

Around the Spire



Saint James

&

Saint Mary Magdalene

Quedgeley & Kingsway

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June 2021



Issue 70

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 20th June (at latest)

Sunday
Worship
Every Sunday
10.30am

Plant Stall & Fund Raiser

Saturday 5th June

11.30am

Saint James' Churchyard

Quedgeley

All proceeds towards church funds

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



“AROUND THE SPIRE”

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

Here we are! At the time of writing, still in the realms of 'Cloud of Unknowing'. So, leaving this with all the predictions, hopes and fears on one side, let's have a look at this, our Parish Magazine, past, present and future.

PAST. This is the 70th month of its life – therefore almost six year since its first appearance in a simple duplicated form. So now, as time has elapsed you have before you a magazine which we believe is now worthwhile both in appearance and content.

PRESENT. Thanks to our super printers, Alpha Colour Printers Ltd we have now been able to produce up to 300 copies each month – and offer it free of charge!

'Around the Spire' which appears as well as the printed form, in Facebook, Church near You, and other media, clearly reaches out far and wide!

Appreciative comments have been received from many, including Stephen, Archbishop of York; Rowan Williams BBC Radio Gloucestershire and many others

FUTURE. Until recently we have been able to offer this magazine to potential readers free of charge but understandably, Alpha now make a very reasonable charge for production of £50 a month. So far, thanks to our own Church Council and the Diocese we have been able to absorb this but now we have to consider how to fund it!

There are various options –

- ◆ That we charge for it (we would then lose many present readers).
- ◆ That we go back to a simple duplicated format.
- ◆ That we invite sponsors to contribute a month's cost . Even if successful it would be short-term.

The further option which we believe would be the most successful is to invite 10 readers to contribute £5 monthly. As one said 'what can you get for a fiver these days!'

I put forward this idea recently and immediate had two offers, so only need another eight! Could YOU be one of these?

Do please let me know. Offers along these lines would be confidential. I would ask that such kind people hand their donation to me personally either a five pound note or cheque on or as near as possible to the 1st of the month.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

FR HUGH.



"Ordinary and Extraordinary"

My memoirs are now available!

Minimum of £5 for church funds.

Please ask for this in church or can be sent if needed.

Saints of the Month—June

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



5th: Boniface of Crediton, Apostle of Germany Born in Crediton in 675, Winfrith took the name Boniface when he entered the monastery at Exeter as a young man. He became a Latin scholar and had a gift for poetry. He was eventually ordained and offered himself for missionary work in Europe and was commissioned for work in Hesse and Bavaria, where he was consecrated as bishop in 722. He spoke out unopposed against the various pagan groups which were active at the time and made many conversions. He founded a string of monasteries across southern Germany, making sure that they were places of learning and insisting that they followed the Rule of St Benedict. He continued in his ministry into his old age when he was sadly murdered by a band of pagans whilst waiting to conduct a service of Confirmation.

8th: Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath & Wells Thomas was born in Hertfordshire in 1637 and after studying at Oxford was ordained in 1662. He served in parish ministry in the diocese of Winchester before moving to Winchester College. He served as chaplain to King Charles II before his consecration as bishop of Bath and Wells. Thomas remained loyal to Charles' Roman Catholic successor James II, so that when James abandoned the throne Thomas, in conscience, could not accept the rule of William & Mary. He was deprived of his See, along with many other non-Jurors, as they became known, and for a time there was a division within the Anglican Church. Thomas spent his final twenty years in quiet retirement, anxious not to make trouble, and he renounced his rights to his bishopric. He died in 1711, leaving a legacy of hymns much used down the years.

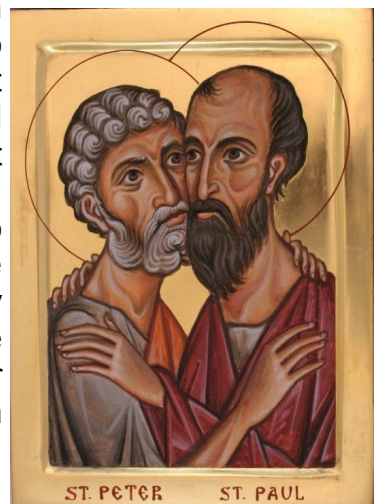
9th: Columba of Iona Born in Ireland in 521, Columba was trained as a monk by St Finnian before going on to found several monasteries himself before settling with twelve companions on the Scottish island of Iona, where the monastic life soon became well-known. Iona became the base for the evangelising of the west of Scotland and northern England as well as a place of study and prayer. In the last four years of his life, Columba spent his time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in 597.

