire countryside on a sunny morning in June!

It was Sunday and we were looking for the nearest church – and there it was and being mid-morning we thought we were about right for service time.

So up the church drive we went, did notice that there were no other people around, and when we got to the church door – it was locked! Oh well – just our luck – perhaps this church was one of a group and this Sunday the service was in another one!

But it was a lovely morning so we set out to walk to the next village to see if there was a service in that church – but no!

This church was locked and deserted too! How strange – this is not the English country life that we remember!

Still, it's getting near lunchtime and a nice drink in the local pub and perhaps the sort of pub lunch we remember? But – and this we cannot believe – that is all shut up as well.

And the dream gets worse – we thought of a bus ride to the nearest town – but when the bus came along – just a few passengers – wearing masks! What is this? Some kind of hold-up!

## AND SO THE DREAM ENDS! I WAKE UP IN A SWEAT! WHAT WAS THIS ALL ABOUT!

Perhaps it was too much Vino Tinto with supper last night!

But as we know only too well it is not what dreams are made of, but harsh reality of the world in which we find ourselves!

I am writing this on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June – one year on from our 2019 Summer Fete – and if I had thought of writing anything like this then? Well it is beyond comprehension!

The tide of time passes fast, and what I write in mid-June will of course be outdated by the turn of events by the time you read this.

## SO WHAT MOVES ME TO WRITE THIS KIND OF MESSAGE?

I guess it is in fact to echo what Father John says in his article of this edition of the magazine – YES WE SHALL COME OUT OF IT ALL – DON'T KNOW WHEN, BUT WE SHALL – and with God's grace be all the stronger in our lives of discipleship as a result.

With love and prayers to you all!

FATHER HUGH.

JULY 2020



ISSUE NO. 59



## On the record - with the Rector

Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



### TO BE A PILGRIM 2

### ST COLUMBA OF IONA

I am writing this on June 9<sup>th</sup> – a significant day in the Church calendar particularly in Scotland and Ireland. It was on this day in 597 that Columba died.

#### SO WHO WAS COLUMBA?

An Irishman, son of the royalty of Donegal in Ireland. The name Columba means 'dove', and because of his life, dedicated to God, he became known as 'Dove of Peace'. He became a monk and travelled extensively in Ireland founding several monasteries before setting out with twelve companions in a coracle across the stormy Irish Sea, landing on a small insignificant island just three miles long and a mile and a half wide.



This was the year 563 some thirty years before Augustine came to Canterbury. Columba was reputed to be an austere and at times harsh monk, but such was his influence that, having established the Abbey Church in Iona, his influence spread far and wide across Northern Britain.

#### IONA AS IT IS TODAY.

What Columba started all those centuries ago became very quickly to be the hub of monasticism and Christian influence.



The Abbey Church, the remains of which remain today has, over the years become as Iona Abbey a target for Christian Pilgrims from far and wide. It is now, known as the Iona Community – an ecumenical group of Christians, attracted by the history of this holy place.

In the grounds of the Abbey stands 'Bishop's House'. This is owned by the Anglican Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. It is used now as a Guest House for pilgrim visitors throughout the spring and summer. It has its own lovely chapel and lovely base for pilgrims of today

It was in this context that I have been privileged to visit Iona several times to gain a flavour of the holiness of the island.

It has, as well as its Christian flavour, much to offer those who appreciate somewhere of natural beauty. It has lovely sandy beaches, rocky coves and at least one cave. It is abounding in sea life with birds of many kinds, and flower and fauna to be found in that northern outpost.

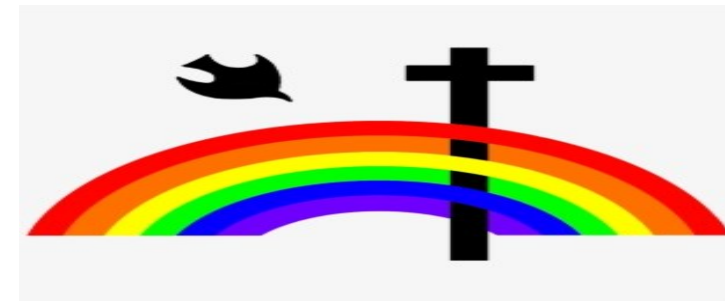
I feel that the holy man who started it all will look upon it with favour by those privileged to walk in his footsteps!

