# **Around the Spire**

FREE Magazine for the Parishioners

THE CHURCH)
OF ENGLAND

of Quedgeley & Kingsway

Issue No 87

December/January 2022/2023





**Christmas Services - Page 2** 

Help to keep warm this winter - Page 9

St. James

& Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway





# You're very welcome at church this Christmas

## Advent and Christmas at St James'

Sunday 18th December

6pm - A Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 21st December - 1 to 3pm, Messy Christmas Family Crafts and Fun

Christmas Eve - 3.30pm, Crib Service
6.30pm –Carol Service with Gloucester Charter
Concert Band

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm, Midnight Mass Christmas Day - 10.30am, Family Communion (STJ Style!)

New Years Day - 9.15am, Said Communion
New Years Day - 10.30am, StJ's Family Worship



### **Editorial**

# Thoughts for December & the start of the New Year 2023



## Fr. Hugh Broad

### WELCOME! - to this double issue of our magazine!

This covers three of the main festivals of the Church's Year.

So here is a little about each and some ideas of how you might like to pray as each comes round.

#### ADVENT.

This is the time of about four weeks from early December.

It is therefore a time to PREPARE! Of course we are all well aware that this time of preparation has started already. Sending of cards and presents is very much a part of this.

For some it may well be a time for a holiday or a journey to visit loved ones

#### TIME TO PRAY?

How about saying a prayer, maybe silent and personal, but just as important with each card or package. It may well mean even more than the message itself! If you are going on a journey, how about a prayer as you set off.

You might call to mind that journey which the Shepherds and Kings made to see the infant Jesus!

#### CHRISTMAS.

This is the time when we are surrounded by bright lights, tinsel, carols and all the rest!

Of course it is a happy, indeed joyful time for most of us in every way and this is right and good.

#### TIME TO PRAY?

Yes it really is – prayer that this will be all that we could wish for! BUT let it also be a time to remember others who are not so fortunate. We do know, all of us, that there are people out there – elderly, lonely, children and indeed animals who are less fortunate than we are.

SURELY WE CAN AT LEAST REMEMBER THEM IN OUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME? Through our prayers we may well find that we can do a little more than just pray?

I remember many years ago when I was a child, each of us at school was asked to do this-

BY HELPING OTHERS, PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS!!

#### EPIPHANY.

This third part of this great and holy time is THE SHOWING.

This is centred around the story of the three wise men (or kings) travelling a long way to see the Infant Jesus

#### **TIME TO PRAY?**

Yes, this too is something to pray about. That we on our own Christian journey may long to meet Jesus and see him as a real and important part of our lives. So many people across the ages have done just that and through prayer and living the Christian way of life have found that this is the

#### GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!

So this message comes to all who read it-With my love and prayers!

Father Hugh your Editor.

# For your diary...

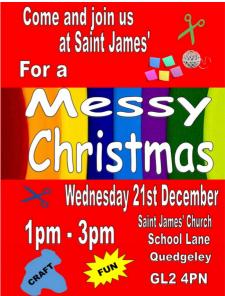


## Covenant Sunday - Sunday 22 January, 10.30am

We have been invited by Quedgeley Methodists to celebrate Communion together as part of the annual Covenant Service. This invitation comes during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. The St James congregation will come together with Quedgeley Methodists to share Holy Communion at the Quedgeley Methodist Church: 354 Bristol Rd, Quedgeley GL2 4NE.

# \*\*\*Note - Sunday worship will take place at Quedgeley Methodist Church and not at St James'\*\*\*





The JaM Sessions





SHARE Worship, Friendship, Food and YOUR VOICE

5-6pm @St James Kingsway and Quedgeley, then every Sunday

# Out and About in Kingsway and Quedgeley with Revd. Mark (and Dan!)



Over the Christmas and New Year period, good food in a cosy pub is something hard to beat. Dan and I recently tried the Barn Owl in Kingsway. It is a Marston's pub but they had a good selection of beers for me and a good-value blackcurrant cordial for Dan.

I chose a pint of Hobgoblin IPA and then a half of Stan's scrumpystyle dry cider made by Thatchers. Dan's appetite matches that of a lad who cycles everywhere and the kiddy-menu never quite cuts it for him so he had a sharing dish of chicken goujons and a side-order of chips. I had a large cheeseburger. The food was freshly cooked and good, but I would get the smaller burger next time.

