

Saint James' Church *FREE* magazine for the parishioners of

**Quedgeley & Kingsway** 

# Around the Spire - 100th Edition

This month we celebrate the 100th edition of Around the Spire — more about this in my article on page 4

Over the years I've had requests from many people asking me to report on community activities, organisations and news in general from the Quedgeley & Kingsway area. This month is no exception and once again we've a good mix. We've an article from QTC including the

opening of the new Community Pantry in Kingsway. A feature from Clearwater Academy in Quedgeley and many more articles that I'm sure you'll find interesting. Enjoy the magazine and if you've something you'd like included just drop me a line.

Fr. Hugh





## A note from Bishop Rachel

Congratulations on your 100th edition of 'Around the Spire', with particular thanks to the Editor, The Revd Canon Hugh Broad. Each month there is something for the heart, mind and soul, always speaking of relationship with God, one another and all of creation. As you celebrate this significant edition, I give thanks for this parish magazine which continues to be part of what it means to be community

## Creation Care hits the road with Revd. Mark

We love getting away on long haul holidays but it is also lovely to occasionally take a break very locally, reducing our carbon footprint, costs and stress levels all at the same time. Bike touring with children might not have occurred to you as something quite easy and fun but with the bike paths in our region, even something that sounds ambitious is actually achievable.

The four of us left on the Saturday of February half term on our two tandems with Biddy our border terrier on the back. One of the tandems is electric assist and so carrying our change of clothes and wet weather gear was OK.

+ Ruched

Our route took us through Over to Highnam, all on bike paths. We then took the lanes through Tibberton, Birdwood, Flaxley and Little Dean, where we stopped for a snack. From there we went on through the Forest of Dean to Park End, where we stayed overnight. The Inn looked after our bikes and us very well. From Park End we rode on the next day to St Briavels before enjoying Chepstow Castle and a lovely pizza for dinner.

Day three took us over the old Severn bridge, which has a bike path along both sides. It was a very special experience to be suspended over a hundred meters in the air above the estuary. From the Bristol side of the Severn Estuary we rode back through lovely wide and empty lanes through Berkeley where we stopped at a tea room and finally went on to stay at Slimbridge. The old skittle alley had no one using it and so we had a really fun evening enjoying pub skittles.

Our last day was on familiar territory, along the canal to Frampton and then back home along the lanes through Saul and finally Quedgeley. A very special time indeed together with always something to do and experience together. Memories to last a lifetime and with a very low carbon footprint!

Distance - 75 miles over four days. Our longest day was 28 miles.

Top tips - stop for lots of snacks and cafe breaks, especially playground breaks, about once every hour and a half.









Fr. Hugh Broad

## AROUND THE SPIRE - PAST; PRESENT; FUTURE.



From small beginnings way back in 2015 when I was entrusted with the task of producing a Parish Magazine it was something which I accepted willingly!

Many years ago I was introduced to the world of journalism as a correspondent for a local newspaper. Here I learned something of the art of producing a form of words which would attract the readers' eye - very important then as I had to help to sell the paper!

So here in the Parish of St James where we had recently come to retire, was a new challenge, and 'Around the Spire' was born!

From the start I had three aims to make the new publication the right one for the time. The first of these was to make it not just a 'Church' magazine, but also one which would speak to the community of Quedgeley and Kingsway in many varied ways.

As those reading this will be aware, this parish has a great deal going for it in so many ways. So my aim was to make this new venture one which would speak to as many of these local activities as possible. You will see in this 100<sup>th</sup> issue that as well as church news, there is news from a wide range of clubs and ways of life from our schools right through to those of older generations.

My second aim was a magazine without adverts!

Nothing against adverts as such, but my aim is to use all the space with the contents which are the aim - to spread news both of church and community. Of course many of our contents may well be adverts in themselves! I saw a recent parish magazine with 10 pages, 5 of which were taken up by adverts! Not my idea of the kind of publicity we seek to produce!