11th: Barnabas the Apostle Though not named among the original twelve apostles in the gospels, Barnabas appears in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant members of the infant Church. He is recorded as having sold his estate and giving the proceeds to the Church, and clearly being a man of initiative and leadership. He was a Jewish Cypriot in origin and befriended Paul, introducing him to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem, and he was instrumental in guiding the Christians in Antioch in their relations with Gentile converts. After their first missionary tour, Barnabas broke with Paul and returned to Cyprus, where he was martyred in the year 61.

22nd: Alban, First Martyr of England Alban was a soldier in Verulamium (now St Albans) who gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from persecution, hiding him in his house for several days. Greatly influenced by the priest's devotion to Christ and by his life of prayer, Alban had long conversations with him and was converted and baptised. When the priest's hiding-place was discovered, Alban put on the priest's robes and was arrested in his place, and after trial and torture was duly executed – on this day in the year 250 – and became the first English martyr. The townspeople were so moved by his example and courage that they resolved to remember him and his shrine stand today as a place of pilgrimage in the cathedral and abbey church of St Albans.

24th: The Birth of John the Baptist St Luke records the wonderful events which led up to the birth of John – destined to be not only a relative of Jesus but also the one who would announce his coming. John's role was akin to an Old Testament prophet, encouraging the people of God to live lives worthy of their calling, in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. In the tradition of the early Fathers of the Church, John was seen as endowed with grace from before his birth – consequently the day of his birth has always been kept with great celebration.

29th: Peter and Paul, Apostles Peter has always been prominent among the twelve Apostles because of Jesus re-naming him, from Simon to Cephas (the Aramaic form of the Greek word Petros “the rock”). Jesus said that on this rock he would build his Church. But Peter and Paul came to be seen as having different roles to play within the leadership of the Church: Peter in witnessing to the Lordship of Christ and Paul in developing an understanding of its meaning for Christ's followers. There was already a vibrant Christian community in Rome by the time Paul arrived there to go on trial before the Emperor and it is well-recorded that Peter was the first bishop of Rome. The emperor Nero was persuaded to deflect his anger away from the Jewish community and on to those who followed the new Christian way. It was therefore inevitable that Peter and Paul, two prominent leaders of that community, should be arrested and imprisoned in an attempt to discourage the others. They have been jointly remembered on this day since the very early days of the Church, it being regarded as their anniversary of their martyrdom in Rome in 64AD.



1971 – June 27th - 2021



On Sunday 27th June 1971, a young man – under the Church of England rules I was too young to be Ordained, but had been granted permission by the Archbishop of Canterbury with a Faculty document affixed with the seal of the Faculty Office as established by Henry V111th (I don't tell too many that it was signed on April 1st) - stood waiting to be Ordained as a Priest in the Church of God. I had been Ordained a Deacon in Bristol Cathedral on Trinity Sunday (May 21st 1970) and College terms had been lengthened so I waited until Petertide to be Ordained a Priest.

What a privilege to lead the Christian Family gathered around the Lord's Table for communion – in Church, in homes, and later as a Chaplain to the Forces in barns and Nissan huts, or on parade grounds. I have served in the Bristol Diocese, in the Gloucester Diocese and in the Diocese of Europe.

I have been invited to Preside at the Eucharist at 5pm at St James Quedgeley, and a bring and share supper will follow.

I have invited some former colleagues – including Fr Hugh and Jackie, who served with me in Spain .A few members of St George's Brockworth, where I now live, will join us too.

