

**AROUND
THE
SPIRE**

Saint James &
Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway

Issue No. 61

September 2020

STAY AT HOME CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

Your Editor Fr. Hugh



COMMUNICATION - BLESSINGS OR NOT?

In the August edition of this magazine I referred to the fact that we now reach many people through sending e-mail copies rather than in the printed format. This produced quite an impact from those who no longer receive the printed version – 'We do miss having it as it was, it was more readable, easier to refer back to (dates etc).'

I know just how you feel! As an avid reader myself, it is good to be able to put a book down and take it up again! I always have two or three books on the go and would find it difficult to do the same with an e-mail item.

Perhaps it is a generation thing? No doubt it is because I do find internet and all goes with it a challenge, and that is putting it mildly!

I know that I am not alone in this respect as I am often told, mainly by people of my generation who dread the possibility of losing the printed word altogether.

With this in mind I went to a major bookseller to enquire about this.

I was given some reassuring news! I was told that in fact the sale of books is increasing rather than decreasing and this applies right across the range of books – novels, non-fiction, hobbies and pastimes. Ironically one of the best sellers is about how to cope with the internet!

So fellow readers, all is not lost. Relax with a good book, or even with this magazine and enjoy!

Father Hugh

Many of our readers will be aware that our Rector, Father John has been off duty for sometime. He is now on one month sick, and it is hoped that this will enable him to relax and get back to full strength.

So – Father John, this comes with love and best wishes!

ANNUAL SHOEBOX APPEAL FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

There is every expectation that this will go ahead in preparation for

the Christmas season - so start collecting the items ready!

Can't think of what to put in a shoebox?

Try the 4Ws

- **WEAR:** e.g. scarf, woolly hat, gloves, underwear
- **WRITE:** e.g. crayons, pencils, paper, colouring books
- **WASH:** e.g. toothpaste, toothbrush, facecloth, soap etc.
- **WOW:** e.g. a game, puzzle, or sweets.



Saints of the Month—September

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



2nd: The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea On two occasions in the 20th century the Church in Papua New Guinea was enriched by martyrdom. James Chalmers, Oliver Tomkins, and companions were sent there in 1901 by the London Missionary Society; their ministry came to a sad, untimely end that same year. Forty years later, during world war II, New Guinea was occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army and many Christians were severely persecuted. Among those who died were two English priests, Vivian Redlich & John Barge, who stayed with their people after the invasion. They were betrayed, arrested, and beheaded together with seven Australians and two Papuan Evangelists, Leslie Gariadi and Lucian Tapiedi.

3rd: Gregory the Great, 540 - 604AD

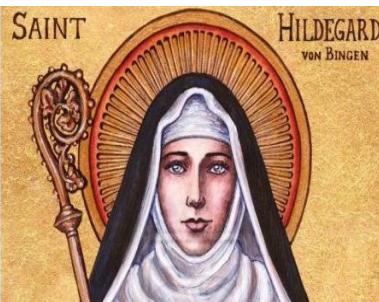
Gregory was the son of a Roman senator and as a young man pursued a career in civil government, rising to the rank of Prefect in the city of Rome. Following the death of his father, he resigned his office, sold his inheritance, and became a monk. In 579 he was sent by the Pope to Constantinople to be his representative to the Patriarch. Returning to Rome, he was eventually elected Pope in 590. Gregory proved to be an astute administrator and diplomat, with a heart for evangelism. He initiated a mission to England, sending Augustine and forty monks from his own monastery to re-establish the Church in the south of England. He wrote copiously to his huge flock, letters which were clearly animated by the love for God. He styled himself "Servant of the servants of God" - a title which typified his life and ministry.



14th : Holy Cross Day We are familiar with the cross as the universal symbol for Christianity, a symbol which replaced that of the fish of the early Church. But it was not until the early 4th century, after a long period of persecution, that pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine, was a Christian and whilst overseeing excavations in Jerusalem, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. On returning to Rome, she recounted her experiences to her son, who then decreed that from then on the Cross was to be the official Christian symbol, together with the legend: "In this sign, conquer". A basilica was built in Jerusalem in 335 on the site of the Holy Sepulchre.



17th : Hildegard of Bingen Born in 1098 in Germany, from her earliest years Hildegard had a powerful, visionary life. Influenced by her foster-mother, Jutta, she became a nun, aged eighteen; she was later to succeed Jutta as Abbess of their Convent. She received visions which she described as "the reflection of the Living Light", which deepened her understanding of God and creation, of sin and redemption. She endured times of physical illness but was able to lead her Sisters to a new Abbey at Bingen. She travelled throughout Rhineland, establishing daughter-houses, and was well-known as a pastor and teacher, describing herself as a "feather on the breath of God". In addition to her three visionary works, she wrote a natural history and a medical compendium.



