

# Around the Spire



***FREE Magazine for the Parishioners***

***of Quedgeley & Kingsway***

**February 2023**

**Issue No 88**



**Messy Christmas - Page 7**  
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**St. James**

**& Saint Mary Magdalene**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway**

**Editorial**  
**February 2023**  
**Fr. Hugh Broad**



**“Time liked an ever rolling stream!”**

Readers may be aware of this line from one of the well known hymns of the Christian Church.

It is a phrase which we can easily apply to our lives as Christians and the Year of Faith which we observe in our acts of worship.

Very soon we shall be starting our observance of the Holy season of Lent. It does not seem to be a whole year when in this magazine I was urging you, the readers, to approach this season in a positive way by trying to pray more, be a part of the life of the church here at St James and generally seek just what it means to be a disciple in our own age.

And of course all this still applies – an even more!

I don't know about you, but when I watch News at Ten I realise just how much our prayer is needed!

In fact I usually then go into my office and say the Office of Compline – a form of night prayer which gives me the chance to put all I have heard into prayer – the least I can do!

So then to **Lent 2023** – what about it ? What can I do?

Of course there is so much and I reckon that we should all do!

**WEEKLY LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Here are two suggestions that you may find a help.

We did intend to start this series ages ago and then the pandemic put a stop to it. So here goes for this Lent and we do hope you will want to take part so here are the details –

**TIME AND PLACE** – In the Lady Chapel in church on **SATURDAY MORNINGS – 10.00 A.M** for an hour or so.

**SUBJECT – THE BENEDICTINE WAY** - to explore just how this way of life and worship can apply to us Anglicans in the church of today.

**DO COME ALONG AND JOIN US!**

Fr Hugh and Fr Ian will be leading our thoughts on this – we do believe it will help us all in our parish, especially at the present time!

## A BOOK FOR LENT?

Those who know me well will be aware that I am an avid reader! I always have a couple of books on the go.

Perhaps you would like to do the same as a part of Lent.

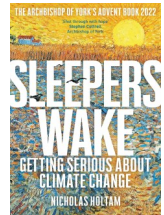
I will make some suggestions – one this month and a couple more in March – there will still be most of Lent left!

This is my first choice –

### **SLEEPERS WAKE – by Bishop Nicholas Holtam.**

This has to be my first choice! I can say without exaggeration that this is one of the most memorable for a long time!

Here Bishop Nicholas brings the vital subject of Climate Change into our minds. As you will be aware by now this whole subject is one of the most, if not THE issue which should be at the heart of our thoughts and prayers.



This book was Archbishop Stephen's book for Advent. However it is still so important now that we are coming to Lent. It is divided into sections over four weeks and just as important now as ever.

It is still available at £11 – and I can get a copy for you at a little less through my Bookshop membership. Also **Reflections for Lent** A super and easy way to observe Lent with a Bible passage for each day and some thoughts based on it. Also has some really good articles including one on Prayer by our own Bishop Rachel.

Cost - £5 well worth it. I can get it for you if you wish.

More book ideas next month. - FATHER HUGH

St. **J**ames and St. **M**ary Magdalene Quedgeley & Kingsway  
**The JaM Sessions**

## **YOUR INVITATION**

Every Sunday, 5-6pm @St James Kingsway and Quedgeley,  
teens or any age. Music, Singing, Food & Fun!



## THE CUSHION

Scargill House is a holiday, conference and retreat centre in the Yorkshire Dales, welcoming many guests each year. Ann and I have a long connection with the place and over the years we have heard many stories told there of God at work in people's lives.



Ann in particular spends time there each year, either on holiday or helping on occasions as a volunteer. Last year Ann heard this quite moving story told by a parish priest:

At a crafts session in a parish a teenage boy with learning difficulties was making a cushion. He told his mother that the cushion was for a boy named Kaydon. The mother said, "But we don't know anybody with that name." The boy though insisted the cushion was for someone named Kaydon.