FATHER HUGH.

#### Dear Parishioners and Friends

During this very sad coronavirus pandemic and travelling around Quedgeley and Kingsway or on the television or indeed on my sad car journeys to Gloucester crematorium. I have been happily struck by the paintings, pictures and drawings of the rainbow which children and families have placed in the windows of their homes or places of school or work.

This symbol of the rainbow is far more appropriate these days than I suspect many people may realise. The first person to use the rainbow as a symbol of hope was God himself! - God spoke to Noah after sending the Flood to destroy a world that had become utterly corrupt and made his covenant promise to Noah and to all his descendants in other words, to the whole human race.



#### GOD'S PROMISE

*"never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

*(Genesis 21.21 & 22)*

The rainbow reminds us that God is faithful — He keeps his promises. Here we are in 2020, thousands of years later and the world is still standing. That really is miraculous, when you think of all the threats to life on earth that have been and still do exist! God has kept his promise. The human race won't be wiped out by a virus whether by Covid-19, nuclear war, climate change, or an asteroid. Why not? Because God has promised to preserve this created world and order, until the end of time.

The rainbow then is a wonderful symbol of God's grace! But it's not the best symbol of God's grace. This is found in the cross of Jesus Christ. On this first Good Friday, God pointed his bow at his beloved Son and shot every last one of his arrows of judgment into his heart, so that his bow of anger could be turned away from us.

One day the Lord Jesus Christ will return as he has promised to this world, but there will be no rainbow on that day.

This present virus situation could well be a time to prepare to face God, and the only way to do this is by trusting in Jesus Christ and becoming instruments as well as followers of God's grace through and in the same Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus always shows us the way and perhaps the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila, can help us to be more fully the disciples of Jesus Christ, following in our own lives the promise of the rainbow and of the cross.

Saint Teresa prayed

"Christ has no body now but yours.  
 No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
 Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.  
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
 Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.  
 Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,  
 you are his body.  
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

With prayers and the blessing of God's rainbow,

**Fr John**

Rector and Parish Priest

## Out and about with the Canon



Revd. Canon Fr. John shares some of the photos he's taken whilst out and about around Quedgeley & Kingsway



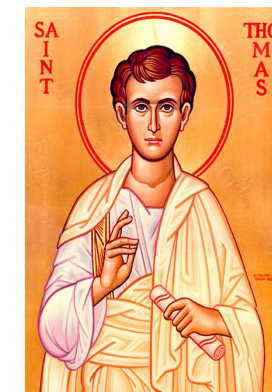
If you have taken any photos you'd like to share with us please send via email to Fr. Hugh Broad [hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk)

## Saints of the Month—July By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



### 3<sup>rd</sup>: St Thomas the Apostle

All the gospels list Thomas among the "number of the Twelve", but it is in John's gospel that his significance is revealed. Firstly, he is heard encouraging the others to go to Judea with Jesus; then, puzzled, he urges Jesus to explain more fully his statement that he is the Way. Most famously, he is unconvinced by reports of the resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to single him out with the invitation to witness his wounded hands, feet, and side. Thomas utters the words which have been described as the great climax to John's gospel: "My Lord and my God!" Thomas went on to be one of the founding fathers of the Church in India.



### 6<sup>th</sup>: Thomas More & John Fisher, Reformation Martyrs

Thomas More studied classics and law; he was called to the Bar aged twenty three. His honesty and integrity so impressed Henry VIII that he appointed Thomas as his Chancellor. He supported the king in his efforts to reform the clergy but disagreed over Henry's disputes with the papacy, especially in the matter of annulling his marriage to Queen Catherine. Thomas refused to take the Oath on the Act of Succession, which declared the king to be the protector and head of the Church in England and was executed for treason on this day in 1535, declaring "I die the king's good servant, but God's first."



