



# Around the Spire

**Saint James' & Saint Mary Magdalene**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway**



**March 2021**



**Issue 67**

## *Your Editor Fr. Hugh*



I guess that this is the most difficult Editorial I have felt to write in over five years in the life of 'Around the Spire'.

I write it with a heavy heart, let me explain why -

As I write, it is after a week in which I conducted two funerals.

The first was a Quedgeley lady who had been pretty fit until struck down with the Covid virus recently. Speaking to the funeral director I learned they were more busy now than at any time he could remember. They are having to work seven days a week to deal with all the funerals they are called upon. He stated that this is because of Covid.

The second funeral was for my dear sister, Helen. She had been poorly for some time, but able to cope with it until she was taken into hospital a couple of weeks previously and died last week having contracted the Covid virus.

Thus it was brought home to me very forcibly just what these two ladies and of course so many were having to suffer in their final days, and of course the distress of their loved ones who cannot in most cases be with their loved ones at the end.

Now I relate this to you, dear readers, almost in a note of despair! Last week we mourned the sad loss of Captain Sir Tom who won the hearts of us all. But in the same news as that there was report of police breaking up a house party of 50 young people, mostly students! Apparently their claim was that all this about Covid virus was over stated!

I feel sure that you as our readers will share my agony and frustration in all this.

You may recall that last month I stated there was a way out of the 'doom and gloom'. I still believe that to be so and that as more and more people receive the vaccine, this dreadful disease will be overcome.

## SO TO THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT!



May this be the time when we, as Christians will respond to all this by turning to prayer as never before.

A person of about my age was relating to me the other day of what it was like in the 1940's at the time of the blitz. At the time as a boy he lived, as I did in Cheltenham. He remembered his father telling him that the churches were full at this time of great and imminent danger. In particular he referred the Parish Church of Cheltenham being open each and every day to many who were turning to God at this dangerous time

I referred last month to the need for us to adopt a similar attitude to praying, even those of our readers who may not do so in normal times!

Please do remember that St James, your church here in Quedgeley is open to private prayer and we know that a good number already do this and many light a candle and put a prayer request on the board there.

Please do come along for this – never was the need greater than it is now!

Your friend in Christians  
Father Hugh.

Following this Editorial you will find a form of prayer at the time when Coventry Cathedral was destroyed in 1940. You might find this helpful now.

## A WAY OF RECONCILIATION

A few years ago we had a Parish Pilgrimage to Coventry Cathedral. This exciting new Cathedral is built on the site of the mediaeval cathedral which was destroyed in the second world war by the German blitz. Inscribed in the wall of the old building are the words **FATHER FORGIVE** a sign of reconciliation between former enemies.

The following Litany was composed and is said at Noon each weekday. These words which mean so much to the former sworn enemies could have a lot to say to us in our present crisis – you might like to try it for yourself.



### **ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD**

*The hatred which divides nation from nation  
race from race, class from class*

**FATHER FORGIVE**

*The covetous desires of people and nations  
to possess what is not their own*

**FATHER FORGIVE**

*The greed which exploits the work of human hands  
and lays waste the earth*

**FATHER FORGIVE**

*Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others*  
**FATHER FORGIVE**

*Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, the refugee*  
**FATHER FORGIVE**

*The lust which dishonours the bodies of  
men, women and children*  
**FATHER FORGIVE**

*The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves  
and not in God*  
**FATHER FORGIVE**

**BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDER HEARTED  
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER  
AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.**

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JANUARY

Funeral at Crematorium  
11th - PETER BEVAN aged 72.

Life is no 'brief candle' to me, it is a sort  
of splendid touch which I have got hold  
of for a moment and I want to make it  
burn as brightly as possible before  
handing it on to future generations.

**George Bernard Shaw.**

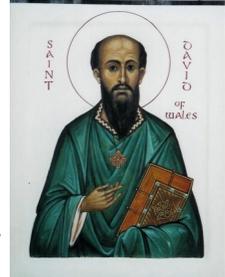


# *Saints of the Month—March*

## *By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb*



**1<sup>st</sup>: David, Patron Saint of Wales.** David was a monk and a bishop in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He was reputed to lead an exemplary spiritual life and was highly regarded for his kindness and compassion for others. He founded a monastery at Menevia (now known as St Davids), and at least a dozen other monasteries. He based his Rule for his monasteries on that of the Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol, and refraining from unnecessary speech. He died in 601 and has been patron of Wales since the 12<sup>th</sup> century.



**2<sup>nd</sup>: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield.** Chad was born in Northumbria, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became both priests and monks. They entered the monastery at Lindisfarne and were taught by St Aidan. Chad's brother Cedd had founded the abbey at Lastingham and, on his brother's death, Chad was elected abbot. During the confusion in church discipline between the Celtic-oriented, Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the pressure from Rome for conformity, Chad became Bishop of York for a while. When Theodore arrived in Britain, Chad stepped aside and was then appointed Bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese in England and Chad made Lichfield its centre. He travelled extensively across his diocese, uniting his flock. Sadly, there was an outbreak of plague and Chad died on this day in 672.



**7<sup>th</sup>: Perpetua, Felicity, & their Companions.** The moving account of these 3<sup>rd</sup> century African martyrs proved to be an important part in the history of the early Church. Vibia Perpetua was a married noblewoman of Carthage and Felicity was her personal maidservant. Saturas was a priest, and there were two other male members of their fellowship. They were condemned as Christians by the Roman authorities and sentenced to the ordeal of the public arena, there to be mauled by wild animals. They all survived and were taken to be executed by the sword. They all refused to renounce their faith in Christ, and the news of their trials was soon widely circulated among Christian congregations, giving encouragement to those in similar circumstances. They died on this day in 203.

**8<sup>th</sup>: Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln.** Born in London in 1829, Edward King, both as priest and bishop, was revered for the holiness of his life and the wisdom of his counsel. He was chaplain, then principal, of Coddessdon Theological College at Oxford, followed by a dozen years as professor of theology in Oxford, during which time he exercised a great influence on a generation of ordination candidates. In 1885 he was consecrated bishop of Lincoln, a post which he held until his death. His significant gift to the Church was his example as a pastoral and caring bishop to both clergy and laity alike.

**8<sup>th</sup>: Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, poet.** Born in 1883, Studdert Kennedy was a young vicar in Worcester who became an army chaplain during the first world war. His warm personality soon earned the respect of the soldiers, who nicknamed him “Woodbine Willie” after the brand of cigarettes he shared with them. After the war, he became a writer and regular preacher, drawing large crowds, who were attracted by his combination of traditional sacramental theology with more unconventional views. He worked for the Christian Industrial Fellowship, but his frail health gave way and he died (still a young man) on this day in 1929.

**17<sup>th</sup>: Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland.**

Patrick was born in Cornwall in 390 and was captured, aged sixteen, by Irish raiders and taken as a slave. Somehow he escaped and made his way to the continent, before finding his way back to Cornwall, where his Christian faith grew and matured. He returned to Gaul where he was trained as a priest. In his early forties he returned to Ireland as a bishop and set up his base at Armagh. He travelled throughout Ireland, gently teaching the Christian story and drawing people to Christ. The monasteries which he established provided the infrastructure required to maintain the faith after his death, which occurred on this day in 460.



**19<sup>th</sup>: Joseph of Nazareth.**

Mathew's gospel describes Joseph as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. He received God's messenger who shared with him God's will for him and for Mary, to whom he was engaged to be married. Luke's gospel describes how Joseph took the new-born child as if he were his own. He was with Mary when, on the fortieth day after the birth, Jesus was presented in the Temple - "where every first-born male is designated as holy to the Lord". The adoption of Jesus by Joseph also established Jesus in the descent of David, to accord with the prophecy that Israel's deliverer would be of the house and lineage of David.

**25<sup>th</sup>: The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin**

**Mary.** Luke's gospel contains the account of Mary's intimate involvement in God's plan of salvation. This feast marks the conception of Christ and confirms the perfect humanity and complete divinity of Jesus. It confirms the unique place of honour and veneration which Mary has in the world-wide Church; in the Orthodox tradition she is called "Theotokos: God-bearer" which title in our Western tradition is translated as "Mother of God."

# *The Faith We Sing*

By *Revd. Canon Michael  
Garland*



On 17<sup>th</sup> July 1674, Isaac Watts was born in Southampton. As a child he had a great talent for poetry, a gift he developed and nurtured in later life to become one of our greatest hymn writers. It is to Watts that we owe such classics as ‘O God, our help in ages past’, ‘Jesus shall reign, where’er the sun’ and ‘Come, let us join our cheerful songs’. His hymn-writing career can be traced to a challenge made by his father. When Isaac complained about the poor state of the church’s song of his day, which consisted almost entirely of uninspiring metrical psalms, his father suggested that if he thought he could do better he should start writing. And he did! One hymn stands out above all others. It was once described as ‘the greatest hymn in the English language’. Charles Wesley added that he would have gladly exchanged all the hymns he had written for this matchless one by Watts:

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

This opening verse invites us to not just to look at the cross, but to survey it. Watts chose his words carefully. To survey means to carry out a close inspection; to pay attention to the detail; to consider that here on this cross, Jesus, the Prince of glory, died. Watts, who had such a good grasp of scripture, was clearly inspired by the writing of St Paul in his letter to the Galatians, where in the final chapter he writes, memorably, *May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6.14).*

This is reflected in the second verse:

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the cross of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

From surveying, Watts moves us on to seeing. He urges us, if we can bear it, to see more deeply the love and the sorrow being poured out:

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown!

This breath-taking imagery continues in the next verse:

His dying crimson, like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body on the tree:  
then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.

In the face of such a revelation through our surveying of the cross, we cannot remain indifferent or impassive. The cross confronts us with amazing love which demands a response which is personal and complete. No-one puts that response better than Isaac Watts did in his final verse:

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

If you are reading this on line then you can hear the hymn by clicking [here](#). Alternatively go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EikGeNuoBA>



The world is round  
and the place which may seem  
like the end  
may also be the beginning.

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune  
Without the words  
And never stops.

Mary Ellis.

### **KNIT AND NATTER AND CRAFTING**

Hi everyone. It seems ages since we were able to meet to knit and natter, or sell items for the church funds. Knitting and other crafts are a very good way of keeping up our spirits during lockdown. I have managed to finish some items that had lain dormant in the cupboard, half finished, for years! It is also useful to try new crafts and ideas. U-tube has a rich resource of crafty ideas and demonstrations. I am toying with the idea of paper cutting. Lots of crafts are great for recycling things such as old bits of material, and are not expensive as don't need lots of equipment. Homemade cards are always appreciated by people, and as well as saving money, are handy when you have someone's birthday coming up and you don't want to risk catching anything by going to the shops! So try something new, and perhaps we can find a few new things to make and sell for the church when things get back to normal.

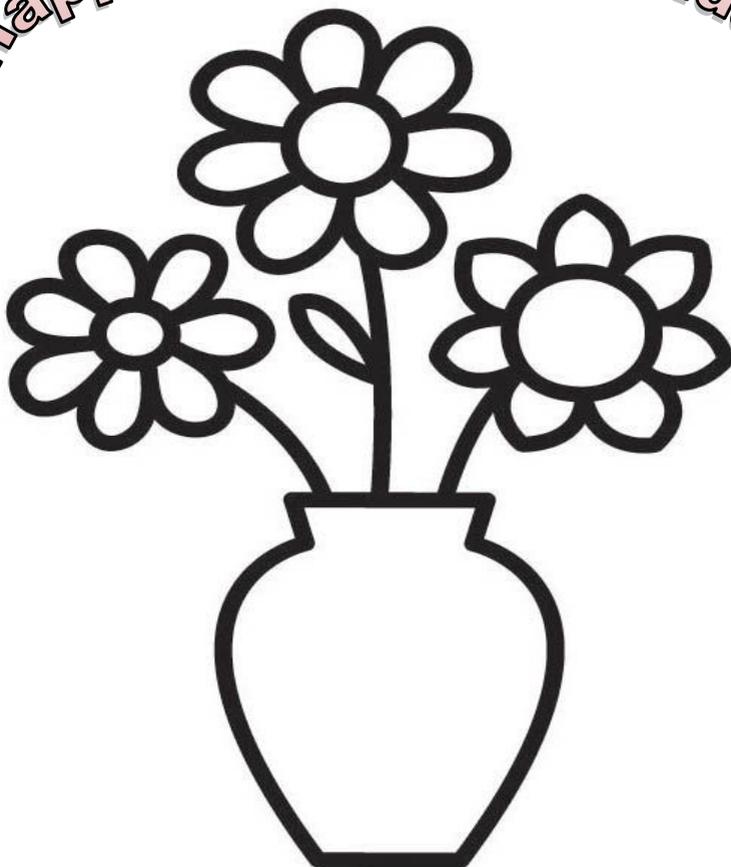


Best wishes to you all.  
Angie Wright

## *For our younger readers*

March 14th is Mothering Sunday. Long ago people would make the journey to visit their Mother church. They would also go and visit their Mothers taking them a small gift. How about colouring this picture of a vase of flowers and giving it to your Mum?

Happy Mothering Sunday



# For the beauty of the earth... in the countryside



# and in our urban areas



**Can anyone guess where these photos have been taken? All within walking distance of Quedgeley.**

If you would like a copy of our weekly newsletter sent to you direct and are reading this on line, then please click the link [here](#) add your email address and we'll add you to our mailing list. Alternatively log into <http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk/contactus.php>



Help if we Can were donated a large quantity of Chocolate for their many draws and raffles. But after a speedy on line Executive Committee meeting it was all taken to the Intensive Care Units at Gloucester and Cheltenham Hospitals for the staff to enjoy in their rare rest periods. Doctor David Windsor, the Consultant in Charge of both Units thanked Help if we Can for their kindness.

Steve Smith

## **From the mouth of babes ...class room blunders**

You use the 24hour clock in summer because it stays light longer



A ships window is called a pothole

God created Adam and Ebay.

Jimmy was threatened with extinction by Mr Moss for being so naughty.

2 and 4 are even numbers and 1 and 3 are strange.

# Parish Notices



**Sunday  
Worship  
Every Sunday  
10.30am**

## QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Please note that the  
**PILOT MEMORIAL DAY**  
is postponed until  
**Saturday September  
25th.**

**The church office is now closed  
until Saturday 10th April**

(Covid 19 permitting)

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

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

**Sunday 14th March (at  
latest)**

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A logo featuring a green leaf and the text 'CO2 neutral Product printed on a Carbon Neutral Press'.

## Who's Who in the Parish Church

<b>Assistant Priests</b>	<b>Land Line</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	irobb925@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
<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>			
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 -			
Mrs Lesley Franklin		07780503378	lesleyfranklin@aol.com
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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