Some while later, the priest came to minister at their church. She told the congregation that she was in the process of adopting a very young boy, just a year old or so. The teenage boy's mother asked her, "I know this might sound a silly question but what is his name?" The priest replied, "Kaydon."

The mother said that she had something for that child, and she arranged to give the priest the cushion that her son had made specifically for an unknown child of that name. It was complete with Kaydon's name embroidered on it. Naturally the priest was delighted. She then noticed a date that was also embroidered on it. "That's when my son finished the cushion", the mother said. The priest's reply? "That is the date that Kaydon was born."

Steve Morris.

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday 22nd February**

Service times will be printed in the weekly newsletter  
and advertised on Facebook



## **Out and About in Kingsway and Quedgeley with Revd. Mark**



This Out and About review is a bit different and I need to write it now while memories are still fresh.

Before I formally began at St James' we had some time to settle in with our family, begin new schools and get our home reasonably organised. During that time we quietly began to attend St James' Church without many folk in the congregation knowing that I was the new 'vicar'. This gave us a chance to experience life at St James' as new members of the congregation.

Our experience was the same as so many others who have given St James' a go and find it to be an especially warm and inviting church to everyone. Right from the start, Daniel and Emily settled into the family corner, where Emily enjoyed drawing and colouring while Daniel enjoyed reading or brought some lego. This gave them a chance to engage with worship on their own terms, enjoying the music and coming up for communion and sharing in coffee/tea (for grown ups) and juice (for children) and biscuits and most of all chat.

Everyone enjoyed getting to know them and they really enjoyed getting to know everyone of different generations in church, learning about living in a community of faith and love. Whether it was the monthly family service, StJ's on the first Sunday of the month at 10.30 or the family communion every Sunday at 10.30, we all loved our first weeks at St James' and we continue to enjoy being part of this warm and nurturing church.

I can honestly recommend St James to anyone considering attending, single, couple or family, retired, working, studying or in a carer's arms. St James really is a church for everyone.



Daniel and Emily enjoying their first Christmas at St James'



***Gordon Williams is a regular member of the congregation at Saint James'. What you may not know is that Gordon is also a qualified lifeguard. Here Gordon tells us something about how he achieved his goal.***



**'Whomsoever you see in distress, recognise in him a fellow man'**

This is the motto of the Royal Life Saving Society of which I was a member for over 30 years.

During this time, it became a passion and interest of mine and throughout my time I worked towards many awards which I was happy to achieve. Having not been able to swim until the age of 11.

Most of these awards involved practical swimming, written and oral examinations. Having achieved my Bronze Medallion, Award of Merit and Distinction I went on to become a qualified lifesaving teacher achieving my teacher's certificate and badge, travelling around the county teaching many local swimming clubs lifesaving skills.

During this time, I also belonged to the Gloucester Lifeguards and spent many weekends patrolling on the river Avon near Twynning.

As part of my membership of the Gloucester Lifeguards I took many positions. After a few years of gaining experience in teaching and communicating my skills to others i.e., School Teachers, Scout, and Guide Leaders. I went on to study for and obtain my RLSS UK Examiners Status. I could then go around the Country examining others to help them achieve their lifesaving qualifications. Much of this took place late at night once the local public swimming sessions finished due to the cost of hiring pools.

At the end of my time with the RLSS UK I was awarded by them a long service medal of which I am very proud.

**STJ's Family fun, laughter and worship,  
snacks, coffee/tea afterwards**

**1st Sunday in every month 10.30am**

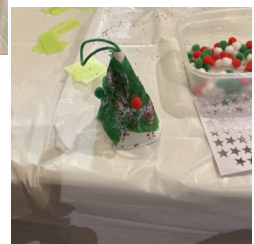




## Messy Christmas!

On December 22nd around 70 children descended on Saint James' to take part in our Messy Christmas afternoon. Thanks to Emma Price and her team there were a variety of crafts for youngsters to make. All were very messy involving glue, paper, icing and scraps of material! The 'snow storm' went down particularly well and by the end of the session the entire church was littered in white 'snow' - shreds of white paper! The Saint James' Camel Ride was an instant success and photos of the event found their way in to *The Western Daily Press* and *The Times*.