21st: Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist Matthew is listed as one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and, according to the gospel which bears his name, was a tax-collector. Mark and Luke call him "Levi" and it has always been assumed they are one and the same. This occupation was despised by his fellow-Jews: tax-collectors were employed by the Romans and were allowed to add their own salary to the taxes they raised. In calling Matthew to join him, Jesus showed that judging by outward appearances was not what he was about. Entering Matthew's house to share in a meal further scandalised the onlookers, but Matthew affirmed that he had become a changed man and would make amends. By accepting him, Jesus affirmed that Matthew had been forgiven. Matthew's Gospel began its life in the city of Antioch and has been described as a work written for Jewish converts to the New Way.

25th: Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester Born in 1555 in Barking, Essex, Lancelot went on to study at Cambridge before being accepted for ordination. He held several posts before being appointed bishop, firstly of Chichester, then of Ely, and finally of Winchester in 1619. He was present at the Hampton Court conference in 1604, which furthered the reform of the Church of England, and he was also a translator of much of the Old Testament of what we now call the King James or "Authorised Version" of the Bible. His preaching and writing proved highly influential and his way of life set an example to many who met him. He died on this day in 1626 and was buried in a church which was then in his diocese of Winchester but now is the cathedral for the diocese of Southwark (which covers the whole of South London and which shows how large the diocese of Winchester once was!)

29th: Michael & All Angels Michael - "Who is like God?" - the protector of Israel; Gabriel – the bringer of God's message to Mary & Joseph; Raphael – a patron of healers; these three are the named biblical angels. The ministry of Angels – in Greek, the word means "Messenger" - is important both in Judaism and Christianity. A basilica in Rome was dedicated to All Angels in the 5th century.

The Common Cup

"Why do we use only one chalice / cup at the Eucharist?"

It's a question that many people have asked over the years.

The simple answer is that we are doing what our Lord did, and commanded us to do, when he gave those first disciples the gift of the Eucharist when they shared that last supper together.

It was the Jewish custom, at Passover time, to place on the table a large cup which would be used by the prophet Elijah, who was to return to them at some point. Naturally, the cup was never used as Elijah (as far as they were aware) had not returned. So we can imagine the disciples' amazed reaction when Jesus, on this occasion, picked up the "Elijah cup" and having blessed its contents, instructed them to share it: "This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you."

The Eucharist is all about sharing - that's what the word "communion" means. It is not just me, on my own, receiving a personal gift from God; it is me, and you - all of us - the whole people of God, being fed by our heavenly Father with food to strengthen us for his service. St Paul said that just as there is one body of Christ given to the world, so there is one cup poured out for all of us to share. In so doing, we express our solidarity and equality with each other, and with the whole universal Church.

It is understandable that in these strange times when we are urged to be extra-careful about hygiene issues that there may be misgivings about sharing the common cup.



That is why the Church has decreed that for the time being, Communion should be given in one kind only. This does not in any way detract from the meaning and importance of the whole service; we believe that our Lord Jesus is present in the forms of consecrated bread or wine and to abstain from one of them does not lessen the importance of his gift to us.

This is certainly a much more hygienic measure than what we call "intinction", when individuals dip the consecrated bread in the chalice, an action which is far more likely to spread bacteria / viruses than if we were to receive the cup itself. Therefore intinction is also being discouraged. Far better to receive the Body of Christ and then return to our places in quiet thanksgiving for the gift we have received.

CROSSWORDS

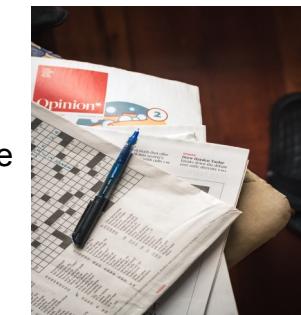
We are always keen to include in this magazine ideas from our readers.

One such idea is that we might include sometimes a crossword to keep the old grey cells ticking over!

Anyone out there able to compile a crossword or two?

We cannot use those in other publications due to copyright.

So we await your response on this one!



TO BE A PILGRIM – 4

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



Way back in the 11th Century, Richeldis, Lady of the Manor in the village of Walsingham in Norfolk was taken in the Spirit to Nazareth and received a vision which summoned her to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth on English soil.

This Richeldis did, and very soon this little village became a great place of pilgrimage with very many people coming there, many seeking God and in particular healing for many forms of disease for which there was no known cure in those far off days. Such was the success of this as a Holy place that a large church was built around the Holy House which remains there today.

Sceptics will say that this is all far from accountable in these modern times, but very many people of Faith deny this and see such places as a boost to their own seeking after the presence of God in their lives.



