

Around the Spire

Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene

Quedgeley & Kingsway



Endings and Beginnings

— Revd. Mark Siddall

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Help raise funds for

St. James' Church

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April 2022 Issue 79



Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad

Thoughts for April



VALUE OF THE WRITTEN WORD

Some time ago I wrote in *'Around the Spire'* of this pastime.

Recent world events have brought such issues to the fore as we seek to get things in some sense of priority.

I am of course well aware that many who read this now will be doing so on a laptop or some other device of that nature, but still these words do have a considerable value.

A MATTER OF CHOICE

So what to read? Magazine articles and features are of great value in this journey as we try to keep abreast with what goes on in the world.

THE PLACE OF THIS MAGAZINE.

In common with many other such publications, *'Around the Spire'* seeks to keep people abreast with the life and activities of the local church, and also the wider church in the Diocese of Gloucester, and indeed beyond. In addition we have been trying in recent editions to relate to the local community and how this relates to the parish church.

Of course in an area like Quedgeley and Kingsway there are lots of activities worthy of a mention, but we have here a Parish Magazine which reflects mainly such events. We however welcome other news from the area – do please let me, as the Editor or my colleague Jackie Hall of any such matters which might be of a wider interest

WHAT ELSE TO READ.

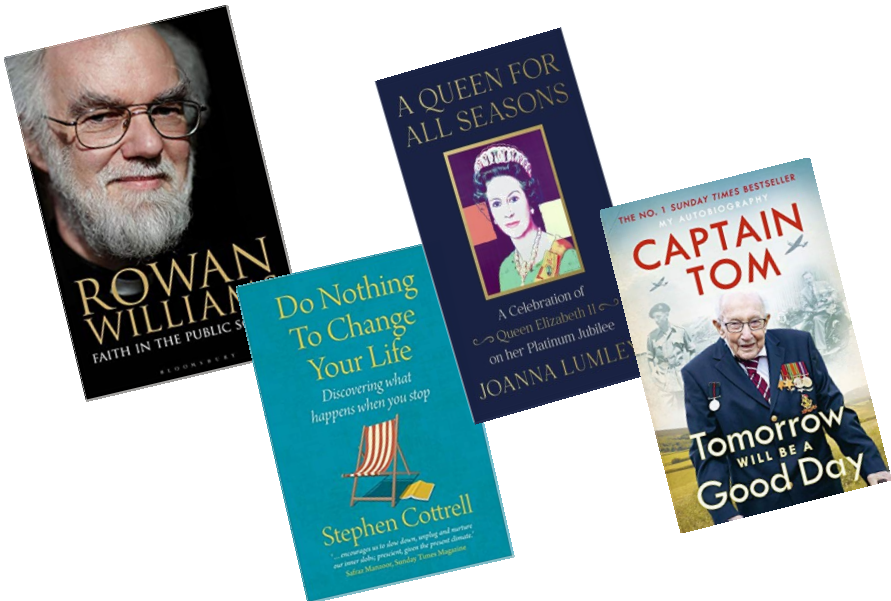
According to taste!

I like to have some variety. As you may expect, writings in connection with my priestly role feature well in my list and I usually have one or two to dip into from time to time. At present these include another by Stephen Cottrell. Archbishop of York – ‘Do nothing to change your life’ and ‘Faith in the public square’ by Rowan Williams.

In other areas there is ‘A Queen for all Seasons by Joanna Lumley – a lovely series of events from Her Majesty’s life by someone who has been close to her for many, many years. I have just finished ‘Tomorrow will be a good day’ – autobiography of Captain Sir Tom.

So you see – as it were, you pay your money and you make your choice!

Be interesting to hear what YOU (the one who is reading this now) lets us know what you are reading!



Endings and Beginnings

This is a difficult period for all of us in so many ways as the world faces the realities of war. This Lent has been a mixed season of blessings and challenges for our family. As we think about Jesus in the wilderness, we are saying goodbye to our current life in Wiltshire. All of the roots we have planted here are being pulled up, and in a short time, those same roots will be firmly embedded in Quedgeley life! It will be a fresh beginning for all of us and we are so excited to join you.