It is a lovely cosy pub in a centuries-old barn conversion. Watch out for deals through the week by checking the website (google Barn Owl, Kingsway). We really enjoyed it as a good place for families. It is well worth trying as a Christmas or New Year treat.



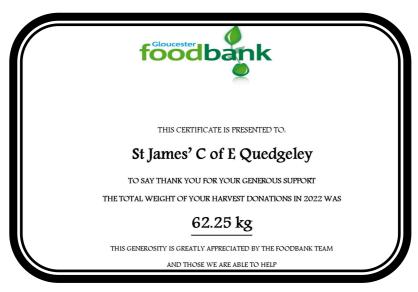
# **Christmas Fayre 2022**



Thank you to everyone who took part either by helping or supporting the fayre in any way. We haven't finished yet and we are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on 3rd December. So please support this too.



Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Salvation Army Christmas present appeal. A huge **THANK YOU** to Jackie Broad and Di Allen who undertook to co-ordinate this. A very worthwhile cause.



... also another big **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated towards the Harvest Thanksgiving (see above). Tremendous effort by everyone and greatly needed by folk who are struggling at the moment. Many thanks to Fr. Ian who delivered the goods to the Food Bank.

## **Creation Care and Warm Tips**

Heat is a challenge at the moment. Whether unseasonably warm outside or unaffordable inside. Heat is always moving around our homes, whether it is being pumped out of our fridges and freezers (subsequently warming our kitchens) or pumped through our radiators. Here are three really simple tips to



make these systems work more efficiently, which is chapter and better for our planet.

- 1. If you can, move your fridge away from the wall and any other obstructions behind and to either side. This helps air flow freely over the cooling coils behind the fridge, making it more efficient and costing nothing. Be sure to ask for help to move heavy fridges.
- 2. Make sure curtains do not block radiators and channel heat behind them. It helps to be handy with a sewing machine but you can also do a reasonable job with safety pins to raise the bottom hem of the curtain if need be.
- 3. Use double sided tape to stick silver foil behind your radiators. This reflects a considerable amount of heat back into the room instead of it simply heating your walls.

All of these tips cost little or nothing but many folk don't know them and combined they can save you hundreds of pounds a year.

Warm Christmas Greetings!

Mark



Caroline Meek has been collecting Gloucestershire poems for some time. Here she shares with us a couple of short quirky poems relating to places in Gloucester. The poems date back 100years or more.



#### **Bell Lane**

Ring the bell, ring the bell,
Ring the bell, Lane!
Ring it twice, over, then ring it again!
Ring when there's sunshine, ring when there is rain,
Ring the bell, ring the bell, Lane!

#### Dean Walk

Oh Canons canter and Rectors ride,
Vicars vary from stroll to stalk
But Deans, Oh Deans are so dignified
For a Dean will always walk

#### WHAT EVER NEXT??

Most people in towns will be familiar to see previously empty shops taken over by temporary stocks of a variety of what are described as **STOCKS FOR CHRISTMAS**.

The story goes of one potential customer who was seeking a Christmas Crib going up and down the aisles seeking his quest amongst all the usual glitter of the shelves but not finding what he wanted.

He approached a member of staff with his quest to be told –

"We only sell Christmas things here!!"

CAN YOU BEAT IT!!

Tea@2 responded to the call for *The* Big Wrap for the Children of the Ukraine by holding a raffle raising £100.

Rather than buy sweets, books or chocolate

selection boxes as advertised, I took the money to the church for the group to spend it on what they felt appropriate. I was glad I did. I found the church full of people wrapping up toys, sweets, books etc.

ready to be sent out to the Ukraine. The organisers told me they had been overwhelmed by the generosity of people.

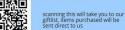
Our Tesco Knit and Natter group had contributed no end to the amount of cardigans, soft toys, scarfs and jumpers.

However, at the moment the call is for water purification tablets. medical supplies torches. One organiser who went out to the Ukraine recently spoke of the mass devastation caused by the bombing and the trauma that many of the children are experiencing. I'm in no

doubt that the £100 will go towards necessary supplies and whilst a chocolate selection box is a nice thing to have the stark reality is, it won't save your life, water purifications tablets just might!