John Fisher was a close friend and ally of Thomas. After a distinguished career at Cambridge, he became Bishop of Rochester and proved a worthy pastor to his small diocese. He also opposed the king, refusing to take the Oath on the Act of Succession, and despite his indifferent health and increasing age, he was imprisoned in the tower and was executed two weeks before Thomas in June 1535.



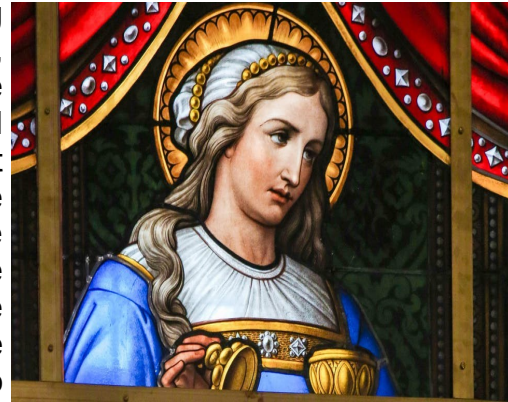
### 14<sup>th</sup>: John Keble, priest, Tractarian, poet

John was born in Fairford in 1792; his father was vicar of the parish. He studied at Oriel College, Oxford, where his collection of poems "The Christian Year" won great praise and saw him elected as Professor of poetry in 1831. He was one of the leaders of the Tractarian Movement, which protested at the threats to the Church from liberal developments in politics and theology. After serving as his father's curate, he became vicar of a parish near Winchester, where he remained for the rest of his life, a dedicated parish priest, writer, and counsellor. He is best remembered for the sermon he preached in Oxford on this day in 1833, which is now considered to be the beginning of the Oxford Movement, which revitalised the church in England.



## 22<sup>nd</sup>: Mary Magdalene

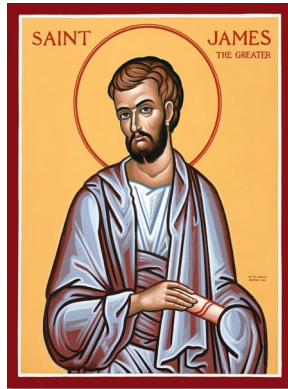
All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among the followers of Jesus. From Magdala by the sea of Galilee, she is described as being healed by Jesus before accompanying him during his ministry. She clearly had good reason to be thankful; Luke tells us that Jesus cast out “seven devils” from her. She has also been identified as the woman who anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive ointment. Along with other faithful women, she stayed by the cross during the crucifixion and her reluctance to leave Gethsemane was rewarded with the first appearance of the risen Lord. She was stirred into action by his instruction: “Go and tell my friends that you have seen me!”



## 25<sup>th</sup>: James the Apostle

James was a Galilean fisherman who, with his brother John, was one of the first disciples called by Jesus to follow him. It is possible that the brothers had been followers of John the Baptist and so had been prepared to follow the Messiah when he appeared. He and John annoyed the others by asking to sit beside Jesus in glory – a request which Jesus firmly refused: “It is not mine to grant”. James was a witness to the Transfiguration of Jesus, and was called to be near him in the garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday.

James was executed under the orders of Herod Agrippa (possibly in the year 44AD), in the vain hope that, by disposing of the Christian leaders, Herod could stem the flow of the new movement which was exciting so many.



## 29<sup>th</sup>: Mary, Martha, & Lazarus

The gospels describe how this family, who live in Bethany outside Jerusalem, gave hospitality to Jesus and the twelve. From comments made following the death of Lazarus, it is clear that there was a close relationship with all three: “Jesus said the disciples, ‘Our friend Lazarus has died..!’”

The sisters both confessed Jesus as Messiah; Mary was commended for her attentiveness to his teaching, and while he no doubt appreciated Martha's skill in home-making, she was encouraged to follow her sister's example. While Mary is taken as an example of the contemplative life, Martha can also be seen as someone who practises true Christian hospitality – a virtue later encouraged by St Paul. A tradition in the Eastern Church tells how the family were later taken to Cyprus – possibly to escape persecution – and there Lazarus became Bishop of Kition.