Practically, you are gaining 4 of us: myself and Mark, together for 15 years now, and Daniel (8) and Emily (5). I took a career break from Shell a few years ago to give more space for our family and Mark's ministry to thrive. Our family welcomed a new puppy, Bidy, in December.

Despite the current tragedies and uncertainties in the world, God's love will keep shining through in His Easter hope. In our family's present transition, you, our future church family, give us an imminent sense of that love and hope for the future. We continue to pray for you and your loved ones. We have a great sense of being supported by your prayers for us as we prepare for our big move and look to a future ministry alongside you in Quedgeley.

In excitement and anticipation,
Daniel, Emily, Erica and Mark

Rev. Dr Mark Siddall

The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia*,
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia*,
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia*,
suffer to redeem our loss, *Alleluia*.

I used to listen to radio quite a lot when I was a child. More often than not, it was the home service (now Radio 4) which was the favoured station. I well remember, that on the great holy days and festivals, a verse of a hymn would always precede the early morning news. On Christmas Day it was ‘Hark, the herald angels sing,’ on Good Friday it was the first verse of ‘When I survey the wondrous cross,’ and on Easter Day, it was always the opening verse of ‘Jesus Christ is risen today.’ It is the Easter hymn *par excellence* and there are still people around who would say that Easter Day would not be the same if we didn’t sing this hymn!

It is strange to note that despite its popularity, the hymn is entirely anonymous. There are some clues about its origin which may date back to the 14th century when it appeared in Latin in the form of an Easter carol – *Surrexit Christus hodie* (Christ is risen today). The hymn first emerged in England in the year 1708 when it was published in a collection of Songs and Hymns. Over the years, there have been subtle alterations to the text but what we have today in our hymn books is pretty much the version of 1749. Here are the other two verses:

Hymns of praise then let us sing, *Alleluia*,
unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia*,
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia*,
sinners to redeem and save, *Alleluia*.

But the pains that he endured, *Alleluia*,
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia*,
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia*,
where the angels ever sing, *Alleluia*.

Each verse of the hymn consists of two couplets, one couplet emphasises the triumph and joyfulness of the resurrection of Jesus, and the other acknowledges his suffering and death. In the last verse, that order is reversed, so that the climax of the hymn is Christ's resurrection and ascension. It is important that we hold together the two great themes of salvation. You cannot have Easter without Good Friday!

This is also a hymn where 'Alleluias' abound, a reminder that during the season of Lent, this great acclamation was never used. Easter Day is certainly a day for making the most of the new found freedom to 'praise the Lord.'

The tune, which is called simply, 'Easter Hymn' is virtually inseparable from the words. I hope that you will enjoy singing it heartily when Easter Day arrives!

Fr Michael

If you are reading this on line you can join in singing the Easter Hymn by clicking [here](#) from the choir at Kings College Cambridge.



“What is that called?” and “What is it for?” By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



continuing our series of answering some of your questions about the things, and people, you see, and hear, in church.

This month we focus on what your clergy wear for worship: The Vestments – the distinctive dress worn particularly at the Eucharist, derived from the everyday wear of the world in which the Church grew up.

The Alb is the long white garment, held in place at the waist by a rope girdle or cincture. It is derived from the under-tunic common in the Graeco-Roman world and has been used in Christian worship from an early date. Sometimes it is ornamented at the hem with strips of embroidery or coloured material. The Alb symbolises purity and in churches where the custom of saying “Vesting Prayers” is followed, the prayer at the putting-on of the Alb is “Make me white, O Lord, that I may worthily celebrate...” Altar servers also wear the Alb with the same symbolism.



