

Around the Spire Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene Quedgeley & Kingsway www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

*All good gifts around us are
sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank
the Lord
for all his love.*



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Issue No. 62

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Your Editor Fr. Hugh



“WHAT EVER NEXT?”

Almost every day I ask myself that question – often when I say the Office of Morning Prayer, which your priests use every day. I try to imagine what the latest news there will be to greet us this morning! What pearls of wisdom will those people in authority be uttering today which we have not heard in some fashion for the past seven months or so?

It does seem that whatever I choose to explore and act on, will be changed before I can make anything of it!

So for this edition I feel called to quote some words from a well-known hymn which we shall be singing – oh – sorry some person has decided we can't sing anymore!

**Drop thy still dew's of quietness
till all our strivings cease.
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace!**

It was a John Wittier who wrote those words in Victorian times and I do feel that in these unprecedented times it speaks to us more than I for one could have imagined!

For us who seek to follow Jesus Christ in our lives, we do I think all search to make some sense of it all, and ask ourselves just how we can live out the Christian way of life in the here and now!

In a meditation by Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church Oxford, we read these words which speak to me of the essence of our Faith and how we can, even today walk the Pilgrim Way

So Dean Percy writes:

“That is our calling: to become like Christ. To cherish, care, console as Christ did. To serve, share and surrender – as Christ did. To be an embodiment of the love of God – following the example of Christ, that supreme exemplar of the love of God poured out in one whole person for the whole of humanity.”

**What's in this name?
CHRISTIAN – THAT IS!**

Father Hugh

Post-it Prayer Board

The 'post its' and board in the Lady chapel of the church are for anybody to ask for prayer.

To everybody who has used it, please be assured that those prayers have been made.

Saints of the Month—October



4th: Francis of Assisi, founder of the Friars Minor

Francis was born in Assisi in central Italy in 1181, the son of an Italian cloth merchant. He was expected to follow his father and eventually take over the business, but he was a rebellious youth and after becoming involved in a local skirmish with the neighbouring citizens of Perugia, he spent time in prison, returning a changed man. He took to caring for the poor and the leprous, and working in derelict churches. Others joined him and as their numbers grew he prepared a simple, Gospel-based rule for them all to live by. They witnessed to Christ through their work and through their poverty, living closely to the lives of Christ and his first disciples. By the time of his death in 1226, the movement founded by Francis had spread across Europe and is now a world-wide Order.



6th: William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures

Born in Gloucestershire (some say at Slimbridge, others, Wotton under Edge); in 1494, William went on to study at Oxford and Cambridge. He became determined to translate the Scriptures from Greek into English, believing that it was right that everyone should be able to read the Bible in their own language. Sadly, he faced strong opposition so move to Hamburg and never returned to England. The first copies of his work came to England in 1526 and were bitterly criticised by church authorities. Undeterred, he continued his work and wrote many theological works. At the beginning of the following century, Tyndale's work was considered good enough to be the basic working text for those commissioned to produce what we now know as the "King James" or Authorised Version of the Bible. Tyndale was arrested in 1535 in Brussels, tried for heresy and executed. His last words were "Lord, open the King of England's eyes".

12th: Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer

Elizabeth was born in Norfolk in 1780. Aged twenty, she married Joseph Fry, a London merchant and strict Quaker. She was admitted as a minister in the Society of Friends and became a noted preacher. The appalling state of the prisons came to her notice and she devoted much of her time to the welfare of female prisoners in Newgate. In 1820 she took part in the formation of a night shelter for the homeless in London. Her work led her to travel throughout Europe in the cause of prison reform. She was a woman of strong Christian faith and evangelistic impulse and this inspired all her work. She died in 1845.



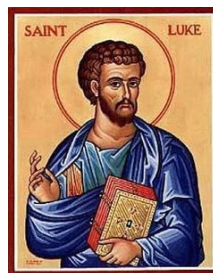
12th: Edith Cavell, Nurse

Edith was born into a clergy family in 1865. After an early career as a governess she trained as a nurse, ending up working with the Red Cross in Belgium in 1907. On the outbreak of the first world war, she became involved in caring for the wounded on both sides. She refused repatriation and then began smuggling British soldiers from Belgium into Holland. In 1915 she was arrested and brought to trial. Protecting those who worked with her, she was sentenced to death and executed by firing squad on this day in 1915. She faced death calmly, forgiving her executioners, convinced she had been doing her Christian duty.



18th: Luke the Evangelist

Luke is mentioned three times by the Apostle Paul in his letters; they were obviously close friends. Paul describes him as “the beloved physician” and, in his second letter to Timothy, as his only companion in prison. Luke is credited with being the author of the gospel which bears his name and its companion work, the Acts of the Apostles. The gospel is a narrative of the life of Jesus from the nativity through to the death and resurrection. .



