

Rector's Letter for July 2018.

Dear Friends, I am writing to you on the day England has just beaten Tunisia on their first match of the world cup campaign. Everyone who supports England even as far Solomon Islands have been pleased for the win. We hope for better results in the coming weeks' matches and if they could bring home the world cup it would be fantastic but we can only live in hope.

This month July signals that we are sliding down into the second half of the year. Our Feast Day and Patronal Saint James The Great, falls on 25th which is mid week but we shall celebrate that on the Sunday 29th July 10.00 a.m. with a combine service for the Benefice when North Rode with join Gawsorth.

There are three James mentioned in the New Testament so which one is our Church dedicated to. James called "the just" was the brother of Jesus, he was not an apostle it was only after the resurrection that he was converted and became a follower of Jesus. Early history says that he was the Principal Leader of the Church in Jerusalem and was stoned to death. He is celebrated together with Philip on 1st May.

2. James called "the less" was the son of Alphaeus and was one of the twelve apostles celebrated on the 3rd May.

3. James "the Great" was one of the twelve, son of Zebedee and brother of John; they were called "sons of thunder". Gawsorth Church is dedicated to this James and his feast day is celebrated on 25th July. He is said to be killed by King Herod Acts : 12. 1 - 2. According to Spanish legends, he came to Spain and evangelised here, and our Lady appeared to him on a pillar, before returning to Israel to be killed but his body was returned to Spain and buried at Compostela.

Since the fourth century pilgrims have visited the Holy Land, Rome, and later Canterbury, Lindisfarne, Iona, Assisi, Lourdes, Guadalupe and many other places tracing the footsteps of holy men and women whose lives God has touched so many lives on this earth through living the life of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Churches and Chapels are not empty buildings they are alive with heart and soul of the living God breathing God's Spirit into every living being that enters our Church buildings. May I remind everyone that our journeys to come to Church or Chapel are acts of faith since it is our decision to come to share in the worship of the family of faith, as well as in fellowship with one another offering prayers interceding before God for the world and its people.

It is our Christian duty to pray and offer regular intercessions whether on our own or cooperatively. We are challenged today to be active Christians living the life of the Gospel and sharing the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. It is exciting to live the life of a Christian, there must be a sense of belonging and interaction with one another around the Lord's Altar every Sunday.

Everyone in the world whether family or friends and neighbour we all need one thing and that is love. The same applies to our Church Buildings they need love and tender care. I want to say that do not forget, when you are making your WILL remember to include your Church Building others have done in the past and we are so grateful, will you all do the same so that the care of these special buildings that care for our lives may be a blessing for our future generations.

Finally this month on the 7th July marks 40 years since UK gave Independence to Solomon Islands. There will be a gathering on this date at: 29 KINGSLEA ROAD, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS. B91 1TQ, The home of Bob and wife Mazula Heard, Tel. 01217057584; or Mobile : 07850796149. It is a bring and share of cooked food as well as things for a BBQ. We shall have a service, speeches, feasting and entertainment by our Solomon Island girls. Starting at 1.p.m. all welcome. A Christian is a happy person knowing that Jesus loves you and loves everyone too. Your fellow co - worker in the Gospel,

+ WAP.