....to be continued. Fr Ian

The cancellation of the Summer Fayre has hit our finances very hard; being mindful of our call to be good stewards of all God has given us, we need to consider our financial support of our church. I commend to you the [Parish Giving Scheme](#). For further details contact me on 01452 720411

Thank you.

Fr. John

## The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



In the past few months, I have written about hymns which might be described as more ancient than modern. This month I want to share some thoughts about a hymn that has a special place in our hearts which was written by a living author. This hymn has been in circulation for over fifty years and its provenance is linked to the publication of The New English Bible (New Testament) back in 1961. Some of you may remember when you bought your copy home from the bookshop (no online shopping then!). Thanks to this new translation we began to read and hear our favourite passages in the New Testament quite differently and the scriptures came alive in a special way.

When Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith was reading the opening chapters of Luke's gospel, he was struck by the first line of Mary's song which we know by its Latin name *Magnificat*. This is what Bishop Timothy saw printed on the page:- ‘Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord’. That was enough to give him the inspiration to write what has become one of our best-known modern hymns.

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord;  
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice.  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*

The three verses that follow all begin with the same four words – [Tell out, my soul](#) – reminding us that God is always the object of our praise and also that we are called to live our lives ‘telling out’ the gospel.

Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith is now in his ninety-fourth year and in his long and active life he has written over 500 hymns! Other favourites include ‘Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided’ and ‘Name of all majesty’. His hymns are always beautifully crafted, and his talents were celebrated in 2003 with the award of an OBE ‘for services to hymnody’.

The tune *Woodlands*, almost always associated with this hymn, was composed by Walter Greatorex who was Director of Gresham's School in Norfolk from 1911-1936. His most famous pupil there was the composer, Benjamin Britten.

If you would like to listen to the hymn ‘Tell out my soul’ from St. Anne's Cathedral Belfast. Please click on the You tube link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ji4y9Q-K0>

Fr Michael



By

Diane Ramsay



It seems to me that Sundays provide the full stop to the long, complex sentence of the week. A time to pause, reflect and praise. I find that without punctuation the week just waffles or charges on without distinction.

Consequently, I expect that many of us have established our own rituals and routines to manage the indistinct continuity of lockdown. Mine has involved a conscious effort to continue to make Sundays a unique day; to resist the temptation of doing yet more jobs in my 'sloppy Joe's' ('You have 6 days in which to labour'), and dignify it by putting on some nice clothing and setting aside some time for God. Of course, nothing can replace coming together in fellowship and communing together, but ring fencing some prayerful time can bring solace to realign ourselves and our relationship with God.

I have adopted the habit of the rosary for structure and meditative practice. I'm not from the Catholic tradition, but have found the theology, repetition, focus and visualisation helpful. Fortuitously, Father Ian and Father Hugh gave a Saturday morning session on the use of the rosary, shortly before lockdown and Father Hugh even kindly lent me a rosary. So with this prayer resource, I have used lockdown Sundays to begin to practise. Once the process has become automated and synchronised, it enhances a meditative and prayerful process that I have found helpful. Usually, I follow this with BBC 1's Sunday Worship programme. I particularly enjoy this service (and I know there are many alternatives available on line) as to me it feels rounded, with hymns and lyrics to facilitate participation (the screening time varies, so it's always worth checking). In fact, I just watched a brilliant Pentecost service, on BBC 1 at 10am this morning, Pentecost Day.

I wonder what strategies, routines and resources you have found to keep Sundays set aside, during Lockdown? It would be lovely to share what we are all doing.

Gracious Father, as I settle myself to prayer,  
your words remind me that I am not alone,  
but that I join the countless, invisible host of those  
who are also praying to you at this time.

Loving Lord, as I settle myself to prayer,  
your truth reminds me that it's not just me in this place,  
but that I join in the glorious worship of heaven that never ceases,  
and which surrounds my feeble words with a chorus of praise.