As a Gentile, he makes it clear that the good news of salvation is for all, regardless of social position or nationality. It has been thought that Luke was the “Man of Macedonia” who Paul saw in a vision which persuaded him to take the good news to northern Greece. There is a tradition which places Luke back in Macedonia where his gospel was finished and where he died, aged eighty-four.

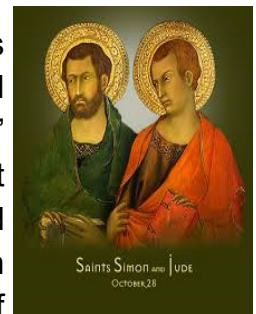
26th : Alfred the Great, scholar, king

Alfred was the king of the West Saxons who effectively brought an end to the constant threat of Danish domination in the British isles. He became king in 871, aged twenty-two, and after establishing peace, set about bringing stability to both Church and state. He provided finance for the building of Christian centres of education, and religious houses which cared for the sick and homeless. He was a daily attender at the eucharist, and translated many Christian works into the vernacular. He evolved a legal code based on common sense and the compassion and mercy of Christ. He died in 899.



28th Simon & Jude, Apostles

These two are named in the gospels as members of the original twelve apostles called by Jesus. Simon is named “the Zealot” probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement; Jude is also named “Thaddeus”, probably to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot. (Because of the similarity of names, Jude was rarely invoked in prayer; he came to be seen as one to call on when all else failed.) These two are joined together on the 28th because a church in Rome which had acquired their relics was dedicated to their memory on this day in the 7th century



A story from the internet tells of a young blind man sitting on the pavement of a busy street with a sign simply saying 'Blind man, please help' and a hat for coins.



Another man came along and stopped, fiddled in his pockets and dropped some coins in the hat and saw how little there was there. He took the sign, wrote on the reverse side and gave it back to the young man. His takings started to increase almost immediately.

Some weeks later, the man returned and was recognised from his voice when he spoke to the blind man. His takings had continued to hold at a much increased level so the blind man asked 'What did you write on my sign?'

He replied, 'Well you wrote' Blind man please help', I wrote 'It's a lovely day and I can't see it'

His new sign made people appreciate the wonderful gifts they have and made them feel more generous to those less fortunate.

A lovely story and a bit of a challenge to our thinking.



Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with Holy fire
With splendour he is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of Light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

POEMS OF GLOUCESTER.

LITTLEWORTH

**"What" said the King, as he heard the
hoofs clatter,**

**'They've captured the Southgate? That
doesn't matter,**

That won't worry me or upset my leisure,

It's of little worth, they can have it with pleasure.!



HIGH CROSS

**Ages and ages and ages ago,
A beautiful cross stood here, you know;
It stood there for years, till one fine day
Somebody came and took it away.**



**There's another cross now, not made of stone,
A policeman, who stands there alone,
In a long white coat, with his arms out--So,
Telling the people which way to go.**

**Grateful thanks to Caroline Meek for these - watch for
more!**

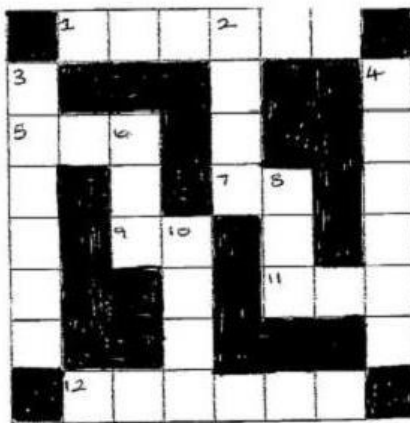
CROSSWORD by Angie

ACROSS

- 1 Type of falcon (6)
- 5 Mischievous child (3)
- 7 Thanks (2)
- 9 16th letter of Greek alphabet (2)
- 11 Ram (3)
- 12 Sever, keep apart (6)

DOWN

- 2 Wound dressing (4)
- 3 A nun's head-dress (6)
- 4 Old motor vehicle (6)
- 6 Soft food (3)
- 8 Appropriate (3)
- 10 Sacred painting (4)



HOWLERS FROM AN R.E. TEACHER - continued

Spellings and grammar are original!

The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments

The furst commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached canada the joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.

The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

More next month!

Lock down



In September's 'SPIRE' there were some reflections on the fact that not everything has been bad during lockdown. I wonder if I could add some more thoughts to that?

I should have retired years ago but never quite got around to it, but having no work has enabled me to enjoy the benefits of staying at home and seeing Pat every day rather than just weekends, and emailing and phoning from hotels to keep in touch. I like retirement, it seems very attractive indeed. And I get home cooking as well.

