

**Saint James,
&
Saint Mary Magdalene**

Around the Spire

**# Follow
The Star**

December Issue 52

Jesus is the light of the world

Quedgeley & Kingsway

Come and join us!

#FollowTheStar

Jesus is the light of the world
John 8:12

Christmas Services
Christmas Eve
 Crib Service 4.00pm
 Carol Service 6.00pm
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day 10.30am

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



Community Carol Singing

Join us at Tesco's on
19th December at 4.00pm
 for an hour, as we sing some of
 the well known
 Christmas Carols. All proceeds
 to church funds.
 Please come and join us!

Switch on to Christmas

in association with KRA (Kingsway Residents Association)

Join local residents to welcome in the season of Christmas with Carols and the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights!

Friday 6th December
6.00pm

Kingsway Village Centre
 Christmas Tree kindly
 donated by
Cllr. Richard Cook

*Carols led by Revd. Canon
 Father John Ward, Revd.
 Jenny d'Esterre &
 Fr. Gerry Walsh*

Special guest appearance by
Elsa
 from Enchanting Story Book
 Parties!

Tree decorated by Kingsway and Waterwells Primary Schools

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday 1st ADVENT SUNDAY
Parish Eucharist 9.30
STJ CHRISTINGLE 10.30
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 5.00pm
- Saturday 7th CONCERT BY ANGIES CHOIR 7.30pm
- Sunday 8th PARISH EUCHARIST 10.30
- Sunday 15th PARISH EUCHARIST 10.30
Wedding 1.00p.m.
- Tuesday 17th I SING POP with Clearwater School
- Thursday 19th CAROL SINGING at TESCO 4pm
- Sunday 22nd PARISH EUCHARIST 10.30
- 
- Tuesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
CRIB SERVICE 4PM
CAROL SERVICE 6PM
MIDNIGHT MASS 11.30P.M
- Wednesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY**
FAMILY MASS OF THE NATIVITY 10.30
- Sunday 29th FIRST AFTER CHRISTMAS
PARISH EUCHARIST 10.30 am.

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



THE DILEMMA OF CHRISTMAS

As always the calendar of events, services and activities in this, as in any parish is very full, and as one of our church members said to me recently, we are in danger of what might be called 'Christmas overload!'

Add to this the deluge (literally) of many charities seeking support from us through mailings and other forms of media.

Of course we cannot decry the importance of these organisations, but unless we are very wealthy we just cannot, with all the will in the world give realistic support to any but a few of these attempts to give us their support.

Be assured I am not being a Christmas 'scrooge' in these comments, but simply realistic. Neither am I suggesting for one moment that we should not have a Happy Christmas, on the contrary we should as Christians seek to be joyful – after all, God has given us a gift which is beyond words!

It's all a question of balance, after all, giving is at least as important as receiving – we cannot deny the sheer joy of seeing young ones (and indeed some not so young) as they open those gifts which come their way.

So what am I saying? I think this is well expressed by a new initiative by the Church this year.

It is called 'FOLLOW THE STAR' . It sets out a well balanced approach to the twelve days of Christmas with a series of suggestions for each day based on the Christmas story.

Do give it a try - there are copies available in St James Church, and there is no charge.

May this enable you and those around you have a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

From Father Hugh, your Editor.

On the record - with the Rector

Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Our dear country has gone through pretty sad times of late, and this may continue for some time to come.

We seem to be a nation divided with unjust positions, thoughts, differences of opinion and harsh words being hurled about, along with the sad and bitter feelings of indifference and the lack of generosity.

Jesus himself said that “a house divided against itself cannot stand” (*Matthew 12:25*) so I invite you to pray for our nation and its greater peace; with the outpouring of toleration and reconciliation for our country and ourselves.

The role of the church at such a time to strive to be a reconciler, and not to take one side or point of view against another.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ let us all look again at the message announced by the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem, which was one of peace and good will towards all.

I wish you all the joy and peace of Christmas with health and prosperity for the incoming year 2020.

With every blessing

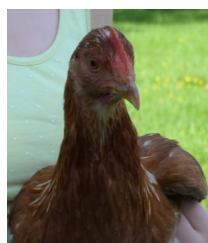
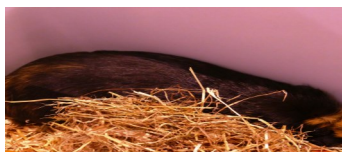
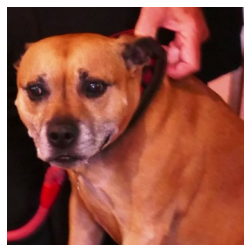
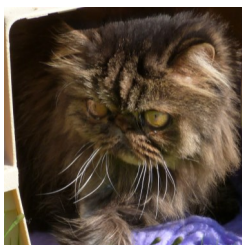
Fr John

All Creatures great and small



This year Fr. Hugh blessed 14year old Alfie. Below are some of the pets that have received a blessing at Saint James' over the years.

