

Tony Thinking Aloud cxv

Every year at the Trooping of the Colour you hear comment about the Queen having two birthdays. The Trooping of the Colour being her official birthday.

George II birthday was in the autumn so in 1748 he moved the Official Birthday to more comfortable weather. The Queen's birthday is in April, The Trooping of the Colour in June.

Churches do not always celebrate their birthday as the date is often unknown. However, they celebrate the Saint's Day of their title.

Barton Parish Church has in a way something in common with the Queen! Two Patron Saints days. Although we know the church as Saint James originally it was Saint Mary Magdalene. The original dedication was discovered when Tudor wills were transcribed at a local history evening class. Saint Mary Magdalene appeared in the wills and suddenly Saint Mary Magdalene's names disappeared and was replaced by Saint James.

Saint Mary Magdalen is recorded in the New Testament as one who became a friend of Jesus, she washed his feet with expensive ointment and was at the crucifixion. James was one of the three, Peter, James and John often recorded as being with Jesus at significant events.

Saint Mary Magdalen became considered a catholic saint. During the reign of Henry VIII there was a reaction against Catholicism and the Protestant Church of England was established. The catholic saint was not considered appropriate so was changed. Saint Mary Magdalene's Feast day is July 22nd. Saint James is three days later on July 25th, so this was the reason for the present dedication.

My grandfather's names were William John Gibbons (Wood) he was always called Jim. I have no idea why! When I was at college there was another student

named Wood who was older than me, he was always called on register lists Wood i (one) and I was Wood ij (two). I rarely see fellow students today, but some would now immediately call me Woodij. It stays with you!

So, what is in a name! It is personal and you share that personal bit of you with others, there is a bit of me in Woodij

It is important to share our lives with others in a helpful way. Pray that they would like to share some of their life experience and concern with you. We are all seen in different ways by different people. We should relate in a way that is good for our friends.