We became Grandparents for the first time in June and what a joy that has been watching our grandson grow week by week. I would have missed all that.

I enjoy doing the garden and many, indeed most people stop and chat. One lady said how much She was liking lockdown because, as she said, people have been so kind, it has brought out the best in us. People chat, call by phone, offer help with shopping and other jobs and so on.

It has also brought into sharp focus the importance of our critical workers. Obviously the NHS and critical care staff, but also the thousands of others that have helped to keep us going all this time. We shall never again hear anyone say 'oh they only work in a supermarket' or 'they only drive a bus'.

Lockdown has provided very worthwhile time to re-assess how we view other people no matter who they are or what they do; we are all valuable.

Andrew Wakely

God's promise to us!

Having just moved to a new home in Queen Anne Court, I have been through the whole gamut of "clearing out" and reaching a great many decisions regarding items which have been a major part of my life from early childhood. The attached 'prayer' is a case in point. It has hung on a wall where I have lived for as long as I can remember, and when I came to re-hang it recently I actually looked on the back of the frame to find that it had a date of 1927 and an inscription by unknown people. How my Mother came to own it I've no idea but both she and I have set great store by the words and beautiful illustrations and have found inspiration from it through all the ups and downs of life. I hope you will enjoy reading it, too.

Val Harris



Note: - Unfortunately the original did not copy. These are the words taken from the poem, but we can't reproduce the illustrations –sorry folks!

The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael



The Faith we Sing

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

In the month of September our thoughts turn to Harvest and to a season in the Church year which is now often celebrated as Creation-tide. 'For the beauty of the earth' is a hymn that many of us will remember from school days and it is a hymn that has retained its popularity over the years. It speaks of the wonders of the natural world, and of the joys that come through our relationship with the world and with those around us:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled.

Our joy in fellowship as members of the body of Christ is very well conveyed in the final verse, a reminder that this hymn was originally written with the sacrament of the Eucharist very clearly in view:

For thy Church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love.

The author of this hymn had a remarkable name – Folliott Sandford Pierpoint. He was a schoolmaster of great learning and he wrote these verses in the mid-nineteenth century. He was fortunate enough to have the hymn published in 1864 in a collection of Eucharistic hymns where it was given the title ‘The Sacrifice of Praise’.

There are several tunes that have been associated with the hymn. From school days I remember ‘England’s Lane’ very well with its attractive rhythm and folk-song style. It is also sung to a tune called ‘Dix’ which we normally associate with the Epiphany hymn ‘As with gladness, men of old’. For a wonderful match of words and music, listen, if you can, to John Rutter’s sparkling choral arrangement, the link of which is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bDoMfYErE>

Fr Michael

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES AT THE CREMATORIUM

September 17th KEN MURLEY (95)

September 18th JOHN MACARTY (86)

BURIAL OF ASHES AT ST JAMES

September 4th EILEEN NOBLE

September 25th ARTHUR ELLIS

Message from Revd. Canon Michael Garland
Area Dean Gloucester City

Father John

As most of you will be aware, Fr John is currently on sick leave and we now want to let you know that he will be retiring very shortly. His formal retirement date is November 30th, but his final service will be on Sunday October 18th at 10.30 when he will return for the day to preside and preach at the Sunday Eucharist. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Fr John's ministry at Quedgeley, giving thanks for all that he has done here and amongst us over recent years. Following that final service, Fr John will be preparing for his retirement and taking some annual leave.

We feel sure that many of you will wish to express your thanks to Fr John and your deep appreciation of his ministry. However, in these unusual times the numbers at that service will need to be limited due to Covid regulations. We are exploring how to involve as many people as possible and further information will be shared in due course.

Both Bishop Rachel and Archdeacon Hilary wish to express their thanks to the Ministry team, Churchwardens, and members of the PCC, for their continued generous and faithful service especially in recent months.

Fr Michael

Shop on line and raise funds for OUR church



Did you know you can raise funds for our church whilst shopping on line? It's free to register and you won't have to pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the **easyfundraising** site. In fact you can even save money as many retailers offer discounts, special offers! If you shop on line anyway then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and when you register select Saint James' Church Quedgeley as the organisation you wish to support.

CHANGE TO CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Looking to arrange a wedding or a baptism?

The church office is located in the vestry at the church.

From the 1st October the office will be open on Saturday morning only.

Saturday - 9.00am –10.00am

Just pop along—no appointment needed

Articles /photos for the November edition of 'Around the Spire' should be with the Editor Hugh Broad, hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 11th October (latest)

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Who's Who in the Parish

Rector & Parish Priest The Revd Canon Fr. John F. Ward

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Revd Jenny D'Esterre	01453 890384	07540 322 744	revdjenny@gmail.com
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Revd. Canon Michael Garland	01452 720872		michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
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