The Stole is a long strip of material, originally used as a neck cloth or handkerchief – originally in the Eastern Church, where it was first mentioned in the 4th century as being worn by the Deacon – as a reminder of the calling of all clergy to be servants to the people of God. The Deacon wears the stole like a sash over the left shoulder and fastened over the right hip. It is also a regular vestment of the priest and bishop, worn around the neck. The stole is given to priests and deacons on their ordination and underlines their calling to servanthood.



The Chasuble is the outermost garment worn by bishops and priests in celebrating the Eucharist. It is derived from the outdoor cloak – from Graeco-Roman times – originally made in one piece, with an opening for the head. (St John tells us that the cloak which Jesus was wearing prior to his crucifixion “was woven in one piece”). The first Prayer Book of the Church of England (published in 1549) instructed the wearing of the chasuble, an instruction which was upheld by the “Ornaments Rubric” of 1559 and by the ceremonial revival of the 19th century.



The Cope is a semi-circular garment worn in place of the chasuble on various ceremonial occasions. It is an open-fronted garment and is typically worn for non-Eucharistic worship – weddings, festal Evensong, the institution of a parish priest – although by virtue of an addition to canon law in 1604, cathedrals and collegiate churches were permitted to use copes at the Eucharist.



Why do we wear vestments? In the beginning, they were literally “Sunday Best” - something kept for a very special purpose, which reminds both the wearer and the congregation that what is about to happen is indeed very special and deserving of special effort. The symbolism mentioned above is important; the vesture is also designed to cover the individuality of the priest and render the person simply “the priest” - the person called by called by God and ordained by His Church to administer the Sacraments.



Operation Christmas Child 2021

- **Gloucestershire packed 3328 shoebox gifts**
- **Nationally 277,350 (32,000 shoeboxes on line)**

The majority of our shoeboxes from Gloucestershire went to Central Asia.

One little girl Chhaya received a special surprise. Her parents were labourers and had to work all hours. She was often left alone caring for her siblings. Two years ago an informal school was set up and Chhaya loved attending. The teachers gave the little girl a message of hope telling her that Jesus loves her. She learned many songs, and found much joy and encouragement.

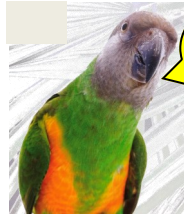


One day Chhaya received a gift—a Samaritan's Purse shoebox gift. Chhaya said *"It was the very first time in my life that someone sent me a beautifully packed box full of gifts I am so happy"* It deeply touched her to know that she was loved, cared for and special to God and to the people who packed her shoebox gift.

Our thanks go to Di and Pete Allen who every year take time out from their daily lives at a busy time of year to organise, supervise packing and delivery of these special gifts.

Coco the Christian Parrot

Since his first visit to St. James, 'Coco' has become very much loved by those who have read his *'Random Thoughts'*.



Plant seeds of kindness

So much in fact that people are not only buying a copy for themselves but ordering more to send to friends and 'or relatives. If you haven't seen it yet do ask Val Harris. This delightful book is selling at the 'very reasonable' price of £12.00 per copy. It would be suitable for children of reading age to 2nd childhood! The benefit to the church is unbelievable as half the price is given to our much needed church funds by the kindness of his owner.

Tour and Tea

Many thanks to Andrew and his team for a very interesting afternoon on our 'Tour and Tea' of the church. We heard many stories and found out many interesting facts about St. James'. The Tour and Tea also made over £200 in donations—all towards church funds.



Finding Joy in difficult times

We all face challenging times in our lives and finding a way through isn't always easy, whatever the situation.

Last summer was not the easiest for Marie and I and I wanted to share some thoughts from that time.

We went on holiday in our caravan feeling it would be safe following the guidelines in place. The weather was bad – wind and rain, but of course it is not possible to control the weather!

A week into our holiday Marie suddenly started struggling with her breathing and I became increasingly worried. I phoned 111 and they sent an ambulance out to check Marie over. The crew were wonderful and did all the checks and then took Marie off to Barnstaple Hospital for further investigation, leaving me with a phone number for later. When I tried to ring the hospital I couldn't get a signal so took a walk to the site office where the staff were most helpful.