Christmas will come and go. Sadly there are no signs that the war in the Ukraine is abating. Thankfully, the work by volunteers, to help those in the Ukraine will go on.









Check out The Ukraine Collection page on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/GloucestershireUkraineCollection

to see how you can help. I know Tea@2 will continue to support them this year.

Jackie Hall

# For our younger readers

Use your crayons to colour in the picture below of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem.

Don't forget to come to our STJ's Family worship on Christmas Day!



# Quedgeley Town Council



It has been a very busy month for the

Town Council with our popular Firework Display returning to Fisher's Meadow after a 3-year absence. Tickets went on sale during October and it quickly became apparent that there was a high demand for this event with many people welcoming its return. Our Fireworks Display took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November in partnership with Danter's Fun Fair. We are aware that the date proved to be somewhat controversial, however we do believe that our display and the enjoyment that Danters bring work together well and the one would not work without the other.

Fireworks night this year fell on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November and Danters always have a prior commitment at The Cheltenham Racecourse on that date. Traditionally we have always held our event the weekend after the 5<sup>th</sup> November and this year was no different. It was just unfortunate that the 5<sup>th</sup> fell on a Saturday making the time difference appear longer. The event itself was the biggest we have ever seen and we thank all of you who came out to support the event, whether you were there in the field, watching from your gardens/windows or standing on the pavements, we hope you had an enjoyable time.

Many months of hard work and preparation goes into putting on such a large event and whilst we are aware that it's not supported by everyone, it was clear at our event that it is supported by thousands. As always we will conduct a de brief of the event to assess what can be tweaked for next year, taking into consideration feedback from our community.

Our Armistice Day Service went very well this year with all the local schools in attendance and the War Memorial looking splendid. This was enhanced by lamp post signs and knitted poppies on the railings.

Moving forward, we are now putting together our Christmas Event which is something much smaller and aimed towards our younger generation. This event will mirror to some degree our popular Easter Egg Hunt design but Christmas themed. Youngsters are invited to come along to the Kingsway Sports Pavilion on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 10.00am, to do a Xmas trail, meet Father Christmas, enjoy some chocolate and do some colouring. If you think this is something your toddlers would enjoy then please do come along.

There is no requirement to pre order, it is open to all on the day and we anticipate the event lasting only a couple of hours. Further information will be on our Facebook page so please keep a look out. Also, we would like to put a plea out for a face painter. If you are interested in coming along please contact the office on 01452 721552.

This leads us up nicely, as this is our last insert before Christmas to wish you all a good Christmas and New Year. Between now and then your councillors will continue to work hard in the background on your behalf.

We do have 4 vacancies on the council at the moment so if you are interested in joining a busy and productive team and feel you have the time to invest in your community then please do get in touch. These are voluntary roles.

Jacquie Webster

Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

**Quedgeley Town Council** 

01452 721552



Field court Infants Academy entered into the spirit for BBC Children in Need day. Staff dressed up and took on various challenges during the day.

Is that the Head Teacher we see wearing a swimming cap and goggles? Well done all!

## The Tablecloth

Just a few days before Christmas the new pastor in Brooklyn, New York did his best to clear up damage in his church caused by a severe storm. Heading home, he passed by a local charity flea



market and went in. There he saw a large, beautifully crocheted tablecloth with a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It would be just the right size to cover up some damaged plasterwork in the church.

He bought that tablecloth and headed back to the church. It was snowing heavily as an elderly lady ran to catch the bus, but it passed by. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church as the next bus would be a while. The lady sat in a pew whilst the pastor hung the tablecloth to cover the damaged wall. He then noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained and the woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. They were the initials of the woman; she had made this tablecloth many years before.

She told the pastor that she and her husband had lived in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband would follow her in a few days. But he was captured, and she never saw her husband or her home again. Naturally, the pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The least the pastor could do was to drive the lady home. She lived a distance away and had only been in Brooklyn for the day.

Come Christmas Eve, the church was almost full and as people left, many said it had been a wonderful service and that they would return. One older man though remained seated in his pew. The man then asked the pastor where he'd obtained the tablecloth. It was identical, he said, to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war. How could there be two tablecloths so alike?

