**22 July**

**Mary Magdalene**

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and

called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,

that we may serve you in the power of his

risen life; who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

now and for ever. Amen.

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**22 July**

**Mary Magdalene**

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus’s followers. Probably from Magdala by the Sea of Galilee, she is described as having been healed by Jesus before accompanying him during his ministry. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was privileged with the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples. This commission earned her the title, ‘Apostle to the Apostles’ in the early Church.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**25 July**

**James the Apostle**

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint

James, leaving his father and all that he had,

was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus

Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,

to be ready at all times to answer your call

without delay; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Church of England

 **25 July**

**James the Apostle**

James, often called ‘the Great’, was a Galilean fisherman who, with his brother John, was one of the first apostles called by Jesus to follow him. The two brothers were with Jesus at his Transfiguration and with him again in the garden of Gethsemane. They annoyed the other followers

of Jesus by asking to sit one on his left and the other on his right when he came into his glory, and they were present for the appearances of Christ after the resurrection. James was put to death by the sword on the order of Herod Agrippa, who hoped in vain that, by disposing of the Christian leaders, he could stem the flow of those hearing the good news and becoming followers in the Way. James’s martyrdom is believed to have taken place in the year 44.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*