My third aim - and this is of course the main one: to have a magazine which is available free of charge! We have been able to achieve this thanks to some kind donors who can see the advantages of this; plus occasional coffee mornings etc

The support of our printers, Alpha, whose premises are in the parish, has been significant. To be able, as I do, to deliver copies to houses is a great advantage, and in consequence almost all that I do deliver to make a donation when I see them. A recent advantage of this free aim I realised recently when several asked me for some guidance in just how to pray in a world of such dreadful circumstances. Of course I could say 'come to church' but on the whole these are people who are unlikely to do this!

To my great surprise, and of course pleasure, one such person turned up on Sunday!

SO THERE WE ARE - AROUND THE SPIRE as it is in present form!

As always we are pleased to receive comments and ideas from you, our readers. It is a strength of any enterprise that it is willing to do this. None of us can claim to have all the answers - far from it, and to know that we are keen to share ideas is a great strength.

It is my belief, and this I know is shared by many, both here in the local parish that this our offering to the life and worship of Saint James has a sure and certain future!

#### SO WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

If I may start on a personal note - I do hope to be able to continue as your Editor! It has been a great pleasure to continue in this role for the past 100 issues! I have now reached the stage of life and ministry in the Church have to be taken. So I no longer take a full lead in many of the acts of worship, and to do more behind the scenes, and this production is obviously a major part of this.

Dear Readers, I must in conclusion pay tribute to many people who take a big part in what we aim to do with this magazine!

My clergy colleagues both past and present and other contributors gosh ! there are so many from varied backgrounds and experiences.

#### BUT - THERE IS ONE PERSON I MUST SINGLE OUT!

JACKIE HALL HAS ACTED AS MY CO-EDITOR ALL THE WAY AND WITHOUT HER CONSTANT HELP AND ADVICE I DON'T THINK 'AROUND THE SPIRE' WOULD HAVE CONTINUED ALL THIS TIME!

So to you dear Jackie, my grateful thanks for all your help across the years and volumes of 'AROUND THE SPIRE'!

SO FOR NOW FATHER HUGH BIDS YOU FAREWELL AND HAPPY READING!

## FR HUGH

It is also worth noting that the magazine is promoted monthly on our website

<u>http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk/</u> and on our Face book pages <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>saintjameschurchquedgeley</u> We also circulate it electronically to our schools and other local organisations for them to share on their social media.

Services at Saint James' Church Quedgeley

You are warmly invited to...

Morning Prayer - 9.15am daily during term time

Holy Communion - Wednesday 10.00am

Holy Communion - Sunday 10.30AM except for the first Sunday in the month when said Communion is at 9.15am.

**STJ'S Family Service** - First Sunday in the month 10.30am





#### **Pause for Prayer**

Every morning at 9.15am During term time. Pop in after the school run Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer







## **Future Church 2029**

In last month's issue of *Around the Spire* Revd. Stan Brown wrote about the process we are exploring to find a vision. In March at our monthly family service, STJ's, it was the turn of the youngsters. Through Lego, Duplo and posters youngsters gave us their ideas on what they would like the church to look like and what it could offer. Their suggestions and ideas will be included in our visionary work later in the year. Many thanks to the Open The Book team who with help from some of the youngsters took part in re-enacting a bible story.

















Our Reception children at Clearwater have been designing and making sandwiches to take to the moon after reading 'Whatever Next' By Jill Murphy. This was part of our DT project which links to the 'Being Expressive' Early Learning Goal. After trying their sandwiches, they did a little evaluation and decided whether they would make any changes to their sandwich next time, or whether it was delicious enough as it was! What a tasty Friday we had!







The winners of the FCIA World Book Day "decorate a plate" competition! The children proudly wore their winners medals along with their competition entries during Golden Worship. The children won a £5 voucher for the book fair, an Easter egg, bookmark and got a certificate too!



FCIA nursery Little Explorers have really enjoyed role-playing different occupations. They have loved being hairdressers and doctors. They have explored the musical instruments and have been singing lots of songs. They have had great fun pegging out the washing in the garden!











O800 804 8044 DailyHOPE A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

STJ's Family fun, laughter, and worship, snacks, coffee Tea afterwards. 1st Sunday in every month 10.30am

# Stations of the Cross — by our local schools

















# Stations of the Cross — by our local schools







These pictures have been created by pupils from the local schools in Quedgeley & Kingsway. You'll see that a great deal of thought has gone into their creation. They are superb. Currently they are on display in the church. Do take time to pop in over Easter and view them for yourselves.