It felt very strange being on my own in the caravan but I had plenty of time to think and pray. I managed to speak to Marie next morning and the next challenge was getting to the hospital – a lot of prayers were said and sung on that journey – I was driving Marie's car which is a big problem for me and I don't have the best sense of direction! I pulled into someone's drive to ask for directions and a very helpful lady told me I was going the wrong way!

Having arrived at the hospital and not knowing which way to go a perfect stranger pointed out the way. The hospital staff were kind and helpful in every way.

August continued to be a month of challenges with Marie in and out of hospital after our return home. But in the stress and worry there was much joy too.

Our family amazing as always, the kindness of colleagues swapping shifts and supporting ; friends and neighbours putting an extra meal so that I could eat when I got home from work. The love , prayers and support of our church family too – so much JOY!

Around the time I was confirmed, which was a long time ago I heard a sermon which I'll be honest I cannot remember now, but I do remember hearing the meaning of joy – JESUS – OTHERS - YOURSELF.

More than 50 years later I still think it's a wonderful word and one to remember!

ANGELA HUGHES

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM – WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH FAMILY

NOVEMBER	14	AZARINE DAVID GEORGE HARRIS
	21	LAUREN WEBB
JANUARY	16	MYLES LOGAN COLMAN
	30	SOPHIE HALFPENNY
FEBRUARY	6	JOHN ROYLES
	13	IVY BURNAM
	20	RILEY ALANNAH FRENCH
	27	HUDSON LABUSCHAGNE
MARCH	13	REBECCA MURPHY

FUNERALS – INTO GOD’S SAFE KEEPING

NOVEMBER	16	DAVID MORRISON
	19	BRITT McINTYRE
DECEMBER	9	AMY GAMSBY
	9	ANTHONY MACE
	14	DORIS MULRAIN
	15	GILBERT BANKS
JANUARY	24	EILEEN CHISHOLME
FEBRUARY	21	CHRISTINE BROWNING
	28	MEGAN LUCAS
MARCH	11	SHIRLEY WILCE
	14	MARCUS PHELPS

COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who supported the March Coffee Morning.

£661.50 was raised

Well Done All!

**For your
diary...**

Come and join us at
Tea@2
Wednesday 2pm -4pm
St. James' Church

BINGO
Quiz
Light refreshments

£2.00 per person

Platinum Jubilee
Saint James' Guedgeley & Kingsway
Summer Fayre
Saturday 4th June
Saint James' Church
GL2 4PN
12 noon - 4.30pm