Father Hugh blesses 14 year old Alfie in our church this year.

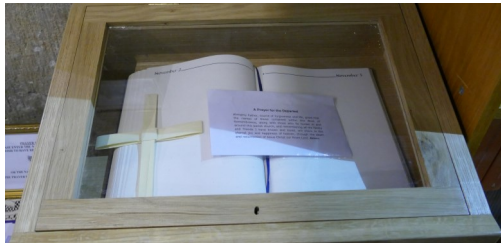


Please note – Unfortunately due to Christmas holidays the January magazine is now at the printers. If you have an article for the February edition please send it to The Editor, Fr. Hugh Broad email address: hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

INTRODUCING ---

THE SAINT JAMES BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

At Saint James Church we now have a very special addition to what we can offer to the Community.



In common with many other churches we seek to help those who remember loved ones who have reached the end of their earthly presence with us.

By having this lovely book of Remembrance we can now suggest to those who are bereaved, this opportunity of perpetuating their loved ones over the years to come.

You can see this book in a stand near the church door.

The names of loved ones are placed on the date of their passing by a calligrapher who is a member of our church, the pages turned to the appropriate date.

People often visit the church to see the book and may light a candle and say a prayer for the person they wish to remember.

If you wish to mark the date in this way, there are some forms on the table nearby – do please take one and if you wish to be a part of this, complete with care and return it as suggested.

There is a small charge for this to assist us in the work of upkeep of this lovely ancient church.



REMEMBERING.

There's silence in the Albert Hall, a million poppy petals fall
On rows of service personnel, and others whose deep thoughts will dwell,
On those departed years before, to fight a cruel senseless war.

It's now more that a hundred years, since called-up men and volunteers,
Went off to fight in that Great War, and none of them were really sure
If they would see their homes again, when trudging through that sad terrain,
Or stuck in trenches thick with mud, or see their dead mates soaked in blood.
For four more years the thousands fell, urged onward in that living hell,
To slay the foe; a noble cause; it's said, 'A war to end all wars'!

But then in 1939, Herr Hitler got his troops in line,
To conquer Europe, Britain too, but he hadn't counted on "The Few".
For years again, at such great cost, and tens of thousands lives were lost.
"For what, we ask"? For greed and power! But t'was Britain that had it's finest
hour!

Was this the war to end all wars? Oh! sadly not; just but a pause,
For conflicts continue to this day, that's carried more brave souls away.
And so, as we begin November, the country will again remember.
There'll be silence in the Albert Hall. The bugles sound. The petals fall.

Lovell Cornwall.



Times & Seasons: Advent

A new "Christian Year" begins on 1st December – Advent 1

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty.*
(Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. Rightly so, because both Advent and Lent are times of preparation – getting ready, in body and spirit, to celebrate a great historic event.

But Advent is more than just "getting ready for Christmas". Sadly, the anticipation of Christmas comes under increasing commercial pressure – especially from those who have forgotten (or have never heard) what the true meaning of the celebration is – and this has made it harder to sustain, during the four weeks of Advent, the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

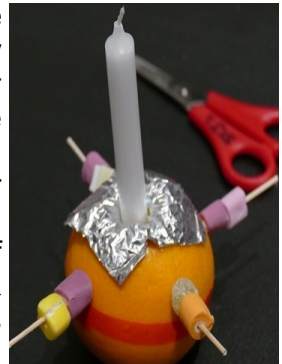
You will see that during Advent Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. On each of the four Sundays, one candle is lit: the first reminds us of the call of Abraham to be the founder of the people of Israel; the second celebrates the work of all the prophets of the Old Testament and their message of the Messiah who is to come. shall conceive and bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel" (which means "God with us").



There is much to celebrate and each week will have its own emphasis. St John wrote: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Join us on Advent Sunday when the first light is kindled and make your heart ready to greet him when he comes again.

The Third Sunday of Advent recalls the life of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah, and this Sunday was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or ‘Rose Sunday’ - so the candle to be lit on this Sunday is pink), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great ‘O’ Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations. You can read all the “Great ‘O’ antiphons in the hymn “O Come O Come Emmanuel”. Traditionally each one of these is used individually during the last week of the season.