# **LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING**

There can be no better word in the English language as this! Used in the best possible way it can express what we mean in any sentence or paragraph. Here are some uses of this little word which show just how much it can be valued in our day to day living. Please read these examples, and then think of one or two of your own.

Love is a cup of coffee with a troubled friend. Love is sending a card of encouragement when really needed. Love is staying on to clear up when everyone else has gone. Love is remembering to phone someone who is lonely. Love is lending something which is really needed. Love is giving to that disaster fund, even when you are a bit short yourself. Love is visiting that neighbour who has dementia when you don't really know what to say. Love is volunteering at the holiday club. Love is remembering to pray for that person as you promised. LOVE IS FOR LIFE NOT JUST FOR MAKING USE OF!

Now - add your own clauses - when YOU should have shown love! Let's see how you get on!

#### Fr Hugh

## In the beginning...

It seems a long time ago when the first copy of the Parish Mag hit the printing press! In 2015 we relied on the good old black and white duplicator. What a change from today's version.





## **Out and about with the**

## **Revd Mark**

The new Town Council Food Pantry in the Kingsway Sports Pavilion is a much needed addition to our life as a community here in Quedgeley and is a tribute to all those who give time, love and commitment. It was a privilege to hear Vicky speak with such conviction in church a few weeks ago about those struggling along, just about making it in our community and how much the Food Pantry is needed. I went to the opening afternoon last week, which was an event full of smiles and support for Vicky, her team of volunteers and thanks to the Town Council. There are a number of ways of helping. Volunteer by emailing Vicky (details below). Donate by placing items in the big box next to the font at St James' church. Big thanks to Vicky who has done such an amazing job with this new initiative.



Opening Times: Wednesday 2-6pm. Sunday 10am-2pm

Cost: £3 for 10 items

Contact Details: Kingsway Sports Pavilion, Newhaven Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester, GL2 2SN victoria.ranford@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk



Revd. Mark and Vicky Ranford at the opening of the Community Pantry in Kingsway

## What I am praying about

In all the mess that it can feel like the world is in, it is important not to forget to also offer prayers of thanksgiving.

This month I am reminded how very thankful I am to Fr. Hugh and Jackie for all they do for this superb magazine at this time of celebration for the 100th edition.

I am grateful to all who contribute articles, read and financially support this free magazine and to Alpha Printing who support it.

Dear Lord, thank you for the talents, hard work, dedication and generosity which goes into this magazine. May it continue to be a source of loving communication, justice and care as we celebrate your love in this community. AMEN

### 'Lights in their own generation' Fr. Ian Robb

#### Here are a few of the saints of the Church we shall be remembering

#### with thanks in the month of April:

9th: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor Born in 1906, ordained in the Lutheran Church, he lectured in Spain, USA, & from 1931, in Berlin. He was opposed to the Nazi regime and was banned from teaching and was constantly harassed by the Hitler regime. He was arrested in 1943 because of his opposition and murdered in a concentration camp in 1945.

10th: William Law, priest After ordination, he became a lecturer at Cambridge. When George I came to the throne in 1714, William (a "NonJuror") declined to take the Oath of Allegiance, believing that the deposed James II & his heirs should occupy the throne. He spent the rest of his life as parish priest in rural Northamptonshire, leading a life of devotion & austerity, caring for the poor & needy of his parish.

16th: Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1842-1923 Formerly a nurse at Guy's Hospital, she was asked by the Bishop of Rochester to pioneer deaconess work in his diocese. She was

ordained in 1887 & set up a training house near Clapham Common, where she trained deaconesses for seven other dioceses.

19th : Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury He began his ministry as a monk at Deerhurst (Gloucestershire) before becoming Abbot of Bath and, in 984, Bishop of Winchester. In 1005 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury. He was taken prisoner by the invading Danes and refused to allow anyone to pay the enormous ransom of £3000 on his head, knowing that it would impoverish people even more. He was murdered on this day in 1012.

23rd: George, Patron of England A Christian soldier, living in Palestine in the 4th century. He was martyred at Lydda in 304 during the persecution of Christians ordered by the Emperor Diocletian. Following the Crusades, George replaced Edward the Confessor as patron of England when returning English soldiers brought his story home with them.

