

Around The Spire

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**Saint James'
Church *FREE*
magazine for the
parishioners of
Quedgeley &
Kingsway**



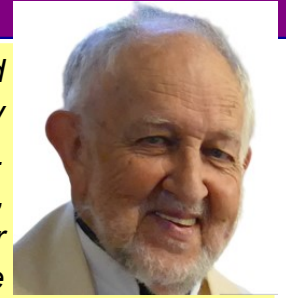
**March 2024
Issue 99**

From the Editor...

This month we have articles from the Men's shed in Kingsway, and Quedgeley Village Hall. The Ukrainian fundraiser on 3rd February was a big success and we have some lovely photos of the event. When you read this we shall be well into the season of Lent. Easter, this year, is celebrated on Sunday 31st March. Our services and events for Holy week are listed below. You will be made very welcome at any of the services or events.

Happy reading!

Fr. Hugh



Holy Week Services & Events

Saint James' Church Quedgeley & Kingsway
GL2 4PN

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

10.30am, Palm Sunday - the procession of Palms and the dramatic Gospel.

Eco-Messy Easter

Tuesday 26th March 1-3pm with snacks, crafts and activities, bring wellies and coats as we celebrate New Life at Easter

Wednesday 27th March 10am, mid-week Holy Communion for Holy Week

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday,

7.30pm Holy Communion with washing of feet

Friday 29th March Good Friday

12pm, The Liturgy of Good Friday

1-2pm, Silent Meditation before the cross

2-3pm, The Final Hour, Stations of the Cross created by Quedgeley Primary Schools

Sunday 31st March Easter Day

6am Dawn Service at the top of Robinswood Hill,

(for details contact Revd Mark on drmarksid@gmail.com, 01452 722916)

10.30am Celebration Holy Communion for Easter

A warm welcome awaits you!



at
Tea@2

Wednesday

2.00pm- 4.00pm

Tea/Coffee Bingo
Home made cake Quiz

Assortment of refreshments

£3.00 per person

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RIDE + STRIDES
for Churches

Saturday

14th September

Make a note!

Out & About with the Revd. Mark



One simple test of a parish ministry is how much does the minister see of the whole parish. Happily for me I love getting out and about and my ministry ranges from the southwest corner of the parish in Hunts Grove to its northeast corner in Meadowside. From Daniels Brook in Kingsway to the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and everything and everyone in between.

We cover all the services, military, fire, ambulance and police. We are doctors, nurses and teachers. We are trades people, in retail, industry, construction, hospitality and in the service industries. We are carers and we are cared for. Some are retired, some are out of work and some are at various stages of learning and training. We volunteer for youth, the elderly and those struggling. We play for our teams and we learn the disciplines of fighting and dancing well.

Our homes and households are of all different shapes and sizes, retired couples, single people, couples on their own, couples with children, multi-generation households, tight-squeeze households and too-much-space households. Mixed-sex couples, same-sex couples and their families. Households with dogs, cats, tortoises, snakes, insects, rabbits and chickens and pretty much any other animals you can name.

We are mostly low to middle income, some comfortable and some struggling. Some are bursting with health and young life, some struggle with health and mobility. Some may be approaching the end of life.

Like many others I love this parish of Quedgeley - Old Quedgeley, Kingsway, Waterwells, Hunts Grove, Meadowside and Canalside. There is so much Good News in our midst. As a parish we are praying about our parish vision in these months of Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Our question is 'What is God doing in all of this and what is he calling us to next?' Let's seek that and pray to better understand God's calling for all of us these months of waiting and the emergence of new life.



Revd. Mark on one of his walkabouts



Mark

Jesus' Jester



The Venerable David Sutch TD



1 Corinthians 4. Verse 10 'We are fools (clowns/ jesters) for Christ's sake'

Laughter is the best medicine

FREE! Come to play and explore with **Saint James'**

For a **CRAFT**

ecoMessy Easter

Please bring coat and wellies

Unfortunately we cannot cater for all food intolerances. If you have a food intolerance or allergy please bring your own snack.

Tuesday March 26th
1pm - 3pm
 Saint James' Church
 School Lane
 Quedgeley
 GL2 4PN

FUN Mid afternoon snack provided

From the Editor's Desk by our Editor

Fr. Hugh Broad



WHO'S CALLING?

The word CALLING does, of course have many uses both in general vocabulary and in the life of the Church in particular. It is in this area that it is often termed VOCATION - the root of this word, Vocare means 'TO CALL'. So it refers to the many ways in which people may be called by God to serve in the life of the Christian Church.

Earlier in my life as a priest in this Diocese of Gloucester I had a role as Vocation Adviser - to seek and advise men and women who felt they had a call to serve God in the ministry of the Church, specially in the life of a priest.

Later I went to serve in the Diocese in Europe amongst other things as one of the Directors of Ordination training; in this role I had a hand in the placing of newly ordained priests and the privilege of conducting Retreats for them and on three occasions preaching at their ordination by the Bishop.

But of course it is not just the clergy who feel a call to serve in the life of the church! There are so many ways in which such a call can be a part of the life of the Church in the parish. Our Parish of St James is clearly a prime example of the ways in which its members can respond to such a call!

The present Saturday Lent Groups are an important part of the life of this parish in the future, and hopefully by the time you read this such a positive pattern will be taking shape, and ways in which the church members will sense that this call to serve is for them! Perhaps this will include you who are now a part of this process - I do hope so. Of course it is not too late to be a part of this - you will see elsewhere in this issue of Around the Spire just how we feel, as a parish, this CALL TO SERVE can be answered!

Please do pray at this time that the CALL OF GOD will be answered here in this part of God's Kingdom!

Fr Hugh - Editor

Living Abundantly – a vision for our church and parish

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



Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am

During term time.

Pop in after the school run

Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer

0800 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



'Lights in their own generation' Fr. Ian Robb



Christian men & women who helped to build the Church throughout history

Here are a few of the saints of the Church we shall be remembering with thanks in the month of March:

1st: David, Bishop & Patron of Wales. David was a monk & a bishop in the 6th century, highly regarded for his kindness and compassion, and the care he showed to the poor and the sick. He founded the monastery at Menevia (now known as St David's), and at least a dozen other monasteries. His Rule of Life placed a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol, and a refraining from unnecessary speech. He died in 601AD.



2nd: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield. Born in Northumbria, he joined the community on Lindisfarne and was tutored by St Aidan. He was made bishop of York before becoming bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese the centre of which he established at Lichfield. He travelled continuously around his diocese until falling victim to plague in 672AD.

7th: Perpetua, Felicity, & Companions. Perpetua was a noblewoman of Carthage, North Africa. A small group of Christian men & women, led by their priest Saturas, met regularly in her house until arrested by the Roman authorities. They survived torture in the arena, where they openly professed their faith before being beheaded – on this day in 203AD. Their story was secretly circulated during a time of persecution to give encouragement to fellow-sufferers.

8th: Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest poet. A young vicar in Worcester who became an army chaplain during World War I. His dedicated ministry earned the respect of the troops, who named him "Woodbine Willie" after the brand of cigarettes he shared with them. After the war he became a writer and preacher, sharing his sacramental theology, and working for the Christian Industrial Fellowship. His frail health gave way and he died on this day in 1929.



17th: Patrick, Patron of Ireland. Born in Cornwall in 390AD, Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland. He eventually escaped to France where he trained as a priest & monk. In his forties he returned to Ireland as a bishop, making his base at Armagh. He travelled widely throughout Ireland, sharing the Gospel, and often opposed, but the monastic communities which he established proved to be the infrastructure required to maintain the faith after his death in 460AD.

19th: Joseph of Nazareth. Matthew's gospel tells us how Joseph the Carpenter learnt that God's calling was for him to be the husband of Mary and the guardian of the Christ-child. The adoption of Jesus by Joseph established Jesus in the family and lineage of King David.

20th: Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne. He began his ministry at Melrose Abbey in the Scottish borders before moving to Lindisfarne, from where he travelled widely as a bishop in Northumbria. His latter years were spent as a hermit on Farne Island, where he died in the company of his monks.

21st: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. As a member of Henry VIII's diplomatic corps, Tomas worked to annul the king's marriage to Catherine of Arragon. He believed that the Church was in need of reform and worked alongside Thomas Cromwell and survived Henry's final unpredictable years. He compiled two editions of the Book of Common Prayed in 1549 & 1552 but was regarded by Queen Mary as a traitor and heretic. He was executed in 1556.



24th: Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador. In 1977, in the midst of political and social turmoil in El Salvador, Oscar was appointed Archbishop. He spoke out against the violence and poverty in society and supported the demands of the poor for economic and social justice. He refused to be silent, even under threat of assassination; on this day in 1980 he was shot dead while presiding at the Eucharist and is now widely regarded as a martyr for the faith.

25th: The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her response to God's call was simply "I am the Lord's servant; let it be to me as you have said." So the complete divinity and perfect humanity of Jesus was affirmed; Mary became the God-bearer, the one from whom Jesus Christ was born to be the Saviour of the world.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The GHCT Ride and Stride has been set for **Saturday 14 Sep 24** and, as last year, I intend to organise the event for St James Church Quedgeley. The Gloucestershire amount raised for 2023 was a huge £43000, an increase of £12000 on the previous year. The R&S County organiser passes on his sincere thanks to everyone who took part and contributed to the success of the event. Our day proved challenging with road resurfacing on the route, covered over 20 miles, visited 6 local churches (a café and pub where we took refreshments). An enjoyable day and great fun but our younger team were disappointed as they missed the gelato stop at the Wholly Cow!



Please make a note of the date and consider taking part, resurrect your bike to practice the essential road skills and endeavour to use the time to improve your fitness. I am aware that there are parishioners who are unable to cycle for various reasons but may wish to take part in some way. Therefore, as an alternative this year I believe we could also form a walking group, a social event to get to know each other better. This would be a limited distance, perhaps to the nearest church or beauty spot! Please contact Paul Bridges if you have any thoughts or ideas? I am in church most Sundays or by phone on 01452 883606. I look forward to hearing from you.

Creation Care - here and now! - Revd. Mark

We often think about recycling. At least once a week when we put our bins out! But recycling is only one of the six Rs and it is nearly the last of those. In order the six Rs are:

FIRST Refuse (say no) - do you really need more stuff or plastic in your life or will you just say 'no, enough is enough and I have enough'? If you do need it, refuse bad packaging that is costly to get rid of.

SECOND Reduce - do you need so much of something or can you reduce by using it more effectively and wasting less? Win-win by saving money and resources at the same time!

THIRD Reuse - is it really ready for the bin or can you or someone else make use of it, e.g. plastic bags.

FOURTH Repurpose - does this thing have another life as something else, e.g. old cds as bird distractors on allotments or food scraps in compost.

FIFTH Recycle - make sure to choose items with packaging that can be recycled and check the instructions on the packaging and green recycling bins.

SIXTH Rubbish - finally a fail! The last option of all as landfill takes up our precious land and leaves a toxic legacy for the future. We can save all our resources by keeping this down to a minimum.

You are holding something right now that fits well into the third best option really well and that is reuse. Why not pass your copy of 'Around the Spire' on to your local doctors, dentists or hairdresser for their waiting room, or onto a friend and neighbour? After all, thanks to Fr. Hugh, Jackie Hall and all our contributors, it is a cracking read to share again and again.



From Lovell Cornwall

While sorting through my old poetry stuff, I came across this which I thought may be suitable for the March edition. I have no idea who wrote it.

Through the dead cold leaves of winter,
 Fresh daffodils thrust bravely upward
 Opening smiling faces that turn towards the
 sun.



Spring has come!!
 Rejoice! Dear Christian, you too shall break through
 The cold death of Good Friday, with new life and vigour,
 And turn your faces towards the Son.

Through the lens...



Fund Raiser

For Families in Ukraine

Saturday 3rd February
10.00am - 12.00pm

St. James' Church

School Lane

Quedgeley

GL2 4PN

Stalls

Refreshments

Raffle—Great Prizes!

Tombola



TESCO



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the morning. We raised £630.00. Huge thanks to the Kitchen volunteers who never stopped—Tricia, Lin and Ann. We were lucky to have help from the Leader of Gloucester City Council Cllr. Richard Cook and local councillors Andy Lewis and Justin Hudson. Tesco Champion, Theresa on Tombola and Andy Jarrett with his helper Dan Siddall on the Raffle. Laura Bullivant her son Thomas and the Knit and Natter ladies were also busy selling to raise funds. Thank you to everyone!

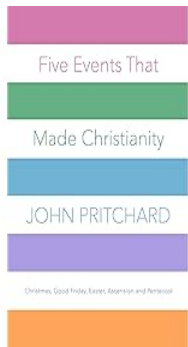
Christingle at STJ's

It was a busy morning at our Christingle service at the beginning of February. Everyone had the opportunity make a Christingle. Many thanks to everyone who took part and helped with the coffee, refreshments and craft.





**This month Fr. Hugh reviews
Five Events that made Christianity
By Bishop John Pritchard**



I have the annoying habit of marking passages of books that I own which are of special meaning to me and that I shall hope to return to again!

This book is heavily marked in this way which indicates the fact that I have read it several times.

Doing so in this season of Holy Week and Easter helps me a great deal, and I would like to commend it to you.

Here Bishop John uses the experience of his visits and pilgrimages to the Holy Land to make these central parts of our faith to really come alive. As one who has not had opportunity to make such visits to realise the ways in which the central parts of our Faith are made real in this way. I am at present reading again the part of the book which relates in particular to the events of Passiontide and Holy week. The way in which the

author uses these well known parts of the story makes it so much more real.

I do commend this book to you, dear readers, it has been a real help to me in my ministry as I have sought to present the main parts of our faith with conviction and a desire to help others in their own journey through this spiritual journey which is ours to share.

I finish with one of the lovely stories Bishop John uses when he talks about love which so shows love and ways in which we might use it in our own lives.

"The way of love such that if you cut through us like a piece of seaside rock you would find the word 'love' printed right the way through us"

There are many stories and analogies like this through out the book making it so full of meaning as we go on our own journey to find the Cross for ourselves.

Do let me know if you would like a copy of this book - I can easily get one for you!

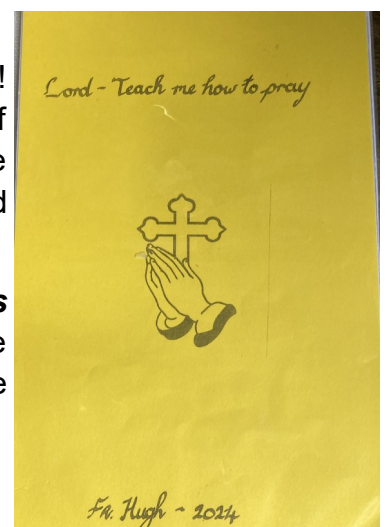
Fr. Hugh

The Need to Pray

You will all be so aware of the state that the world is in at this time! A member of our church expressed to me last Sunday the feeling of loss of just how to pray at such a time! The same feelings were expressed to me by some of those I deliver *Around the Spire* to and I guess very many of you and me feel the same!

With this in mind I have put together a little booklet '**Lord teach us how to pray!**' Some of our members have had copies and I have some more if anyone would like a copy. Please ask me –no charge for this but a small donation to church funds if you wish.

Fr. Hugh



"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"
(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

The Ancestry of Jesus (Human) - By Fr. Gordon



Before Christmas, when I spoke about St Mark's Gospel and commented that he didn't tell the story of the birth of Jesus, I seem to have provoked several people to ask me questions about those long lists of names of the ancestors of Jesus found early in Matthew's and Luke's Gospel stories. They aren't read very often, aloud, in Church these days because we tend to find lists of names a bit dull.

The Jewish community didn't find them dull at all, they put great store on their lineage. They used the genealogy of an individual to authenticate their worthiness. We find lots of them in the Old Testament.

Matthew and Luke wrote their Gospel stories for very different audiences. Matthew was a member of a Jewish / Christian community in Antioch. So he was anxious to show to his readers the Jewish authenticity of the one who was proclaimed their long awaited Messiah.



Ancestors of Christ

Toros Roslin (1210-1270)

Armenian illuminated manuscript 1262

He gave them a list of Jesus' ancestors back through the line of King David, Israel's' greatest king, to Abraham himself – the Father of the Hebrew people.

Luke is the only Gentile writer in the New Testament and he wrote his Gospel for largely Gentile Communities stretching right to the heart of the empire in Rome.

Two things can be noted about the genealogy of Jesus which Luke gives.

Firstly, Luke stresses the real humanity of Jesus. He stresses the fact that he was a man amongst men – a real human being. Jesus was certainly no phantom or demi-god. To save men and women Jesus became in the most real sense a man.

Secondly, if Matthew stops at Abraham; Luke goes right back to Adam.

If, to Matthew, Jesus was the possession of the Jews; to Luke, he was the possession of all mankind.

Luke his line is traced back, not just to the founder of the Jewish nation but to Adam, the founder of the human race, and even before him – Luke names him 'Son of God'. Luke removes all national and racial boundaries even from the ancestry of Jesus.

One of the most intriguing things about the Matthew list is that, in that most patriarchal of societies, he actually names four women. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba (who Matthew simply names 'the woman who had been Uriah's wife').

But, even more remarkably, each of these women can be said to have a 'tainted' moral background. Tamar prostituted herself to her Father-in-Law, Rahab, was a fully paid up member of the Oldest Profession, Ruth, seduced her future husband after a party and Bathsheba, who broke the seventh commandment with her King.

But God has a different way of looking at things, He forgave their sinfulness and he used each one of them to his purpose.

Similarly, God uses each of us in the same way. He ignores our past errors of our ways and, if we let him, can use us to his glory today.

It may be good to have a bit deeper look at the stories of these women and what they achieved for God, in the coming months.

We'll look at them in chronological order. The first being Tamar, we'll see her dogged determination to have justice done, even when it meant her life was threatened. Her story can be found in Genesis Chapter 38.

Gordon

Our Church Fayre takes place on **Saturday May 25th**. It will be held in the church yard of Saint James' at Quedgeley. If you are looking for bedding plants for your garden then look no further! We've got a super plant stall all reasonably priced. Tricia and Andrew will be happy to help you choose the best varieties for your garden and give you tips on how to look after many of your pot plants. We'll also have an assortment of other stalls, refreshments and a bouncy castle to keep the youngsters amused. If you are feeling lucky a chance to win some exciting prizes on our tombola and raffle. There will be a guest appearance from Shortie the donkey owned by Kate Lewis. So put the date in your diary and watch this space for more information!



Respect - by Andrew Wakely

That's a word we tend to hear quite often. Sometimes it is used with the intention of saying 'give me respect' rather than 'I respect you'. Either way it's significant.

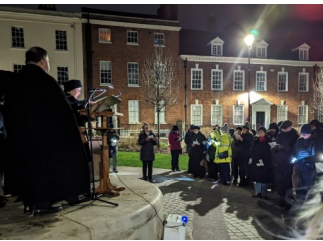


Respect however, has another side to the coin, and on that reverse are things like judgementalism, which can lead to suspicion, prejudice, discrimination and ultimately to violence and war.

Imagine how much better the world would be if we actually respected each others right to be here on the planet without being criticised or hated.



At the Gloucester Civic Hall recently, there was a Holocaust memorial day event but it wasn't simply about the extermination of Jews in the second World War, although that featured very much of course. It was also about the atrocities in Rwanda and Burundi, the genocides in Dafur and Serbia and many others. We had brought to our minds the continuing discrimination against people of different colour, sexuality, and religion.



There was also a Vigil for peace in the Middle East and again the problem of lack of

respect was central to our thoughts. That event was summed up by the Bishop in her letter to the Diocese, and I quote it here word for word.

Before reading it, and it is well worth it, just check again paragraph 3 above.

On Sunday, one of the Jewish women who had participated wrote these words, which for me offer a further image of how the darkness will never have the final word:

"I want to share with you my profound experience from last night, a telling tale of humanity as it should be. I was pulled up to the plinth by wonderful Christian people. I managed to stay upright on the plinth by holding onto the arm of a very kind Muslim. When the service was over we went into the Cathedral and I lit a candle, after which I saw my Muslim gentleman sitting so I joined him. We held hands and I asked him if he felt safe, to which he replied 'Yes'. He asked me the same question and I too was able to reply 'Yes'. Few words were spoken after that but we squeezed hands, smiled warmly and I left."

In this week of prayer for Christian Unity, and in a world so full of division, I pray this image might not only speak to us of how we live love, peace and hope across our communities and land with people of different faiths, philosophies and stories, but also how we live it within the Church. Reaching out towards one another provides resilience in places of fragility, fans the flame into greater light, and enables us to enter more deeply into Christ's self-giving love and what we are called to as his disciples.

The Thoughts of a Reluctant Disciple - by Steve Morris

Some years ago, whilst I was preparing a service for Good Friday, I realised that some people cheering Jesus on Palm Sunday, shouting out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!" would be the very same people who on the following Friday were shouting "Crucify Him!" As I thought about how people can so easily move from love to disillusionment and even to hate, I wrote this short monologue:



"It was wonderful shouting 'Hosanna!' as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Yes, we always shout in praise to God when the pilgrims crowd into the City. But this time it felt that God was with His people more than ever, despite the Roman occupation and that wicked King Herod. The crowd was wild with excitement!

Jesus had called Herod, "That fox!" We all laughed. We call him a lot worse! But Jesus dared call him that in public. "Messiah!" is the Name on everybody's lips at Passover and even more so this time. You couldn't help but be moved by it all. And those people who've talked of Messiah coming to save us as only 'false hopes'? Well, even they were cheering this time!

You know, we've longed for this for years and years and friends tell me that Jesus is now preaching like there's no tomorrow. Apparently his teaching now has a dreaded ring of haste to it, all of a sudden. My friends say that Jesus is more profound than ever this week so I can't say that I've seen and heard it all before. But I'm not there to hear it. Apart from my work keeping me busy, I don't really want to go. I can't seem to make the effort to go and see him.

I'm so disappointed with Jesus. I can forgive him for entering Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a mighty stallion that we all expected the Messiah to ride. But the excitement and the expectation I felt – where has that gone? I expected so much when he rode in and it's not happening. The Roman forces haven't been thrown out and Herod is still King. What's Jesus done? All he's done is clear a few greedy moneychangers out of the Temple precincts; that's all. At least that's how it seems to me.

My friends called round again just now to tell me that I'm really missing out this week, not going to listen to Jesus. But I'm so afraid that all my hopes of the Messiah will prove to be what others say: only 'false hopes'. This week is not what I expected. It seems to me that Jesus himself is not what I expected. Still, I won't let Jesus down. I will give him my support; yes, I know I must. I'll be there to loudly cheer him on. I'll go on Friday..."

Living Abundantly — a vision for our church and parish



Rev. Dr. Stan Brown is a recently retired Methodist Minister. Stan and Mary bought a house in Quedgeley a few years ago with a view to retiring here because it seemed such a good place to live (and the house prices were very reasonable after living in London!). They have been worshipping at St James since retiring last summer, greatly appreciating both the welcome and finding a church within walking distance. Stan has 40 years of ministry experience about two thirds of this in local churches including oversight of a number of churches and colleagues as a “Superintendent”. The remaining years were spent in chaplaincy and then as part of the Methodist Church’s central team with a responsibility for developing chaplaincies.

What’s it About?

Lent is not about giving things up, it’s about finding much better and more fulfilling things to do. Jesus invited us to follow him into a more abundant life (John 10:10). This Lent at St. James we will be exploring what that might mean for our parish. God is generous and Lent really is about “more” rather than “less”. The communities of Quedgeley and Kingsway are changing rapidly. In the last ten years or so the population has doubled, and the average age has halved. This is a new and growing community, and we will be asking how our church can grow and change to serve and support this vibrant new community.

The church leadership has recognised that we need a much clearer a sense of direction and a deeper understanding of what God is calling us to do and be. In other words, it’s about finding our vision.

Although a recent arrival at St James, the Parish Church Council has very generously invited me to help us find this vision. This is something I have done a number of times in my career as an ordained Methodist Minister, including the planning to create a new Anglican Methodist church. There are advantages in being a newcomer – I get a bit more freedom to open my mouth and put my foot in it!

How to Join in

Each week during Lent there will be a weekly theme to explore and a sheet with prayers, Bible reading and a few thoughts. You can use this for your own quiet time of prayer and devotion,

Lent Group Meetings: will follow the material on the weekly sheet

Saturday 10.30am-12noon at Church

Feb. 24th , March 2nd , March 9th , March 16th , March 23rd

Come to the STJ Service 10.30am Sunday 3rd March. We will be exploring our theme of vision through activities, games and worship.

Simple Prayer: lives today can be very busy and not everyone has to the time they would like to give to prayer and reflection or to come to a group. But here’s something everyone can do. We will be giving out bookmarks at the beginning of Lent with this simple prayer on them. Can you spare less than a minute just to say this prayer every day, or maybe even once a week?

**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**

Cont'd page 11

The Vision Thing

Parish Lunch Sunday 21st April: A date for your diary. Lunch after morning service followed by a time to explore and share together what we have learned during Lent.

In June the PCC will have an away day to gather everything that has been said and heard and begin to write a Vision Statement for our Parish.

The Vision Thing:

Political leaders often say they have trouble with “the vision thing”. It’s a bit different for churches. Churches live or die by vision. The Bible says “where there is no vision the people perish”. We are people called to respond to God’s amazing love. We can’t live our lives just doing our own thing, we need to find the thing that God is doing and join in with that! In these coming weeks let’s see if we can find out what God is doing in Kingsway and Quedgeley.

Here are the answers to the February Hymn quiz

Hymn numbers are from our hymn book: Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New:

- 29 *Amazing grace!*
- 221 *God is working his purpose out*
- 370 *Joy to the world! The Lord is come*
- 438 *Make way, make way for Christ the King*
- 503 *O Jesus I have promised*
- 762 *You are the King of Glory*

Look out for more in the April magazine!

CB

The 24th February marked the second anniversary of the war in Ukraine. We were asked, along with other churches and organisations to show our support by writing a message on a luggage tag and sending it to the Ukrainian church in Gloucester. They were hoping to tie these tags to the railings of the church in an act of support from the people of Gloucestershire. It is worth noting that Saint James’ has been active this year in raising funds for families in Ukraine. Last year we provided funding for much needed play equipment, food including rice, baby milk, nappies and other basic supplies. This year we raised a staggering £600. This too will be going to help provide some of the basics.



Revd. Mark writing his message of support

What I am praying about...



These times of Lent and moving towards Easter call us to pause, be curious about the world and its people around us, to be present in the moment as we fast and reflect and to reimagine what life might be like if we seek our heavenly father, praying always 'may your Kingdom come on earth as in heaven'. As a parish we have dedicated this period up to Pentecost for curiosity, presence and reimagining as we discern God's vision for this place we call home. **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 of 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. AMEN

QUEDGELEY VILLAGE HALL



We have a really good village hall in Quedgeley and Kingsway. It stands on the Bristol Road almost opposite Aldis. There has been a village hall on this site since The previous hall burnt down, and the new village hall was built and opened in 1962. I remember being at the opening ceremony with my parents and my brother.

When I was a teenager we had a Youth Club there, and a weekly Saturday evening Dance, featuring local pop groups, and sometimes more well known ones, I remember the Rocking Berries came once, and Screaming Lord Sutch, all really good fun.

The hall is used by local clubs, including Slimming World, the WI, Dancing Classes, Short Mat Bowls, Yoga, a weekly Whist Drive and a Church on Sundays. It is available to hire, and is an excellent space for parties and dances etc.

There is a main hall at the front, with a stage, and two smaller rooms at the back, all with modern wooden flooring. We have a newly fitted kitchen, and of course toilets, including an accessible one. There is also a wheelchair ramp into the back of the hall.

The hall is run by a small committee, and we would welcome new members.

For more details please see our website www.quedgelevillagehall.co.uk

Pat Watts Chair of Quedgeley Hall Committee

On our doorstep — Community news from the area

Gloucester Men's Shed

Brian Heatley



The primary aim of any Men's Shed is to support and develop a safe community space where men from the age of 18 can connect, converse and create. The activities in the Shed are often similar to that going on in individuals own garden shed but will encourage groups of men to enjoy being together. As well as being a safe space for men the Shed can help in reducing loneliness and isolation and supporting men through differing health matters, we call it 'Health by Stealth'. It is important to state that the Shed is not only for retired men or men suffering health issues, we like fit and young men in the nicest way, they help with moving the heavy stuff around the Shed.

Originally known as the Kingsway and Quedgeley Men's Shed we soon recognised that men were joining us from across the whole of the City of Gloucester, and beyond so we adopted the name of Gloucester Men's Shed to reflect this. That said within the local community we are known as just 'The Shed'.

In achieving the above the Gloucester Men's Shed prides itself in working in partnership to benefit its community while providing men the opportunity to develop skills for their individual projects.

Not all members have their own ongoing work and they will often come together on a community project. We normally have at least one community project on the bench, currently a bench for a school in Stroud, these project can provide an opportunity and a reason to come to the Shed where men can engage with other men and create something that they can appreciate. That said, if a man just needs a safe space to sit and chat over a coffee he will always find someone to sit with him.

Coming to the Shed increases opportunity for men to be active, making them think and be creative, our motto is 'Shoulder to Shoulder' and it is proven that by working in this way men will start to talk and of course being men there will always be plenty of suggestions on how to do it a particular way. Our Shed has developed a well equipped wood workshop alongside a separate 'Tech Space' where we utilise technology in the form of Computer Controlled machines such as a CNC router and a laser engraver.