The Moravian custom of the Christingle – the word means “Christ light” - has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children’s Society; Christingle services can take place before or after Christmas. We shall be celebrating “Christingle” at St James on the 1st of December at 10.30am at our STJ’s worship & praise, when the meaning behind the symbols of the orange, the ribbon, and the fruits, will be explained.



As I said earlier, Advent is more than just preparing to celebrate the first coming of the Christ in the birth of Jesus. The readings from the Old Testament which we shall be using will remind us of the years of longing for a saviour to come, and the promises given by God through his prophets, that the Messiah will indeed come to earth. The New Testament readings will focus our minds and prayers on the future – to that moment when the Christ will come again, just as he promised. The time when God will call an end to all the pain and sadness and we shall be gathered together as the Church in Paradise - just as we pray: “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again”.

Every Advent Sunday marks a year nearer to that time, so it is indeed time to get ready – not just by making sure that the house is ready for all the visitors and guests, but that our hearts and minds are ready to receive him when he comes in glory. It's a time to put away all those things which stop us being the people God intends us to be.

The season comes to a great climax with the news that the time has come; God is about to come among his people in human form. He has called a devout young woman to take a major part in his plan of salvation and the plan is about to come to fruition. Isaiah has already assured us: "A virgin

We wish you a happy and fulfilling new Christian year!

Fr Ian.

FROM THE REGISTERS IN OCTOBER

HOLY BAPTISM

OCTOBER 13th NICO LUCA MUSTAFIC
ARALIA MORGAN PARKER

OCTOBER 20th CHARLIE ARTHUR McCATTY



“WELCOME TOTHE LORD'S FAMILY”

HOLY MARRIAGE

OCTOBER 20 MICHAEL CHARLES BASE
&
RACHEL EMMA KNIGHT



THOSE WHOM GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

Clearwater Primary Academy

Clearwater C of E Primary Academy moved to their new temporary site at Olympus Park during the summer holiday. A great deal of 'behind the scenes' work was carried out by staff in order to get the school up and running ready to welcome everyone in September. Whilst we are sad to say goodbye to our Hardwicke friends, we are delighted with our new setting and are so pleased to be a part of St. James' thriving parish.

We were delighted to have Bishop Robert, Rev'd Canon Fr John and Fr Hugh with us earlier this month to give thanks for a successful move and bless our school with friends and family. There is so much to look forward to. However the children are especially looking forward to celebrating Christmas at St. James' Church once again, with a concert in partnership with IsingPOP.

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2020 then do please come and visit us. Just ring the school office on 01452 347690 and we will arrange a convenient time to show you around. You can have a look at the school website to get a flavour of the school in action or you may want to come to our Christmas Fayre on Friday 6th December between 6.00pm and 8.00pm and join in with all the fun.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saint James' along with Tesco Store, Q Club and Little Monsters Rugby, teamed up to run a Coffee Morning for Macmillan. Thanks to community support we raised £833.66.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland





Remembrance Day Service



Saint James' Chit -Chat

Relax and meet new friends!

**Thursday Morning
10.00am -12noon**

**Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN**

**Refreshments and newspapers available.
Selection of books and board games
You need never be bored!**



Saint James CHATTERBOX

...time for fun!



www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

**Parent, Baby and Toddler 'Drop -in' St. James Church
Quedgeley Every Tuesday 9.30am -11.00am**

**Healthy
Snacks**

**Lots of
Toys**



**Messy
glue**

**Refreshments
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Who's Who in the Parish



Rector of Saint James'

Revd Canon Fr. John Ward

Telephone:
01452 720411

Mob: 0796763094

email: jfmw23@gmail.com



Hon Assistant Priest

Fr Hugh Broad,

Tel: 01452 541078,

Mob: 07928 455674

e-mail:

hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk



Hon Assistant Priest

Fr Ian Robb

Tel: 01452 676059

Mob: 07962 469250

e-mail:

ia_jdr@lineone.net



Hon Assistant Priest

Revd Jenny

d'Esterre

Tel: 01453 890384

Mob: 07540322744

e-mail:

revdjenny@gmail.com

Churchwardens

Ian Pearce

Tel: 01452 725178

Mob: 07867502469

e-mail:

lanlu123@hotmail.com

Paul Price

Tel: 01452 537464

Mob: 07595264559

email: thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk

Extended Church Office, in the vestry -No appointment necessary!

...for the Calling of Banns of Marriage; Holy Baptisms: Marriages etc.

WEDNESDAY 5.30 –6.30pm SATURDAY 9.00—10.00am

Kingsway Community Centre

Saturday 11.00am –12noon

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

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