Following some yummy snacks, and a story the youngsters left tired and exhausted. Many thanks to everyone who helped in this activity. It was brilliant team work.



## Thoughts on Kindness

from Pat Wakely



Over Christmas the BBC televised pictures and an animated version of the book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse*. I bought this book some time ago and find it so inspiring I keep it by my armchair and look at it each day.

The message throughout the book is that of kindness. Kindness to others and kindness to ourselves. The boy asks the mole “what do you think is the biggest waste of time”? “Comparing yourself to others” replies the mole. On another page there is a reflection – “isn’t it odd. We can only see our outsides, but nearly everything happens on the inside”.

As some of you may know, I was a bereavement counsellor for many years, the service also covered loss, which was an equally important requirement. There were times when I would see one of my clients crossing the road while I was driving or in a supermarket. They looked ordinary. However, I thought they were extraordinary in every way. How suffering people can get out of bed, dress and appear to lead an ordinary life is nothing short of remarkable and courageous.

A well known broadcaster lost his partner a while ago. He said he felt one of the saddest and most challenging places to be was in a hospital car park. He said, always be kind to the person in front of you fumbling with the parking ticket machine, we don’t know what they are going through. They may be going through the worst day of their life. How true.

Going back to the bereavement service, you may be wondering what the “loss” part of the service was about. I can give you an example. I had a client who was a successful boxer, he was well known in the area for his fitness and strength. Sadly, this very dear man developed mental health problems and the loss of his wellbeing and image was devastating to him.

Andrew and I are now in our 70s and find we cannot do nearly as much as we used to do. I sometimes wonder how I looked after 2 children, an acre of garden, chickens, ducks and even a horse at one stage! We are getting older and we get tired. I see this among my friends and within the community, our spirit is strong but life can be a struggle for all of us. Circumstances like this can cause us to worry and be anxious, which is why I find the message of kindness in this book so helpful and encouraging. I conclude with a final quote “we often wait for kindness...but being kind to yourself can start now”.



## Creation Care - Windows to warmth



***What we do with our windows during cold spells can make a difference of over £100 to our heating bills depending on the size of home and the size and direction of the windows.***

Have you noticed that even on cold days the sunlight coming into sun-facing rooms can really warm the room up? South facing conservatories can get really warm on sunny, cold days. This is called *solar gain*. On the other hand, conservatories get cold very quickly in the evenings. So we need to trap that heat and not let it go to waste. Heat is money after all and wasting heat is terrible for Creation when we use expensive and damaging fossil fuels to make more heat.

On sunny, cold days we need to get those sun-facing curtains open ASAP in the morning to let in light and heat and close them as soon as the afternoon sun drops towards the horizon. If you have a conservatory, make sure it is open to the rest of the house when it is warm and shut off by a door or drape when it gets cold. If your sun-facing room or conservatory gets really hot then a fan in the doorway can push the heat from that room around the rest of the house. I know one family who get almost all the heat for their home from their conservatory on sunny days.

Clouds trap heat close to the ground at night time. This means that the very days when the sun is bright and there are no clouds in the sky are the days when the nights are coldest and we need most heat. Let the light in during the daytime to gain that heat and keep it in by closing curtains and conservatories from the late afternoon. A win for us all and the planet too!

Revd Mark



Thank you to our flower arranging team for a superb arrangement of flowers over the Christmas and New Year period.

Many thanks to you all.

## **"Lights in their Own Generation"**

***A 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 February by  
Fr. Ian Robb***



**1st: Brigid, Abbess of Kildare.** Born in the west of Ireland, and reputedly baptised by St Patrick, Brigid entered the convent at Kildare, eventually becoming the Abbess. She is described as a woman of great compassion, who by her prayers and miracles influenced the formation of the Church throughout Ireland, where she is now a Patron Saint. She died in the year 525.



**2nd: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary & Joseph took the child to the Temple in accordance with the legal requirement that they should be cleansed following the birth of Mary's first-born. Luke's gospel records their encounter with the prophets Simeon and Anna, who proclaimed him as the "Light to enlighten the Gentiles" - hence the title "Candlemas" being given to this day and the use of candles during the liturgy.



**3rd: Anskar, Apostle of the North.** Anskar was born in Picardy and entered the monastery at Amiens, from where he was sent to work in Denmark – where he was instrumental in bringing the faith to the royal court – and then to northern Germany where he established a number of Christian schools. He was expelled by the locals but went on to Sweden, where he is reputed to have built the first Christian church. In 832 he was consecrated Bishop of Hamburg and later became Archbishop of Bremen. He continued to travel in Scandinavia, working among the poorest members of society and combatting the slave-trade. He died in 865 and is the patron saint of Denmark.

**10th: Scholastica, Abbess of Plombariola.** Scholastica is the sister of St Benedict (abbot of Monte Casino and founder of the Benedictine order).

Like her brother, she was born in Nursia, central Italy, and at an early age she chose to consecrate herself to God. When Benedict moved to Monte Casino she settled nearby at Plombariola and founded a nunnery under his direction. As abbess she taught the sisters to live according to the “Rule of Life” formed by Benedict and she and her brother would meet annually to worship together and discuss spiritual matters, as well as the running of their two communities. She died in 543.

**14th: Cyril & Methodius, Missionaries.** Two brothers, born in Thessalonica, both developing in their youth the ability to speak several languages – including Slavonic, a language not yet written in an alphabet understood by others. Cyril created the Slavonic alphabet and set about translating the Scriptures. Together they established the Church in Moravia before returning to Rome to seek papal approval for their work. After Cyril's death, Methodius returned to Moravia where he completed the translation of the Bible and continued their missionary work. These two are revered in both Christian East and West as patrons of ecumenism between two great branches of Christendom.



**17th: Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda.**

Janani was born in 1922 in Uganda; his childhood was spent as a goatherd, but he showed an ability to learn and absorb knowledge. He became a teacher, converted to Christianity, and was eventually ordained in 1956. He was consecrated Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974. Idi Amin had come to power in 1971 following a



military coup and his brutal regimewas much criticised by the Church. Having delivered a letter from the bishops protesting at the virtual institution of state murder, Janani and two of Amin's own government ministers were stated as having been found dead following a car crash. It emerged quickly that they had in fact died on the implicit instructions of the president. Janani's dedication to the gospel of Christ and his willingness to sacrifice his own life what he believed in led to his martyrdom on this day in 1977.

**27th: George Herbert, priest, poet, hymn-writer.** Born in 1593, into the aristocracy, George studied at Cambridge before entering Parliament aged 25. To everyone's surprise, he sought ordination and was made a deacon in 1626 and a priest in 1630. He served the parish of Bemerton, Salisbury, until his early death in 1633. He wrote extensively on the priestly life ("The Country Parson") and produced numerous works of poetry. His hymns are still widely sung – look him up in our church hymn

### **'Dust and Glory' – Church of England Lent course**

**From 22 February**

All are invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

[churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dustandglory-resources-lent-2023](http://churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dustandglory-resources-lent-2023)



Rev. John McNeill & Rev. Mark Siddall

On the 22nd January we joined the congregation at Quedgeley Methodist Church to share Covenant Sunday. It was a lively service and very thought provoking. Thank you to everyone for their warm welcome and refreshments. We do hope that you'll join us soon at Saint James'.



Rev. John McNeill chatting over coffee, with our Editor Fr. Hugh Broad, following the service.





First of all, whilst Christmas now feels a long time ago, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came out on a very snowy morning to support this event. It was cold, it didn't stop snowing but that didn't stop you coming out, doing a trail in the snow and seeing Santa and we hope you all enjoyed the hot chocolate/marshmallows and chocolate which were in abundance that day! It was a very successful day, it is all provided free to our community and the councillors and staff alike work very hard to put these events on. We were rewarded by many positive comments and lots of smiley cold faces.

Now, as we move away from Christmas and into the next quarter, your council is busy agreeing the budget for the next financial year. This is always a difficult job, balancing the needs of the community against financial constraints. As always, there will be a link attached to the Gloucester City Council which will provide all of our residents with a full update on the setting of the budget and justifying any changes. Your Town Council remains mindful on how difficult times are financially, now more than ever and we are committed to ensuring that every penny is accounted for. We have all our regular assets to manage and maintain to their ever high standards, as well as financing new initiatives that we are sure will improve the area. The budget is formally agreed by February in time for the start of the new financial year.

Whilst writing this insert, the ground is white with frost so it might be the right time to remind residents that we operate a non-gritting policy on areas that we are responsible for. For full details on this policy, please visit our website on [www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk/documents](http://www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk/documents). This does not include pavements/roads etc as these are the responsibility of Gloucester City Council or County Highways. We should however also remind everyone that we are a one stop shop for complaints and concerns and have the right contacts, so if you do want to report something and you're not sure where to go, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our office can be found on the same retail park as Matalan and we are by Boots.

We still have 4 vacancies on the council so if you think you have some time to spare and think you want to make a difference then please contact the office on 01452 721552 where the role of the councillor can be explained to you in greater depth. It is a voluntary role and anyone interested would need to attend only a couple of meetings per month. It is not as time consuming as you might think and the rewards are great.

Moving forward we look forward to more Spring type weather and some Spring flowers to lift things. We are nowhere near out of winter yet, however just that extra chink of light every day helps and before we know it we will be in Spring.

For now it leaves us to say keep warm and safe and don't hesitate to come in and see us in the Town Council Offices, even if it is for a warm up!!



### **Coronation Weekend Event - organised by QTC - May 6th & 7th**

On the Saturday we are planning a black tie dinner-details available soon if you are interested, let me know. [bulldog.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:bulldog.smith@btinternet.com)

On Sunday we are having a Parade/procession in Quedgeley starting at 1300 which will finish at Severn Vale School via School Lane (approx 2/3 mile) where on the Playing Fields will be stands and stalls and some displays.

At about 1600 in the School Hall we will be holding a very short Service to welcome King Charles to the throne followed by a Last Night of the Proms sing song with a band and choir.

We would like to invite any Colours and Standards that you might be able to muster for the Parade and the start of the Service. Can you please circulate to those you are aware of. The Emergency Services are already parading theirs.

### **STJ's January**



Our theme at January's STJ's—'Spread a little Happiness' We distribute decorated stones around the area with 'LOVE' from St. James'. Let us know if you found one or maybe two!



## FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES – November – January.

No Baptisms or Weddings In this period.

### FUNERALS & CREMATIONS

December 19 ANTHONY FORSTER (82) Crematorium

January 9<sup>th</sup> THELMA VARNUM (94) Crematorium

January 20<sup>th</sup> BERYL KEAR (86) St James Church & Burial

January 23<sup>rd</sup> MORNINGTON SCOTT (91) St James – Ashes

DOROTHY SCOTT (98) “ ”

WILF HOLMES (94) “ ”

January 30<sup>th</sup> MARGARET HOPKINS (97) Crematorium

“Rest Eternal grant them O Lord”

**Tea@2**

**Every Wednesday at 1.30pm—3.30pm**

**Refreshments, Quiz and Bingo. Note change of time during winter months. Come and join us. Everyone welcome.**

**Note during the winter months we begin at the earlier time of 1.30pm.**

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## Who's Who in the Parish Church

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