While we had received some initial financial support to set up the Shed and were fortunate to have been successful in obtaining funding from the National Lottery the Shed remains fiercely independent and self supporting. This means that we self fund all our work and aim to recycle as much as possible reducing the amount going to landfill or incineration.

Items we have made in the Shed can now be found in a numerous locations across both the City of Gloucester and the County of Gloucestershire, for example the large blue planter outside Tesco Extra at Quedgeley. Very early after the Shed was established in 2015 it formed a partnership with our local Tesco's Community Champion Theresa who has introduced us to many other charities/community groups. This valuable partnership, which also involves the supply of cake and biscuits, has contributed to the wider community benefit through the provision of multiple planters to Wotton Lawn Hospital, an unknown number of bird boxes / bird tables, signs and inscribed plaques.

*“ our motto is
'Shoulder to
Shoulder' ”*



Most recently we have presented an inscribed oak Memorial Cross for the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at Tesco's and a bench each to the two primary school near to our Shed. We have also recently started a 'Bike Project at the Shed and have sent a number of children's cycles to Ukraine and donated a couple to a family in need.

Our Shed Quarters in Edison Close, opposite the Waterwells Park and Ride are open every Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10 am and 1 pm and also on a Tuesday evening from 6pm and we will always welcome any visitors





Welcome to our recent update where we hope to give you an insight into what is happening in the town council world at the moment.



Quedgeley COMMUNITY PANTRY

QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Our exciting news at the moment is the growing momentum towards our newly formed Community Pantry, led by Councillor Vicky Ranford. With more than 30 volunteers at the moment offering their services, grant monies from various organisations and support from local supermarkets, this new initiative really is gaining speed and we are hopeful that it will be officially open to the public mid March 2024. Further details can be obtained from Cllr Ranford direct by emailing her on Victoria.ranford@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk. For the moment however we would like to thank everyone who is and continues to support this very worthwhile community project.



As we move into March and with Easter coming early this year, we are once again planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt which is due to take place on Easter Monday from 10.00am at the Local Nature Reserve off Curtis Hayward Drive. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance and there will be lots of opportunities for the younger generation to come along and bag themselves some free choccie. We would like to stress that this event is targeted towards children up to 10 years old. We look forward to seeing everyone there again this year, always a very popular event and as there are only so many packs to go around it really is first come first served!

The budget for the new financial year has now been set and the council have remained mindful of current economic pressures. It is always a challenging job balancing what needs to be done against restricted budgets, however we hope that our community can see that we really do put your best interests at heart. The forthcoming year will see improvements in all our community centres and sports centres, as well as a newly formed budget to support the community pantry.

We are still awaiting the outcome of our Quality Gold Application and hope that in the next few months we will be able to provide an update as to where we stand. We constantly strive to provide the best service we can and ensure that a local office and face to face support is always there which we feel in this day and age is particularly important.

Finally, a big well done to two councillors who have recently achieved their 5 year long service award, Cllrs Janet Weston and Liam Harries. Many thanks for your ongoing continued service.



**Saint James' Church
Quedgeley**

- Do you live in Quedgeley or Kingsway?
- Are you looking to organise a wedding or baptism?
- Have you considered Saint James?

**For more information Contact Revd. Mark
on 01452 722916**

**Our church is open between
9.30am –4pm during the week.**



Services at Saint James' Church Quedgeley

You are warmly invited to...

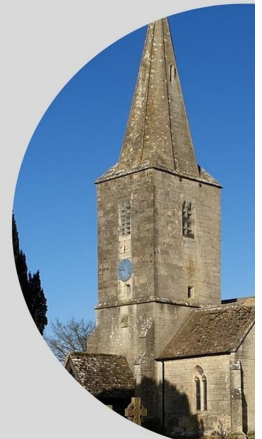
Morning Prayer - 9.15am daily during term time

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



Theresa and her fabulous Knit and Natter team have cracked it again! They have raised £670.00 towards The British Heart Foundation. Well done everyone!



Answer to our Quick Quiz last month - The Lost gardens of Heligan

Next month *Around the Spire* celebrates its 100th birthday! Watch out for the special edition.

Who's Who in the Parish Church

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www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley

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