Fr. David

The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



*Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine
et lux perpetua luceat eis*

You may be surprised (unless you are a Latin scholar) to find these words as the heading to my article this month. Some of you will know that they form the opening of the Requiem Mass, a blessed act of commemoration of a person who has died. We will be more familiar with the English translation:

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

As lockdown restrictions continue to be eased (new variants permitting) so thoughts turn again to all the victims of Covid-19 and how their lives can best be honoured. There are talks about national and local memorials and some creative and moving examples have already been provided in many communities. In the Church, consideration is being given to forms of service which might be used where remembrance and thanksgiving themes can be expressed. In some churches and cathedrals where musical resources are strong, a most fitting way of honouring the lives of those who have died would be to plan a Sung Requiem, whether in a liturgical format or a concert performance. Great musical settings of the Requiem abound. Some are huge in scale and stand out for their dramatic interpretation of the text. The *Grande Messe des Morts* by French composer Hector Berlioz (1837) and Verdi's *Requiem* (1874), certainly fall into this category. Mozart's *Requiem* is well-loved by singers and hearers alike and is especially poignant as Mozart died before completing it, his work being faithfully carried on by musical friends.

Several *Requiem* settings have arisen out of personal grief and loss. This is true of the settings by English composers Herbert Howells (born in Lydney), and John Rutter. Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* had the fallen of two World Wars very much in mind and, fittingly, received its first performance in the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in 1962.

Composers have never been restricted to the text of the Requiem Mass. Whilst using it as a basis for their work they have been moved to add other material. Britten used poetry by the Great War poet, Wilfred Owen. Rutter and Brahms have used texts from the Psalms to enhance their works. One of Brahms best known choral works is *How lovely are thy dwellings fair* from his *German Requiem*, a setting of Psalm 84. Karl Jenkins gets very close to a Requiem-style in his popular work *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. Few weeks go by without some reference to this work on Classic FM!

If I had to choose one *Requiem* to take to a desert island, it would be the gentle setting by the French composer Gabriel Fauré. He wrote this beautiful work shortly after the death of his mother in 1888. I have been lucky enough to be part of a choir singing this work in La Madeleine, a fine church in the heart of Paris where Fauré was organist. There are some marvellous moments in this work especially the solo soprano setting of *Pie Jesu*; the wonderfully memorable unison singing heard in *Libera Me* and the final chorus *In Paradisum* which transports the listener to the heavenly places. But above all, it has the gorgeous *Agnus Dei* which for many years was heard as the accompanying music on commercial TV's advertisements for Lurpak butter!

Follow the link here to listen to the [Agnus Dei](#) and enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWMmolrld_4

Fr Michael

Irene's Faith Story



My name is Irene. I live in a Residential Home, not far from Quedgeley and am a member of St James' Church. Since March 2020, I have been unable to attend church because of COVID 19, but my friends have been keeping in touch with me. Receiving St James' newsletter weekly and 'Around the Spire' monthly, really helps me keep in touch with my church family. I love reading 'Thought for the Week' written by different members of St James' clergy.

During Lent, I followed the Church of England Live-Lent programme which set weekly challenges, one of which was to think about how our Christian journeys began.

My Christian journey began when I was baptised as a baby. I was born in the north west of England and am the second eldest of 5 children. My youngest brother sadly died when he was young.

Because of family circumstances, we all had to be cared for in a Children's Home where we stayed for a number of years. My sister, Christine and I used to be taken to church and to Sunday school. I remember we were given Bible Story books and Bibles as prizes for good attendance. When we were older, we started going to a different church in the evening as well. It was a Pentecostal Church and after about a year we used to go up and stand at the front when the Pastor asked if anyone wanted to give their life to Jesus. If we followed Jesus our sins would be forgiven. We were, of course, still young really and I wondered why I didn't feel any different, even after going up to the front on frequent occasions. Nothing seemed to change in my life. Like many teenagers, I was a bit rebellious (I messed about and got into trouble sometimes).

At the age of 17, it was time for me to leave the Children's Home. I was found a place in what was called a Working Girls' Hostel. It took a while for suitable work to be found for me. Eventually, my social worker found me a job in a nunnery, where I helped the nuns serve meals and cups of tea to the elderly. Later, I worked in Wales at a Day Centre and Holiday Home for the elderly. I really enjoyed working there.

In my thirties, I became pregnant. Sadly, my baby was stillborn. The nurses were very kind and I named my baby girl, Roseanne. A good friend, who worked at the Day Centre came to stay with me and helped me arrange Roseanne's funeral. After that, I was very unhappy and suffered from poor mental health, spending time in different hospitals. I was glad that I was given the opportunity to continue worshipping God. In one hospital a Minister would visit, take short services and offer Bible Study courses.