Tricia's Plant Stall

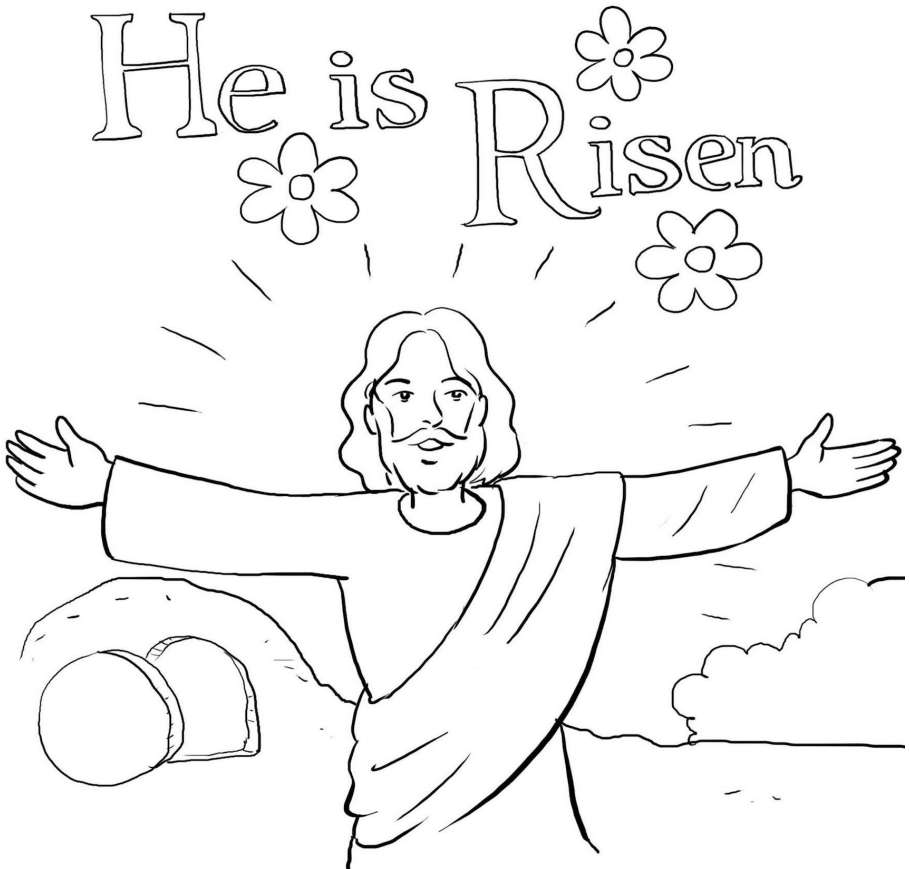
Stalls - Refreshments - Raffle - Tombola
Bouncy Castle



For our younger readers

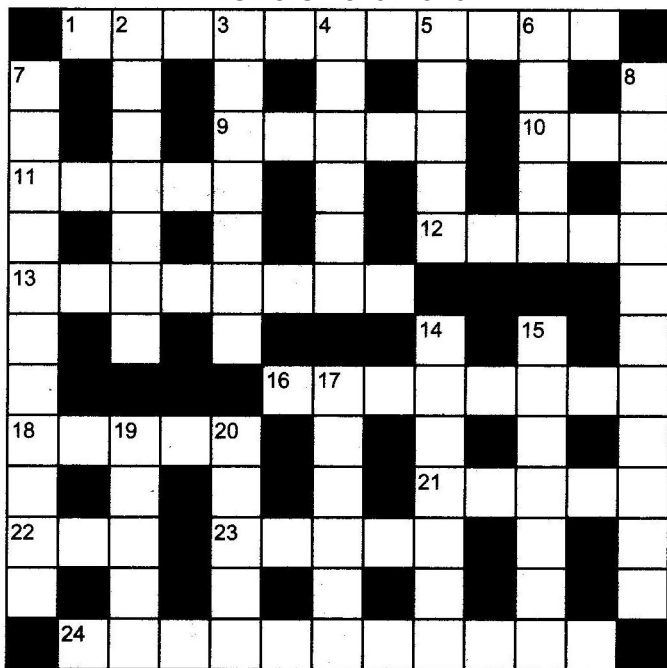
HAPPY EASTER!

Below is a lovely picture of Jesus for you to colour in. Make sure you colour in with bright colours. Easter Day is a happy day .



April's Crossword

Answers next month...



Across

- 1 Rebuild (11)
- 9 Sing softly (5)
- 10 Small truck (3)
- 11 Waterlogged area of land (5)
- 12 Dish of mixed vegetables (5)
- 13 Lacking humility (8)
- 16 Lover (8)
- 18 Slopes (5)
- 21 Cut a joint of meat (5)
- 22 Burdensome charge (3)
- 23 Friendship (5)
- 24 Rude (11)

Down

- 2 Exceptional; not usual (7)
- 3 Flowers (7)
- 4 Faints (6)
- 5 Steps of a ladder (5)
- 6 Polite (5)
- 7 Express sympathy (11)
- 8 Unintentional (11)
- 14 Marked by prosperity (of a past time) (7)
- 15 Kind of whisky (7)
- 17 Floating freely (6)
- 19 Principle of conduct (5)
- 20 Climb (5)

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