I have been fortunate to visit Walsingham on pilgrimage many times. When I was the parish priest of All Saints in Hereford we had an annual pilgrimage there and it was a great privilege to lead these visits, joining with a large number of pilgrims, not only from all over Britain but overseas as well. We stayed there for a long weekend, and a variety of places to stay were available.

The visit there would include various acts of worship -a daily Mass, processions, services of Healing, renewal of vows – or marriage, confirmation and so on.

So many people received a great benefit for the practice of the Christian faith by these visits – people of all ages, from the oldest to the youngest -one of the great events there is the annual Youth Pilgrimage which attracts large numbers of teenagers who express their Faith with loud pop-type music. For this event a large amount of tents would appear in nearby fields. The year that some of our teenagers from Hereford were treated to the presence of Cliff Richard and other well known media figures.

Yes, Walsingham has to be seen to be believed – do try it and see!

FR HUGH

HOWLERS FROM AN R.E. TEACHER - continued

PLEASE NOTE WORDING AND SPELLING AS ORIGINAL

The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

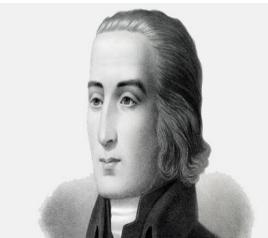
Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Faith We Sing
By Revd. Canon Michael
Garland



From time to time the BBC programme *Songs of Praise* has promoted a 'Top Ten' poll of favourite hymns. It has included such favourites as 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind', and 'Great is thy faithfulness', as well as more recently written favourites such as 'In Christ alone' and '10,000 reasons'. One hymn that has consistently made it into the charts has its origin in Wales and was written by William Williams in 1745. It was, inevitably, written in the Welsh language but was translated into English around the year 1771. Here is the opening verse:



William Williams

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
 Bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.

As you read this, you may be thinking of Rugby Internationals at the National Stadium in Cardiff, where the hymn regularly gets a rousing rendition. It is difficult to think of it ever being sung without passion and feeling, and often, at the top of one's voice. It may be some while before we can do that again!

The hymn speaks helpfully about life as a pilgrimage, that is, a journey with God, and it full of biblical imagery mostly drawn from the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert before entering the promised land. In the first verse, we acknowledge both our weakness and the mighty power of God to guide us through all life's moments. The hymn is also a prayer that God will never forsake us but will grant us a safe arrival in his heavenly home when our travelling days on earth are done. The final verse helps us to face the future with confidence and trust:

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs and praises
 I will ever give to thee.

You might well think that the tune we always associate with this hymn has been there from the beginning, but this is not so. The tune CWM RHONDDA was written in 1905 by John Hughes, an official of the Great Western Railway in South Wales. It has proved to be a real winner and one which we shall all look forward to singing again when that becomes possible. In the meantime, take time to reflect on the meaningful and assuring words of William Williams and take heart in what they convey to us of the love and abiding presence of God in our lives.

If you would like to listen to the hymn click on the link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAN4EojeF0Y>

Fr. Michael

CHANCE TO TAKE STOCK AND COUNT BLESSINGS IN LOCKDOWN



Although the pandemic has caused a great deal of anxiety and worry for us all, I have found that there have been some positive aspects to it. Having to stay at home and not being able to rush around doing the usual things gave us time to pause and reflect. We found much in the house to use and enjoy that often we were too busy to notice. Many books lined our bookshelves. Now we had time to read and enjoy them. Many CDs filled our CD racks and were never listened to. Now we could listen and appreciate them. The garden was full of flowers and insects, and now we had time to sit and really enjoy the garden. Technology kept us in touch with friends and family, and provided ways to exercise and even dance. We learnt to count our blessings.

Angie Wright



The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns
ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church,
unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is
keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.

Photo of Saint James' Church courtesy of

Andrew Wakely

Activity page for youngsters !

David & Goliath

Read 1 Samuel 15-17 in your bible or use the website to help you.

Write down a fact about each of the people below.

Colour in Goliath.



1. David:

2. Goliath:

3. King Saul:

Out reach Groups

Many have asked when Chatterbox and Chit Chat will return.

The plan earlier in the year was that the groups should resume in September. However, current conditions are still not favourable and therefore I am not proposing to re-open this year unless a vaccine is in place.

We shall review the situation in January or sooner if applicable.

In the meanwhile—Take Care and Stay Safe - Jackie H

Church Office times

Looking to arrange a wedding or a baptism?

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

It is open Saturday morning 9.00am –10.00am

Wednesday evening 5.30pm –6.30pm

Just pop along—no appointment needed

Articles /photos for the October edition of ‘Around the Spire’ should be with the Editor Hugh Broad, hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 13th September (latest)

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Who's Who in the Parish

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

Assistant priests can be contacted on the numbers and addresses below

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