I decided to be baptised again, this time by full immersion in a pool. This was very meaningful to me.

Happily, my health began to improve and I was found a place to live in Gloucestershire in a Residential Home and then in 2013, I moved to my current Home in Tuffley. From there, I started attending St James' Church in Quedgeley and loved it. The people were so welcoming and friendly. It was at St James' that I decided to become confirmed in the Christian Faith and was confirmed by Bishop Robert about 3 years ago. I have always kept in touch with my brother and sisters. When I became confirmed, my sister Christine, who still lives in the north of England, followed my example and decided to be confirmed at her local church, which pleased me very much.

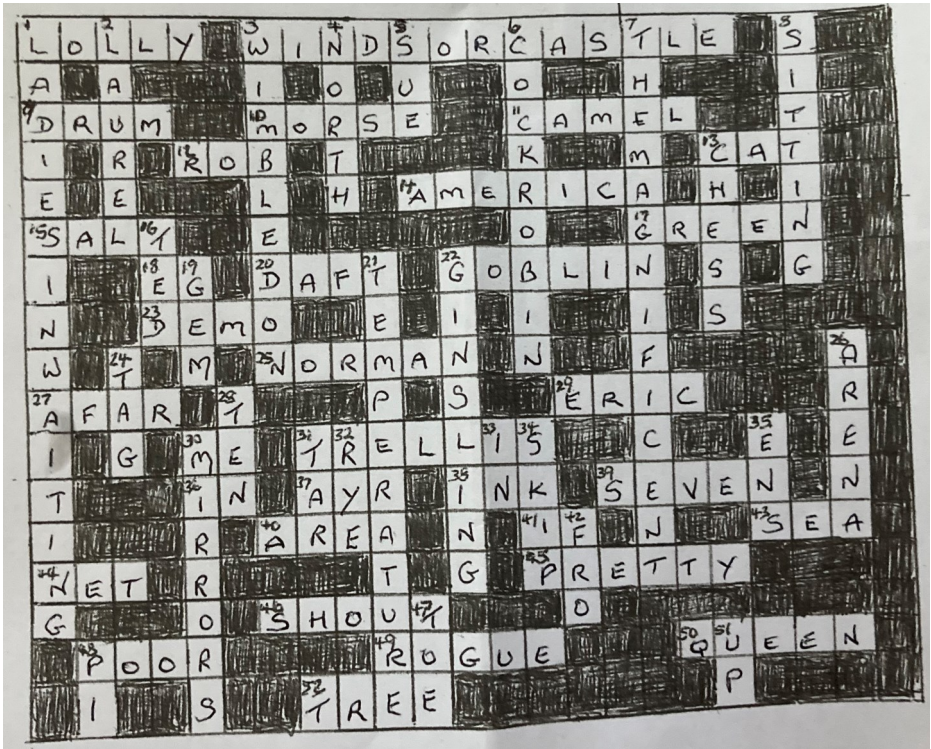
I'm praying that I will soon be able to worship at St James' Church on Sundays, and enjoy meeting everyone at Chit Chat on Thursdays again.

Activity page for youngsters !

According to Jesus, John the Baptist stands as the greatest prophet in the Bible ([Matthew 11:11](#); [Luke 7:28](#)). John's responsibility was to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah. John was a preacher, a priest and a prophet. He baptised Jesus. On June 24th we celebrate his birth. Below is a picture for you to colour in.



Answers to last month's crossword



Did you guess the Cathedrals?

York Minster, Salisbury Cathedral ,Canterbury

Where are we?





The Love from Above

I walk through the valley of my dreams
And nothing is quite as it seems.
Thousands fall on my left hand,
thousands die on my right hand.
I am swept away like a tiny grain in the great grey dunes of sand.
But my mind is becoming clear, I can see for miles.
I see you all! Your faces! your smiles!
A light shines brightly upon us from above.
At last I feel rest and peace I am filled with his love.
The love from His face upon us all doth shine.
The hand of Our Lord has touched us divine.
We are his people we rest and we pray.
We stand strong with Him beside us today.
We now have nothing at all left to fear
because The Good Lord our saviour is so very near.

By Shirley Anne Wilce.

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