24th: Mellitus, first Bishop at St Paul's; Archbishop of Canterbury He was a Roman abbot, sent by Pope Gregory to England to undergird the work of Augustine, who made him Bishop of the East Saxons with his see at London and his first church that of St Paul. He was made Archbishop in 619 and died on this day in 624 & was buried next to Augustine in Canterbury.

25th : Mark the Evangelist John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas & travelling companion of Paul. Eventually detained in Rome with Peter & Paul. Bishop Papias, (2nd century) stated "Mark was the interpreter of Peter and that which Peter remembered, so Mark recorded", making the Gospel of Mark the first to be written – in 64AD, and consequently a vital source for Matthew and Luke to use in their work.

27th: Christina Rossetti, poet, 1830-1894 She was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, of which her brother, Dante, was a member. Her poetry deals mainly with religious themes but also the sadness of unrequited or disappointed love. She was the author of "In the bleak midwinter"; her poem "Remember Me" is also worth studying.

29th: Catherine of Sienna, Nun; Teacher of the faith, 1347-1380 She became a Dominican contemplative at the age of eighteen, and nourished by a life of prayer and mystical experiences devoted her life to the care of the poor and sick. She was sought out by people as an advisor on political and spiritual matters, and in 1376 became an ambassador to the pope when the papal headquarters were in Avignon. Her most famous written work was her "Dialogue" on the spiritual life as well as numerous letters of counsel and direction.

30th: Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1858-1922 Born into a Hindu family, she was a convert to Christianity while remaining loyal to many aspects of Hindu culture. She was committed to the cause of education for women & orphans, founding schools and homes. She lived in great simplicity and was a prominent opponent of the caste system and child marriage.





• St. George's Day



## Tamar – Seeking Justice

#### - By Fr. Gordon

TAMAR was the daughter-in-law of Judah, the only one of Joseph's eleven brothers who voted against him being sold into slavery in Egypt.

Her story is of how she married two brothers, both of whom died, and then played a clever trick on her father-in-law to expose his poor treatment of her and see justice done.

Tamar was chosen by Judah as a wife for Er, his eldest son. When Er was killed by God for having offended him, Judah told his second son Onan to take his brother's wife and do 'the duty of a brother-in-law'. This refers to the ancient custom by which a brother married his deceased brother's widow in order to provide male offspring that would maintain their father's name.

Knowing that any sons would not legally be his and that his share of his father's inheritance would thus be diminished, whenever Onan made love to Tamar he spilled his semen on the ground. This displeased God, who killed him too.

After the death of this second son, Judah was afraid that a similar fate awaited his third son Shelah if he married Tamar, and so he sent her back to her father's house.

This brought great shame to Tamar and her family. She could not remarry while she remained contractually tied to her father-in-law. She was trapped.

When she saw that she was to be left a childless widow, Tamar decided to act. She intended to get what was rightfully hers. She would trick Judah, just as he had tricked her. The deceiver now became the deceived.

Tamar knew that when Judah left the city to visit his flocks, he liked to visit the prostitutes gathered at the city gates on his way home. Tamar disguised herself as a prostitute. Because she wore a veil Judah didn't recognise her as his daughter in law.

She said, 'What will you give me for sleeping with you?' He answered, 'I will send you a goat from my flock.' Tamar then asked him to give her something to serve as an insurance policy until he sent the goat, and he asked, 'What shall I give you? She replied, 'Your seal and cord and the staff in your hand.' Judah gave them to her and slept with her.

Tamar's plan to become pregnant by this ruse succeeded. Three months later, she was accused of being a prostitute, she was condemned to be burned to death, but she sent Judah's staff and seal to him saying that it was the owner of them who had made her pregnant.

She was freed from her sentence, her place in Judah's family was secured and she gave birth to twins Perez and Zerah. King David was descended from Perez.

Despite her unorthodox methods, Tamar was a woman of integrity who risked her life to fulfil her duty to herself and her family.

She knew she had the right to a child and she knew that her first husband Er had the right to an heir. God's plan unfolded through the unorthodox actions of this woman.

In Tamar we can see a remarkable woman who dares to step outside the bounds of her world and, in so doing, was declared righteous.