The man then told the story of his arrest and how he had never seen his wife since that time. The pastor asked the man if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He then helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door – and witnessed the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This story was widely reported a few years ago but it's always worth reading again.

Steve Morris.

## Alpha pull out all stops to help families

Alpha, printers of our monthly magazine *Around the Spire* were busy during November buying toys for Gloucestershire Bundles. Gloucestershire Bundles is a charity providing emergency packs of toiletries, clothing and equipment to pregnant women and families with children up to the age of 16, who find themselves in crisis situations. They are doing an amazing job for families in need in Gloucestershire. If you can help this cause contact

https://www.gloucestershirebundles.org/



## Belonging to the Prayer Cell led by Fr Hugh

## following on from the November magazine...

What have been the inspirations along my prayer-life journey? The first has to be my Mother, a lady of great faith who believed strongly that "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of". Secondly, I've been inspired by Christian icons like Mother Theresa and last, but certainly not least, by the example of our inspirational clergy at St James & St



Mary Magdalene! After many years of praying in a somewhat haphazard manner, belonging to our Prayer Cell has encouraged me to be much more structured in my thinking. I find the benefits of belonging to a group are that my prayer life is much more comprehensive and satisfying and I am also totally persuaded of the value of praying together on a multitude of issues which trouble our world and lives.

#### Val Harris

I am grateful to be a member of a prayer cell as this offers prayer support, encouragement, resources and direction without being prescriptive. It enhances and edifies my own prayer life and links my prayers to those in the cell so that together we seem to amplify our prayers and opportunity to magnify God's will. It is humbling that whilst praying separately we enhance and bless each other joined by the Spirit.

### Diane Ramsay



## "Lights in their Own Generation"

A new series celebrating, month by month, some of those who left a special mark on the history of the worldwide Christian Church. "Lights" that shine in December



**3rd Dec: Francis Xavier,** Apostle to the Indies, Francis was born in Spain in 1506. After his ordination he took vows as one of the first members of the Society of Jesuit. Preaching the gospel overseas was an integral part of the Jesus vocation, so Francis sailed for India and travelled through South India, Malacca & Japan where he left behind two thousand converts. He died whilst on his way to China, in December 1552.

**6**<sup>th</sup> **Dec: Nicholas,** Bishop of Myra Southern Turkey in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Nicholas left behind him a history of caring for children, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and caring for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by secretly providing dowries for them – hence the tradition of gifts to children on his feast day, a practice now associated more with Christmas.

13<sup>th</sup> Dec. Lucy of Syracuse. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Roman authorities were attempting to re-establish the worship of gods they approved. Lucy as a young Christian, gave away her goods to the poor and was betrayed to the authorities by her betrothed – who felt that the property should have been his. She was executed in 304, 'Lucy' means 'light' and as her feast day falls in December she became associated with the one true light that banishes all darkness.

17<sup>th</sup> Dec: Eglantine Jebb, social reformer. Born in 1876, Eglantine became a teacher but her career was shortened by ill health. She devoted her life to charitable works and in 1913 went to Macedonia to help refugees in the Balkan wars. After the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, she and her sister founded the Save the Children Fund and continued to fight for children's rights to be recognized. The League of Nations passed her 'Children's Charter' in 1924.

**26**<sup>th</sup> **Dec: Stephen,** Deacon, First Christian Martyr. The Acts of the Apostles lists Stephen among the seven deacons appointed to care for widows in the Church in Jerusalem. Acts also contains his eloquent speech to the Jewish Council which led to his martyrdom. Following the example of his Lord, Stephen prayed for forgiveness for his persecutors. Saul of Tarsus (later to be Paul the Apostle) was an official 'witness' to his execution. Did the way Stephen died have an influence on Saul?

29<sup>th</sup> Dec: Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Having served as Chancellor to King Henry II and proved himself as a worthy administrator, Thomas was nominated by the King for the post of Archbishop. His loyalty to the Pope and his defence of the Church led to increased friction with the crown & court. Attempts at reconciliation failed and the account of Thomas' martyrdom in his cathedral is well known.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: Basil,** Bishop of Caesarea & **Gregory.** Bishop of Constantinople.