Holy Spirit of God, as I settle myself to prayer,  
your presence reminds me that it's not just this moment,  
but that I step into a place both in and beyond time,  
where all who have gone before and all who are yet to come  
sing of you, talk with you and rest in your love.

Amen

Prayer submitted by Jill Robb

Arthur was born in October 1924 in Torquay and grew up in Newton Abbot. His father was an engine driver for Great Western Railway and hoped his son would follow in his footsteps, but at 15 years of age when he finished at Grammar School, Arthur decided he would like a 'clean job'. He had been attracted by a poster on his way to and from school which read: 'Join the Navy and See the World.' As he was interested in Geography and in all things mechanical, he applied to train as a naval engineer. Happily, he was accepted and he started his training at Chatham Docks, but then WW2 began and so he and the rest of the boys were quickly transferred to the safety of Newcastle under Lyme. On qualifying as an artificer, his first commission was to India on aircraft carrier HMS Albion. He was there throughout the war. He also served on HMS Ark Royal and HMS Centaur with periods of training and teaching and working on installations all over the UK.

In 1951 he married his fiancée, Barbara, whilst on leave. They had a son one year later and lived in a variety of married quarters as Arthur's postings changed. In 1956 he qualified as an officer, becoming a Lieutenant. Eventually he saved enough money to buy a bungalow in South Hampshire so that Barbara and their son, Roger, could have a more settled life.

In 1973 after 34 years in the service, Arthur retired from the Navy at the age of 49. He was fortunate enough to get a job at Marconi and enjoyed working there until he was given early retirement because of ill health. By this time, his father, now, a widower, had Parkinson's and was struggling to live alone in Devon, so Arthur brought him to Hampshire to live, where he and Barbara looked after him for the rest of his life.

Sadly, Barbara died in 1996 from cancer. Barbara was my cousin so, naturally, I kept in touch with Arthur, by phone and occasional letter. He was very depressed and wasn't able to cope. The letters and phone-calls became more frequent and eventually led to our marriage in 1999.

Arthur was a generous, loving husband, father and grandfather and his health appeared to improve for quite a few years before he started to withdraw from several interests that he had. Following a second hip replacement, his health deteriorated alarmingly, so much so that his son, Roger, and his family suggested we should perhaps be thinking of moving nearer to them in Thornbury. And so it was that we arrived at Queen Anne Court in Quedgeley in 2013. It couldn't have been a better choice. We now had shops, a bus route and St James's Church on our doorstep and Queen Anne Court offered independent living with a full range of helpful services available, including a 24 hour call system for emergencies. We settled in quickly and made many friends.

However, Arthur's condition continued to deteriorate and eventually he was diagnosed with vascular dementia and Parkinsonian symptoms. As his illness took its course, he needed increasing amounts of care and in 2018 a room became vacant in Chestnut Court and after a lot of grief, thought and prayer, we accepted it and Arthur settled reasonably well. He spent the last two years enjoying our regular visits, the monthly Holy Communion Service led by Fr Hugh accompanied by Val Harris, walks around the grounds in a wheelchair and activities and outings arranged by Chestnut Court. I will always remember that, despite his continued deterioration, Arthur managed to hold in his arms, both his new great grandchildren before the Covid-19 Lockdown came in March. And another lasting memory of Arthur I have is of his being pushed along to St James's Church last December to see the Christmas decorations and when we arrived Pam Westwood had just put the finishing touches to the tree. She turned and saw Arthur and exclaimed, 'It's Arthur!' and his face lit up as she gave him a big hug.

Unfortunately, during the lockdown, Arthur became very ill and unresponsive overnight and was taken to Gloucester Royal Hospital where he tested positive for Covid-19. Amazingly, after three days of treatment and not responding he suddenly recovered sufficiently to be returned to Chestnut Court. We were warned that the virus sometimes returned and if this happened they would be unable to do more than administer end of life care. Five weeks later the second phase started and Arthur died on May 4<sup>th</sup> with a carer at his bedside in place of me.

The funeral service at the crematorium was taken by Father John and only three of the five people allowed were able to attend. It was a very quiet, dignified and peaceful service and we left feeling calm and happy that it had taken place as Arthur would have wished. May he rest in peace.



### THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CHRISTIAN

It seems a long time since we launched our series of Lent Groups following the Benedictine Rule on the five principles of Christian living –

#### PRAYER; WORK; HOSPITALITY; REFLECTION AND RECREATION.

As everyone knows this series was cut short by the pandemic, and several people have expressed sadness that it has not been possible so far to pick up the pieces of this as it did seem after the first two sessions that it would be a very worthwhile exercise. We do hope to continue this at some time in the future, but meantime we feel that this whole subject of **PRAYER** should be addressed now.

One of the ideas mooted at the first session was -

#### A PRAYER BOARD IN CHURCH

By the time you read this our own Prayer Board will be established in St James Church and it is hoped that many people will find it a help.

**HOW IT WORKS** – we invite you to come to church and pray, and as a part of your prayer place a piece of paper on the board with something of your prayers that you would like to share with others.



You may also like to light a candle in front of the Shrine of Our Lady a real help to so many Christians.

The prayer you have placed on the board will be used in the prayers of the Church on the following Sunday and it is encouraging that in this way it become a prayer for us all.

Just follow the guidelines attached to the Prayer Board. You do not need to say who you are unless you wish.

It is our hope that you will find this a real help in your prayers.

*Fr. Hugh Broad*

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS - MAY FUNERALS



MAY 5th	ROSEMARY FIDO (78)
MAY 12th	BERYL BURDETT (85)
MAY 12th	DOREEN RAPER (92)
MAY 14th	PAMELA CARTER (80)
MAY 27th	NICOLANA DEMATTIA (77)
MAY 27th	ARTHUR ELLIS (95)

*"Rest Eternal grant to them O Lord"*

Articles /photos for the August edition of 'Around the Spire' should be with the Editor Hugh Broad, [hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk) by Sunday 12th July

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*Time to Pray*  
by  
*Fr. Hugh Broad*



# Make you smile!



A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking." The cat thought for a minute and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on," God smiled and instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer he had made to the cat. The mice said "Well, we had to run all of our lives: from cats, dogs and even people with brooms! If we could have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again." God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful roller skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?" The cat replied, "Oh, its WONDERFUL! The meals on wheels you have been sending over are delicious.

Submitted by Ian Eve

You will probably have noticed that recent issues of 'Around the Spire' have included quite a lot on Prayer.

This emphasis is deliberate because our life as praying Christians is the heart of any Christian Community and the Parish of St James is no exception!

Your clergy here use the Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer as the heart of their Christian lives, and we do commend it to you as well!

It is with this in mind that our Church has produced this simple form of The Daily Office with busy Christians in mind.

I do commend this recent version which is ideal for busy people.

If you would like a copy do let me know - as a member of Church House Publications I can get you a small discount from the price as £3.99. Just let me know as soon as possible.



FR HUGH

XX

## Patronal festival of Saint James from previous years!



## How is the scallop shell connected to Saint James?

James was one of the first disciples to follow Jesus. He is the patron saint of Spain and according to tradition his remains are held in Santiago de Compostela following his beheading. Santiago is a popular pilgrimage destination and many people even today undertake, usually on foot the long journeys— known as Camino Ways from various places in Europe.

But why is the shell so important? There are various legends that connect the scallop shell with Saint James. One legend is that the disciples went back to the Spanish peninsula by boat to bury Saint James' body. The ship was lost and destroyed by an extreme storm. After a period of time Saint James' body was found undamaged covered in scallop shells.

Saint James' Church is named after Jesus' disciple James. Saint James' day is on 25th July. Usually, Saint James' Church in Quedgeley celebrates this day with a special service followed by a bring and share lunch. However, due to the current situation it is unlikely that this celebration will take place this year.

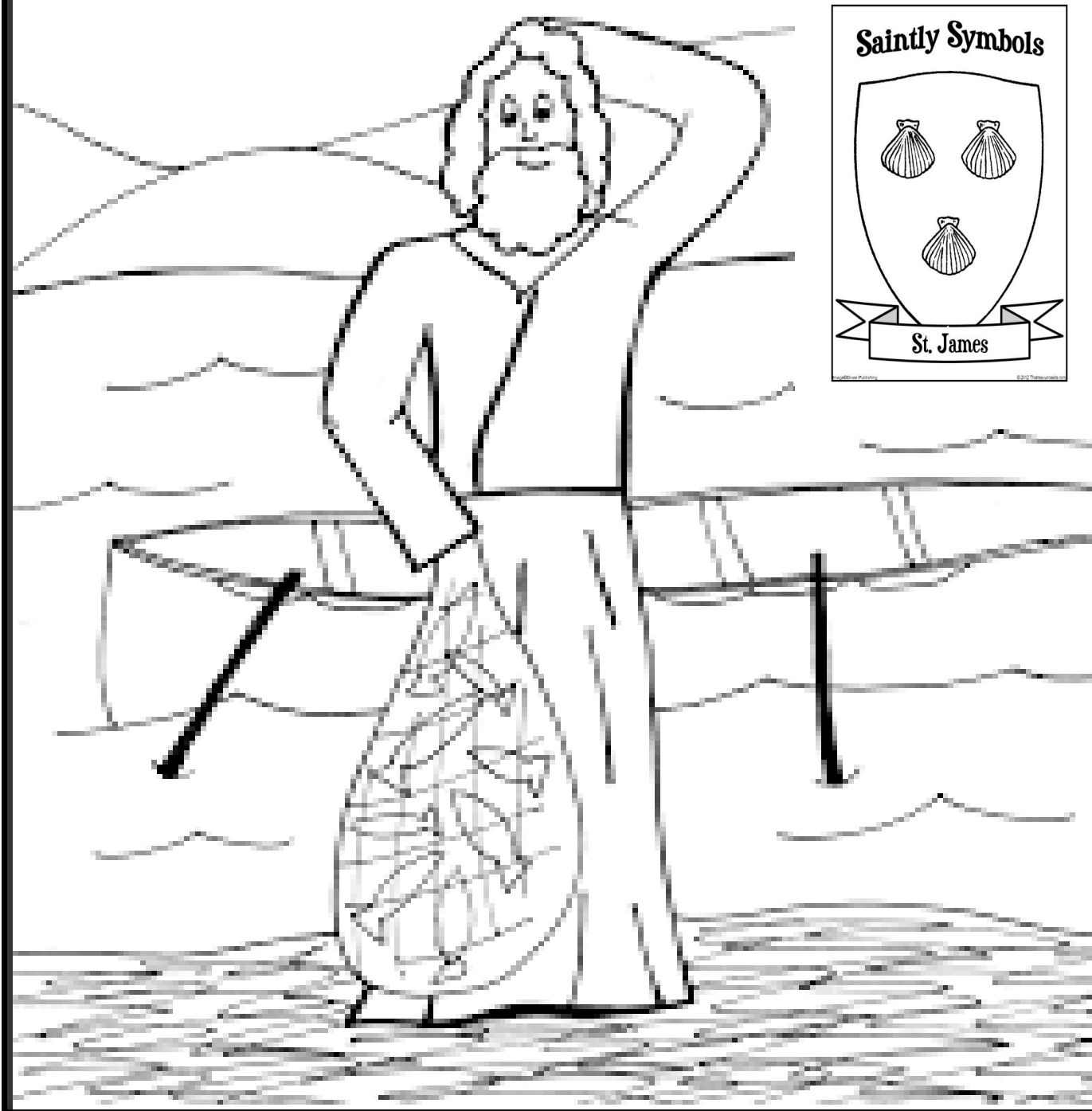
# For our younger readers

## Saint James

Saint James loved being a fisherman but when Jesus asked him to leave his boat and become a 'Fisher of men' Saint James said 'Yes!'. He followed Jesus and taught people about God.

Our church here in Quedgeley is named after Saint James and we celebrate St. James' Day on July 25th.

Here is a picture for you to colour of Saint James!



### Who's Who in the Parish

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