Next time we'll take a look at a Canaanite woman, a fully paid up member of the Oldest Profession, who became an unlikely ally of the Israelites – Rahab. Her story can be found in the Book of Joshua Chapters 2 and 6.

#### Gordon



Jesus says: "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Let's pray together this Lent and seek God's vision for the abundant life our community

God of abundant life, give us the faith to journey with you, the hope to believe in your future and the love to make your abundant life real for our parish of St. James



Judah and Tamar School of Rembrandt circa 1650-1660 Residenzgalerie Salzburg

# Quedgeley Town Council





LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD

Welcome to our latest update and we start by saying how privileged we feel in being able to take part in Around the Spire which celebrates its  $100^{th}$  edition this month.

Onto Council business..... Elections are fast approaching which always provides a flurry of activity and unfortunately with this comes resignations. We say goodbye to ClIrs Graham Wheatley, Chris Thompson, Bryony Ellis and Reece Preston who have all decided that the time is right to leave the council. We would like to say thank you and especially to Chris who has been on the council for nearly four years and in that time has achieved many things for the council, not least involvement with Waterwells Pond, attending the local infant schools to talk about the work we do and was chair of the Recreation & Amenities Committee which heads up all of our wonderful events. It is always sad when councillors leave but as with any organisation, it provides vacancies for new faces which is equally as exciting.

At the time of writing this article we are quickly moving towards the first event of the year and that is the annual easter egg hunt which is due to take place on Easter Monday. Always a very popular event, we hope that the weather will be kind to us! We have it under good authority that the Easter Bunny will be making their usual appearance and there will be plenty of eggs on offer. Indeed, many a meeting has taken place recently regarding this event involving the key characters!



We recently officially opened the Community Pantry which Cllr Vicky Ranford has been working on for many months. We were all proud to be there to support her in her efforts and from the feedback we've received, we recognise that this is going to be a well used service. We are proud to be able to support our community in this way and want to say thank you to everyone who has contributed towards it in their own various ways and to those who now continue in a volunteering role. The next stage to this is a Community Garden which Cllr Ranford is looking into further with Cllr Wilcox. We've already received public support for this and it makes sense to join this up with the pantry. We are honestly all so excited about this venture. It really underlines our ethos of "WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY".

Opening times are Wednesdays 2pm – 6pm and Sundays 10am – 2pm. The Pantry can be located at Kingsway Sports Pavilion which is opposite ASDA. Membership or volunteering packs can be obtained from the Town Council Office. Further specific information including where you can donate food to (non perishables please) can be obtained from Cllr Ranford by emailing her on <u>Victoria.ranford@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk</u>. There is a drop off point at the Town Council Office also.





We have a new pop up sign for our office and events. You will be able to see our sign popping up around Quedgeley and Kingsway, not least the joined up surgeries that take place at Tesco between City/County Councillors, Police and us.

Finally, it's not too late to get yourself elected onto the council. Nominations are open until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Whilst elections sound like a complicated process, it really isn't. Being a councillor can be a very rewarding role and if elected brings with it a small allowance. If this is something you think might interest you then please contact the office on the details provided below so that we can advise you further on what to do.



The Town Council Office is situated in the same retail park as Matalan so please do pop in and meet your friendly town council staff. Our normal opening times are Mondays – Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm. We are also available on email, <u>Office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk</u> or you can visit our website on <u>Quedgeley Town Council (quedgeley-tc.gov.uk)</u>.





Vicky receiving a donation from Theresa Fisher, Tesco Quedgeley





Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to the Quedgeley Community Pantry. There is a donation box in the church for you to leave your gifts. Vicky pops in on a daily basis to collect, so you can be assured that your donations will find their way to the community pantry very quickly.

Please ensure all your donations are non-perishable, packets of rice, pasta and canned goods are ideal.

Thank you all once again.



Kingsway Men's Shed made this lovely sign—so no one is in any doubt where the Community Pantry is.

Receiving a donation from Gloucestershire County Council from the Leader Cllr. Mark Hawthorne for over £800.00

# Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest –in– Charge Revd. Mark Siddall Assistant Priests	Land Line 01452 722916	Mobile	Email address drmarksid@gmail.com
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