Two 4<sup>th</sup> century bishops bound together by their desire to promote and defend the divinity of Christ as proclaimed in the Nicene Creed. This was against great pressure from those who wished to deny Christ as divine. Together they addressed the Council of Constantinople and won the day – the council ratified the Nicene Creed as it is used to this day.

11<sup>th</sup> Jan: Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa. Born in Aberdeen in 1848. Mary grew up in Dundee, enthralled by stories of missions in Africa. She worked in the jute mills and was a diligent reader and was eventually accepted as a teacher for the mission in Calabar, Nigeria. She became fluent in the native language and proved to be physically tough. She adopted unwanted children and had a skill for solving local trading disputes. She died in Africa on this day in 1915

17<sup>th</sup> Jan: Antony of Egypt, Hermit Abbot, Antony was born in 251. At the age of twenty ( and wealthy, following the death of his parents) he heard the gospel passage 'Sell what you have; give to the poor, come follow me'. He did as the gospel said and went out into the desert, living an austere life of manual work, charity and prayer. His spiritual struggles left him wise and sensible; people came to him for counsel. His simple rule of personal discipline and prayer was taken up and spread throughout Christendom. He asked that his body should be buried secretly so that his person might be hidden in death as in life.

25<sup>th</sup> Jan: The Conversion of Paul. Following the death of Stephen, Saul of Tarsus became an active persecutor of the Church, until, on his way to Damascus he had a visionary encounter with the risen Christ. This was just the beginning; his own letters tell of the time he spent working out his new relationship with God through Christ. Clearly his old life of study had been a preparation for his new, redeemed life as an Apostle of the Lord.

**26**<sup>th</sup> **Jan: Timothy and Titus,** Companions of Paul. 'Partners and fellow workers in God's service' is how Paul himself describes these two loyal companions, who shared his work and his trials with him. They proved to be vital sharers in the ministry by visiting, on his behalf, the congregations which he had founded.

28<sup>th</sup> Jan: Thomas Aquinas, Dominican Friar, Teacher. Thomas has been described as the greatest teacher and thinker of mediaeval church. Born in Italy, he was educated at Monte Casino by the Benedictines and at Naples. He became a member of the Dominican Order of Preachers and his profound theological wisdom and capacity to share it, earned him the title 'the angelic doctor'. He died in 1274.

**30**<sup>th</sup> **Jan: Charles Stuart,** King of England. Charles succeeded to the throne in 1625 aged twenty-five. He came up against the increasing power of an antagonistic parliament which was combined with a prevalent religious puritanism – which Charles staunchly resisted.

He dismissed several sittings of parliament and tried to enforce High-Church Anglican practice on the entire realm. Opposition resulted in civil war, defeat for the king and ultimately his execution on this day in 1649. Some see Charles as a victim of his own pride. His faith and willingness to suffer and die for what he believed in are not in doubt.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas. May the love of the Christ -child fill your hearts and homes. May the New Year be one of health and contentment for you.

With our love

Fr. Ian & Jill



# Every Wednesday at 1.30pm— 3.30pm

Refreshments, Quiz and Bingo. Note change of time during winter months. Our last session this year is 14th December. We re-open on Wednesday 11th January 2023. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

StJ's Family fun, laughter and worship,

snacks, coffee/tea afterwards

1st Sunday in every month 10.30am



# Remembrance during November











The poppies were the handiwork of the Knit and Natter ladies at Tesco Quedgeley, under the leadership of our Community Champion Theresa Fisher.

Well done everyone!



# A year in pictures



















































#### Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest -in- Charge	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Revd. Mark Siddall	01452 722916		drmarksid@gmail.com
Assistant Priests			
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. lan Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	irobb925@gmail.com
Revd. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Revd. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872	07974066929	michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Revd. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet,com
CHURCHWARDENS			
Mrs Jackie Broad	01452 541078	07928862976	60jackie60broad@gmail.com
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Safeguarding Officer -			
Angela Hughes	01452 722825	07964265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk
Safeguarding Officer -			
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PCC Treasurer -			
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Tea@2			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jackiehall1854@gmail.com
Knit & Natter			
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Baptism Ministry Team -			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Flower Arrangers			
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Bell Ringers—Anne Heron		07360008632	anneheron@gmail.com
Open the book—Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers—Angela Hughes	01452 722825	07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk
Tugnes	www an	edaelevchurch ora uk	

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley