

Around the Spire



Issue 101



May 2024

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

From your Editor—Fr. Hugh Broad



This month we've a varied selection of articles from the story of Rehab that will make you think to jokes that will make you smile!

We've a whole host of photos from Messy Easter where 70 plus children gathered to enjoy an afternoon of Eco activities both inside and outside the church.

Also don't forget our Baby Bounce and Rhyme that started on April 17th . It's a new venture and we hope will be successful with Mums , Dads and Carers.

So enjoy the read. Fr. Hugh

Bounce & Rhyme

Babies 0-9 months
Wednesday AM
11.30 -12noon

STARTING
WEDNESDAY
17TH APRIL

Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

A special time with simple stories and songs for babies and carers.

Join us for the 2024

St James' Church Fayre

Church yard
School Lane Quedgeley GL2 4PN

Saturday 25th May 12.00noon - 4pm

Assortment of Stalls

- Tricia's Plant Stall
Bedding plants
Vegetables & Fruit
Perennials
- Tombola
- Cakes
- Refreshments
- Ice Cream
- Bouncy castle
- Raffle

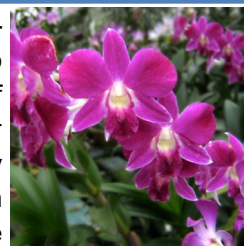
Guest appearance
SHORTIE
the donkey!

RIPE+STRIDES
for Churches



**Saturday
14th
September**

OPEN GARDEN Sunday May 19th- 2pm -5pm Diane Ramsay plans to open her garden again in aid of church funds. Hopefully the weather will be kind and it will be a lovely afternoon. She would much appreciate offers of cake for the day. There have been additions to the garden since last opening, including a horse statue and wildlife pond. Come and enjoy and have a cuppa and piece of cake. Admission £3. Sorry, no dogs.



Out and about with the Revd Mark



I have written before about the importance of pastoral visits to my life as a priest and in my role in this special parish of St James. With our aging population as a nation, pastoral work becomes more and more important and try as I might to do it all, the hard work and support of Hospital Chaplains is a very welcome source of pastoral cooperation. Perhaps some of us have the impression that in today's world there is no such thing as Hospital Chaplaincy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our Hospital Chaplains are trained and skilled to offer pastoral and spiritual care for those in Hospital from all faiths and none. If you are in Hospital and you would like to receive a visit from a Chaplain, simply let any nurse know. You can then ask the Chaplain to let me know your ward and if you would like a visit from me.

Who to contact to arrange a visit for a loved one in hospital?

Gloucester Hospital Chaplains can be reached on: 0300 422 6200

Cheltenham Hospital Chaplains can be reached on: 0300 422 4286

If you have a relative in hospital further away, simply search 'Chaplaincy Team' with the name of the relevant hospital or contact me on 01452 722916 and I can arrange this for you.

If you know someone in hospital who would like a visit from St James' Ministry Team it's as easy as picking up the phone. tel. 01452 722916



What I am praying about

As we approach Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit I am minded about Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane, 'not my will but yours'. The period of Lent through to Pentecost has been a period of discernment or listening to God and to each other regarding our calling as a parish in this and coming years. We have been challenged with weekly reflections and study groups during Lent.

We shared at a parish lunch regarding our calling as a parish church and we enjoyed sharing with families and children at an StJs dedicated to listening to each other and God about our calling. And so this Pentecost let's pray



***'Come Holy Spirit, lead our hearts show us your calling as God's church here in the parish of St James.
AMEN'***



From the Editor's Desk by our Editor

Fr. Hugh Broad



What makes a Parish Tick?

Ask any parish priest this question and it is highly likely that the answer you will receive is that it is something along the lines that it is a community of people who have at their heart a longing to get to know God better, seek to find ways of being what it really means to be a family.

One thing that the parish priest is likely to stress this feeling of 'a family' is at the heart of what we all seek to work for in any Christian group, be it large or small; urban or rural; is the fact that those who are a part of that grouping, have aspects of which help them to be drawn together to be what it really means to be 'togetherness' as members of a Christian family.

THE PARISH OF ST JAMES HERE COVERING QUEDGELEY AND KINGSWAY

Most of those who read 'Around the Spire' are likely to be a part of this large and growing community. As time marches on we are seeing further signs of this growth which seem to be beyond belief.

So as the title of this article applies - 'What does make us tick?' If we apply this to us here in a parish which is so large and developing all the time, what are the ways that we should be seeking to see this growth in the Christian community?

SO HERE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE!

To do this I want to share with you just one person who has been an outstanding example of all that this really means!

VALERIE HARRIS - known to us all affectionately as VAL who died recently, showed in her life so many aspects of what a true parishioner is! There are so many of her sterling qualities which one can mention—flower arranging; working in assemblies in schools; a leader of the Parish Baptism team; and much more.



BUT there is one other aspect of Val's life as a member of this Parish life which I would like to share with you.

It is now some years ago that Val contacted me about prayer life — how could we as a church family have prayer at the heart of our lives? Now of course any Christian group must be a prayerful one, but as I was soon to discover, what Val had in mind was rather different. Her feeling was that if, as a Church we really were on the right lines we needed to have something of the element of a Religious Community to lead and inspire us. As our thoughts went on I was reminded of what became known as the Prayer Cell in a parish where I served was adopted. To cut a long story short, it was a long these lines that we went on to use this model here at St. James' and the Parish Prayer Cell as we have it came into being as we have it today, with Val as an established member along with five others with me as the co-ordinator. I know I speak for the other members of this Cell when I say that this approach to prayer is both sound and effective.

As a Cell we have offered prayer for a wide amount of topics both in the parish and beyond. One example is the present initiative on Living Abundantly.

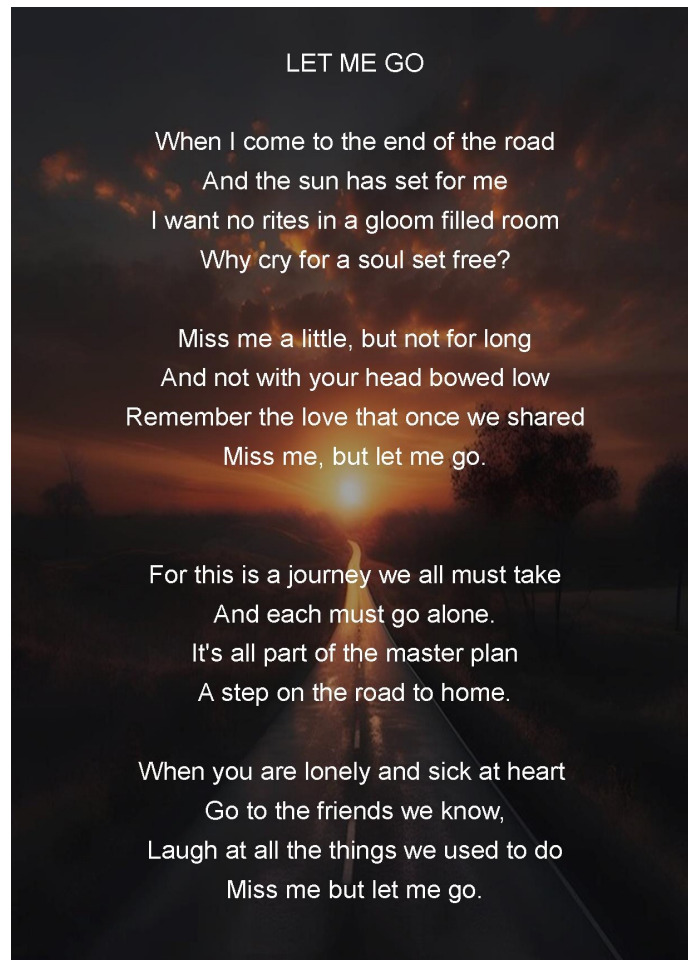
Sometimes I am asked 'Why six people?' 'Can I join?' The answer is that there is a lot to be gained for a small number who can work and pray together. However, it might well be possible to form a further Cell in the parish if there are such a group keen on the idea and I would be prepared to do so - and I am sure our dear VAL would be delighted!

Fr. Hugh

LET ME GO

By Christina Rossetti

This poem was read out at Val's funeral. If you have lost a loved one recently, we hope this may give you some comfort too.



Welcome Micah !



Micah John Mitchell, first born son of Jessica Pearce was Baptised by Revd Mark on Sun 14th April with approx. 100 family & Friends in attendance from North Wales, Manchester & London & Surrey. The service was amazing and the weather lovely and Baby Micah was very chilled....

Thanks to Revd. Mark, Chris Baldwin (Organist) and the two members of the Baptism team Elaine & Ann





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

Laughter is the best medicine

"Oh I'm sorry Vicar, are you busy?" "No, do come in – I'm just rehearsing one of my sermons."
"Ah – practising what you preach!"

Definition of a good sermon : one that contains some excellent advice for your relatives and neighbours.

The impact of the Vicar's sermon was being rather spoilt by the crying of a baby at the back of the church. Finally the baby's mother got up and started to leave. "It's quite alright, madam" said the Vicar "He's not disturbing me." "May be not" said the woman, "but *you're* disturbing him!"

The Vicar who said that every blade of grass is a sermon should remember that grass is best kept short and neat.

"Would you say that the vicar's sermon this morning was inspiring?" "Oh yes – when he finished preaching, a great awakening came over the congregation."

"Your husband walked out in the middle of my sermon last Sunday, Mrs Jones." "It was nothing personal, vicar, he was just sleep walking."

A preacher was giving a sermon on the dangers of drinking and driving. "Remember friends" he said to the assembled congregation, "Whisky and petrol don't mix." "They do" muttered a man at the back of the church to his friend, "but they taste awful!"

From my Grandfather's book "The best Religious Jokes."

Palm & Easter Sunday 2024



Photo courtesy of Mark Siddall

Dawn on Easter Sunday at the top of Robinswood Hill with 50 others from Gloucester City.

Palm Sunday — service began outside it was good to welcome people passing by, some who stopped to join in.



Back down from the hill— Easter Day service began with a procession and the lighting of the Paschal candle. The Paschal candle is a large, white candle lit during the Easter service. The candle is often decorated with symbols of Christ's resurrection, such as a cross or an image of the resurrected Christ. The Paschal candle also **represents Jesus' resurrection and triumph over death, and is a symbol of hope and new life.**

A Nod to Wordsworth

A NOD TO WORDSWORTH (poet's name withheld)

**I followed the path into the wood,
Sunbeams slant beneath the trees,
Squirrels searching for their food,
And leaves swaying gently in the breeze**

**Ahead of me I spot a lake,
Glittering in the sun
And though it is very pretty,
It is not the reason I have come**

**Wandering along beside the lake
I spy what I have come to see,
Not only by the waterside
But also beneath the trees.
A carpet of gold spreads over the ground
Scattered there at will
With trumpets turned up to the sky
A host of golden daffodils**

Thank You



Following on from our Christmas appeal. John Hall from Newent Daffodil Lodge presented a cheque for £500 to Gloucester City Mission as part of their good work giving to local charities.

Jackie Broad (pictured) would like to thank John and his members on behalf of St. James Church for continuing this good work.

(photo courtesy of Jackie Broad)

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

Rahab – An Unlikely Ally

By Fr. Gordon Ripley



The Israelites were on the cusp of entering the Promised Land. Moses wasn't permitted to enter the land and had died. It was now left to Joshua to lead his people across the Jordan. They found an unlikely ally there.

They weren't welcome, but the Canaanite city states were at a low ebb. Jericho's glory days were over: the walls had fallen into disrepair and most of the houses were in need of repair.

The city itself was surrounded by both an inner and an outer wall. The outer wall surrounded the whole city, protecting it from foreign intruders; the inner wall enclosed a central administrative compound.

Well-do-do people lived in the central compound, poor and disreputable people lived in the outer compound, between the two walls. Rahab and her family lived on the outer wall, making their living by running an inn and brothel where Rahab 'comforted' her customers from time to time.

Joshua sent spies into Jericho, they came to Rahab's tavern, and when they started asking too many questions, she suspected that they were spies. Rahab was clever. She knew that there would probably be an attack on Jericho and she, quite naturally, wanted her family to survive.

So she hid the spies under a pile of flax stalks on her roof, and tricked the city rulers into believing they had already left; then when the hunt for them was given up, she sent them away in safety.

Rahab then helped the men to escape down a rope hung from her window. She told them to hide in the hills for three days; long enough to give those who had gone in pursuit of them time to return to the city.

In return for her help, the spies gave Rahab a scarlet cord, telling her to hang it from her window and to gather all her relatives into her house so that they wouldn't be harmed when the Israelites captured the city.

Rahab agreed. She hung the red cord from her window, and the soldiers escaped into the hills and stayed there for three days, until the coast was clear. Jericho was captured, but Rahab and her family was spared.

When the moment of danger had passed, Rahab returned to the spies hidden on her roof. She struck a bargain with them, asking the spies to guarantee the safety of her and her family in return for the kindness she had shown towards them.

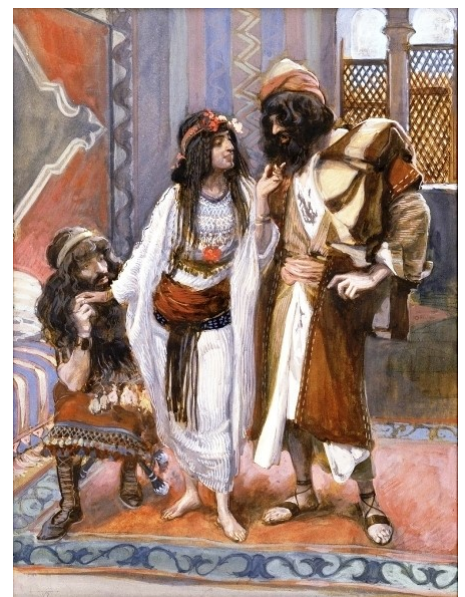
The Israelites put all the inhabitants of Jericho to the sword - except for Rahab and her family, whom Joshua had ordered to be spared and who were led to the safety of the Israelite camp by the young men to whom she had given shelter during the attack.

Rahab's story is a testimony to the grace of God. God in his grace reaches out to people like Rahab who have somewhat sordid pasts and no connection to the people of God.

Rahab and her family lived on in the land of Israel, and she became the mother of Boaz. She was thus the great-grandmother of Jesse (father of King David).

Next time we shall consider the cost and rewards of loyalty in the lovely story of Ruth. It can be found in the Old Testament Book that bears her name.

The Harlot of Jericho and the two spies,
James Tissot c.1860



Gordon

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Creation care New Life at Easter - Revd. Mark

This Easter at St James lots of young people gathered with parents and carers to celebrate the New Creation promised in Jesus' cross and resurrection. We explored planting seeds, making bird feeders, bug hotels and mini-ponds as well as arts and crafts with the theme of new life.

As we enjoyed snacks and drinks together we heard the Easter story told through the stations of the cross which have been created by schools, scouts and guides from across Quedgeley. Although we know there is death as we continue to needlessly and stupidly destroy creation, we are also witnesses to joy and eternal wisdom as we continue to plant seeds, nurture vulnerable creatures and seek the new life of the resurrection.



Emily with her mini pond and bug house



Reception children had the best time at Cotswold Farm Park! They all showed courage when holding the chicks, stroking the rabbits and feeding the goats. They also saw lots of lambs and enjoyed playing on the adventure park!



Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am

During term time.

Pop in after the school run

Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer

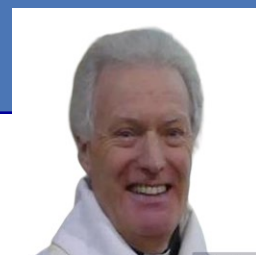
Messy Easter

Messy Easter was another great success. This year was something different as we explored ECO Messy Easter. Lots of activities outside, connected to the world of nature. There were over 70 children plus adults. Everyone tucked into a mid afternoon snack following the activities.



“Lights in their own generation”

***Christian men & women who helped to
build the Church throughout history - Fr. Ian Robb***



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

1st: Philip & James, Apostles. Philip has a prominent role in John's gospel, being the third disciple to be chosen by Jesus and then later acting as spokesman for the others at the feeding of the five thousand and at the last supper. James is known as “the Younger” in Mark's gospel and was a witness at the crucifixion.

8th: Julian of Norwich. On this day in 1373, a thirty-year old, supposedly terminally ill, woman of Norwich experienced a series of sixteen visions which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following her recovery she spent the next twenty years pondering the meaning of the visions & recording them in the book “The Revelations of Divine Love”. She became an anchoress in the church of St Julian in Norwich and it was by this name that she became known to later generations.

14th: Matthias the Apostle. The betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot created a vacancy which the other disciples believed had to be filled – essentially by someone who had been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and had witnessed the resurrection. Matthias was chosen by lot, indicating the election or choosing was by God, rather than mortals.

16th: Caroline Chisholm, social reformer. In 1831 Caroline & her husband emigrated to Madras where she set up a school for soldiers' daughters. In 1838 they moved to Australia, where Caroline began work among vulnerable immigrants arriving in Sydney. She was especially concerned for the women, who were often bullied and abused. She set up a free Registry Office to help them obtain legitimate work & shelter. She returned to Britain in 1846 and pressed for emigration reform & founded the Family Colonisation Loan Society.



19th: Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. Born in 910 near Glastonbury, Dunstan was educated at the court of the king of Wessex. He was persuaded to follow the call to the religious life and entered the monastery at Glastonbury, where he was made abbot in 943. He launched a revival of monastic life in England, promoting study and teaching, as well as encouraging those who showed skill in music, art, & metalwork. King Edgar proposed him for the See of Canterbury and he was able to extend his reforms throughout the province. He remained Archbishop until his death in 988.

21st: Helena, Protector of the Holy Places. She was the mother of the Emperor Constantine and a committed Christian. In 326 she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where she financed the building of basilicas on the Mount of Olives and in Bethlehem. Later writers tell how she was shown a relic of the cross of Jesus, and it was Helena that persuaded the Emperor to use the sign of the Cross with the legend “In this sign, Conquer” in place of the imperial eagle.

26th: Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury. In 596, Prior Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory I as the leader of forty monks to reevangelise England. They landed in Kent, where they were well-received by King Ethelbert, whose queen, Bertha, was a Christian. He granted them a piece of land in what is now Canterbury, where they built their headquarters. Once the community was established, Augustine was summoned to France to receive ordination as a bishop. Pope Gregory preferred London as the primatial See, but Augustine's community, supported by the king, persuaded Rome to choose Canterbury, hence Augustine became our first Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in 604.



31st: The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Luke's gospel records the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. In 1263 this day became a major feast in the Church's Calendar, highlighting Mary's great hymn of praise we now know as the Magnificat, a hymn in honour of her Lord and God. Luke sees John the Baptist as the last of the prophets of the old covenant, and he uses the leaping of the baby in Elizabeth's womb as the first time John bears witness to Christ as the promised Messiah. John is thereby the link between the old covenant and the new.



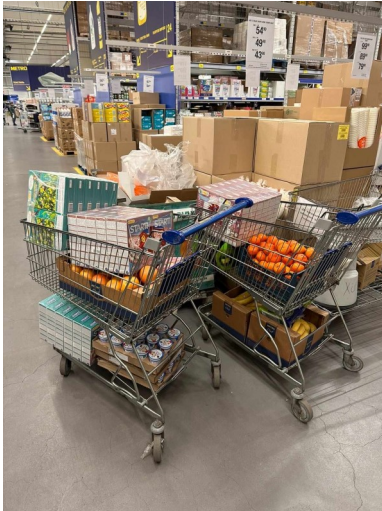
Thy Kingdom Come 2024

Join a great wave of prayer **9 – 19 May 2024.**

For more information click on to <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/thy-kingdom-come-2024/>

Community News

The fund raiser held for Ukraine raised just over £600.00 this year. Laura Bullivant went over to Ukraine during March and purchased much needed provisions for families and youngsters from the orphanage. Below are a few photos. The war is still not over and many are still living in basements, make do shelters or camping in the Metro underground station to survive.



Whilst many were tucking into Easter eggs here at home this was happening in Kyiv on Easter Sunday



Photos of London in 1941 and Kyiv Metro today.

Unbearable similarities

QUEDGELEY WOMENS' INSTITUTE

At our April meeting we were reminded of several things to look forward to in the coming months. A theatre visit in May, a fundraising Afternoon Tea at Quedgeley Village Hall in June and our August outing to Stratford-upon-Avon when we will enjoy a boat trip and cream tea.

After hearing a talk by a Community Social Health Advisor in March our April meeting was very different. We saw the return of Kate and Angela Peake with their talk Costumes of the Victorian Seaside. Angela explained how she first started to make faithful copies of the clothing that was worn during various historical periods and this was followed by a short film that showed the rise in popularity of "healthy" swimming in the sea. We then saw Kate, who had arrived in costume, remove every part of an outfit that a Victorian lady would have worn for a visit to the beach and which would normally have been done in the confines of a bathing machine. Layer upon layer was removed until she got to the final undergarment but she then proceeded to put on several layers of clothing to maintain a woman's modesty when bathing in the sea. Once again this was a very entertaining and informative talk.

Quedgeley WI meets at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall and if anyone would like to come along to any of our meetings as a visitor or new member they will be made very welcome.

A year at

Tea@2



Tea @2 is a community activity and takes place on a Wednesday afternoon and starts at 2pm.

An assortment of teas and other beverages are served with homemade cake, biscuits, scones etc.

There is a weekly quiz to stimulate the brain cells and games of Bingo with prizes. It's an opportunity for a 'get together' with friends or to meet new ones. Bingo is very popular.

The Tea@2 team ran the tombola and raffle at the Summer and Christmas fairs.

After our summer break the Tea@2 team along with Theresa and the Q Club ran a Coffee & Cake morning for Macmillan Cancer care. It was a great community gathering and we raised a staggering £968.86 for Macmillan.

Our annual Christmas Party is always fun, last year we were entertained by Field Court Infant Academy. Thank you Cllr. Andy Lewis who took on his yearly guise and handed out Christmas presents.

In February we raised funds for Ukraine, raising just over £600. We are pleased to say these funds found their way to desperate families in Ukraine who are struggling to buy the basics.

Our grateful thanks go to Cllr. Hannah Norman who found some money in her Community budget to allow us to change our very tired and somewhat threadbare table cloths. It has made a huge difference.

Finally, I would like to thank all our weekly helpers (Tricia, Lin, Ann, Pat, Carol & Keith) who give their time to help, bake, set up, serve teas and food, prepare activities and clear away. In order for any activity to be sustainable you need volunteers who are willing to commit on a regular basis.

If you haven't been to Tea@2 why not come along? Bring your friends. Everyone is welcome.

Jackie Hall



Following an extremely busy month, we are pleased to announce we have a brand new council, made up of a mixture of existing well experienced and loyal councillors and newly elected enthusiastic councillors. Together they make a team of 14 councillors who have been duly elected to serve the community of Quedgeley and Kingsway. The first Full Council meeting will take place on Monday 13th May where all councillors will meet for the first time and it proves to be an exciting new start for everyone. Sadly, in the process, we say goodbye to Cllrs Steve Smith, Graham Smith, Margaret Slatter, George Barwood and Liam Harries. They have all served greatly to their community and we are sorry to see them leave and say thank you to all of your for all of your service along the years. We know that they will all wish the new council well in their new venture.

Last month we held our Easter Egg Hunt at the local Nature Reserve and thankfully we were blessed with fantastic weather which came as a surprise as the day before and afterwards were both grey and overcast. The Nature Reserve was 'boggy' to the say the least but that didn't seem to deter all the eager Easter Egg Hunters who came along wearing wellies and prepared to get muddy! Well done everyone for braving the mud and well done also to all the winners of either the colouring competitions, the golden eggs or the Chick and Bunny. We've put some pictures on our Facebook account for everyone to see.

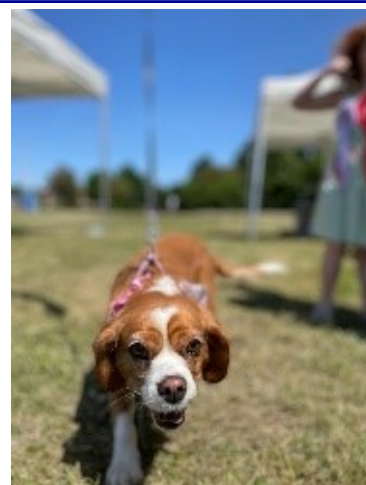


Our next event will be the annual Dog Show which is due to take place at Kingsway Sports Pavilion on Sunday 9th June 2024. The actual event starts at 10.00am but registration is from 9am onwards. This is always a really successful event, family friendly and relaxed so please come along with or without a dog and enjoy the morning. Every dog will win a rosette so they are all winners on the day and no need to worry about the weather, we have a wet weather plan which will ensure everyone remains dry even it pours with rain! Further information on this event can be obtained by calling the town council office on 01452 721552 or look out for our office window which always displays a poster about this event nearer to the time. 😊

Moving forward, we are expecting a busy month ahead with new councillors settling in, end of year accounts being prepared, event preparations and the ongoing development of the community pantry and the now newly agreed community garden.

We still have two spaces on the council, so if you think this is something you would like to be part of then please do contact the council and we will be only too happy to talk this through with you.

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



Please be advised that after careful consideration, we have changed our Sunday opening hours, starting this Sunday, 21st April, to open from 10am to 12pm only. We have had very few members come on Sunday afternoons, so hopefully this will not cause any issues.

We will remain open on Wednesdays from 2pm to 6pm as usual. This change effects Sunday hours only.

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. Ian 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
The Venerable David Sutch	01452 552926	07948370054	vendavid196@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDENS			
Mrs Jackie Broad	01452 541078	07928862976	60jackie60broad@gmail.com
Mr Andrew Wakely	01452 722528	07879883091	andrewmwakely@gmail.com
PCC Secretary			
Mrs Lu Pearce	01452 725178	07922115062	androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk
Safeguarding Officer			
Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
PCC Treasurer -			
Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
Tea@2			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jackiehall1854@gmail.com
Organist —Chris Baldwin		07811589867	cpbaldwin359@gmail.com
Bell Ringers —Anne Heron		07360008632	anneheron@gmail.com
Open the book —Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers —Angela Hughes		07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk

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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**