



SAINT JAMES' CHURCH *FREE* MAGAZINE FOR
THE PARISHIONERS OF QUEDGELEY &
KINGSWAY

AROUND THE SPIRE

★ STOP THE WORLD

I WANT TO GET OFF! PAGE 2

★ COMMUNITY NEWS PAGE 8 & 9

Issue 96

November 2023

Editorial
November 2023
Fr. Hugh Broad



"STOP THE WORLD I WANT TO GET OFF"

Pinching title from a musical in the sixties I want to take you, dear Reader on a fantasy journey!

We start at Heathrow airport and board a plane heading for Tel Aviv. As we approach we are told by the captain that we cannot land as the local war makes it far too dangerous and we are diverting to Afghanistan - only to discover as we approach that the airport is all but destroyed by the latest earthquake! So another diversion to one of those idyllic Greek Islands only to find the area is under water from the latest flash floods - so best idea is a longer journey to Canary Islands - a good airport at Tenerife (where your editor once ministered). Oh dear or words to that effect - thick smoke obliterates the area - the latest ravaging fire! Our captain gives up at that point and its back home.

So much for my holiday! - but then I find there is a long delay to get my luggage - a strike by bag handlers - eventually and to the rail station - no trains, another strike!

I decide to cut my losses with a B&B in London - costs as much as the holiday would have done. So with an evening to spare I decide to go for a drink(or two) in a pub I knew as a student - but gone with a teenage disco in its place! Nothing else to do but join thousands to watch Spurs play Arsenal!

This story is of course pure fantasy but if you have had the patience to read it does it not have a familiar ring about it?

SO PLEASE READ ON!

WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH A CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE?

As this story seeks to portray, worldly news, especially at present does demand our attention as we seek to compare such happenings to our own lives.

How can we relate to the world in which we live at this present time without turning to God in prayer - otherwise we shall as the title says, just want to get off!

SO - THE BIG QUESTION IS THIS - 'LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY,.

I posed this is a sermon recently and discovered that many of the congregation were asking the same question and it helped them to hear that a priest could have the same difficulty as they did! I assured them that I too so often find it so hard to pray specially in times of challenge such as this.

I said that there were often times when I felt the need to pray - and then I find myself lost for words or even just how to relate to God - so often I too am saying - Lord, teach me to pray!

I sit in my little study at home - around me are lots of aids to pray - my rosary, a lovely crucifix' a lighted candle; loads of books on prayer including some written by Christian leaders I knew well in former years.

SO WHY IS IT THAT SO OFTEN PRAYER JUST WILL NOT COME?

Knowing full well that these experiences have been mine, does inspire me to try again and it may be then in a quite different way. Quite by accident this is one way, and others reading this article might like to try it too!

Staring around, looking at nothing in particular, A little statue caught my eye - of St Jude, one of the lesser known saints of the New Testament. His feast day together with his companion St Simon is October 28th - so as my train of thought went on and I recalled seeing the image of him in the Basilica in Rome. As I was thinking along these lines I found myself thanking God for this wonderful saint and praying that through him I was praying that this would lead to pray for an end to the horrors of today!

Now this kind of experience may not be yours, far from it, but it is an example of how prayer can come into our lives.

So - here is a little exercise you might like try for yourself,.

Take a piece of paper and write on it a form of words - for example a clause from the Lords Prayer - 'Thy Kingdom Come; would be ideal. As you look at it, see what comes to mind - kingdom for sure - what is that saying to you? Then as you look at that word, you may well find that for you, as it is for me this present moment, the Kingdom of God comes into my mind, and almost without realising it, I am praying!

Now just try this for yourself!

I would love to hear your experiences in this if you choose to share them!

FR HUGH

All Souls

***For those we love and now
departed from us***

Service on

Sunday 5th November 2.00pm.

***May they rest in peace and rise in
glory***

Monks, manuscripts and mayhem

4 November, 10.30am to 3.30pm

Gloucester Cathedral

Discover more about the fascinating studies the monks undertook as part of their daily lives at the Cathedral. There will be a number of activities on offer. The perfect half-term activity for visitors young and old. No booking required.

Weddings & Baptisms

If you'd like to celebrate your wedding at Saint James' then please contact Revd. Mark on 01452 722916. Likewise if you'd like more information on Baptism phone Revd. Mark who'll be happy to guide you through the process. Our Baptism Ministry team are members of our church congregation and are always on hand to support you through the baptism and answer any queries you may have.



Out & About - Tesco

'Meet and Greet'

Revd. Mark



*Revd. Mark, Steve Wilcox
and Theresa Fisher*

Every month or so our Police Community Support Officer Rachel Addinall organises local town and city councillors and county councillors to come together at the Tesco checkout to chat with any shoppers who may have an issue to raise or simply want to get to know Rachel or their representatives in government.

Rachel has been kind enough to invite myself as your parish priest on a number of occasions and it has been a very rewarding experience. I have met a wide range of folk living in the parish and offered blessings to lots of babies, which is a great joy.

I have also enjoyed time with our councillors and with Rachel. There is so much in common among those of us who choose to serve others in whatever capacity and I take great heart in their faithfulness towards our communities, flawed as we all are. If you spot one of Rachel's events at Tesco's then do stop by to say hello.



Creation Care

These last weeks have been part of the Season of Creation in churches throughout the world. They have included poetry written by our congregation, Harvest Festival, teaching on our proper relationship with our home planet and all the life it is host to and great engagement with families.

A survey for Natural England found that 85% of children and young people said that being in nature makes them happy. As a Christian, I believe that 'being happy' is about living and being as our Creator means for us to live and be. So this is not just 'woolly thinking' but has deep roots in the ancient traditions and wisdom of scripture. That happiness is a sign that living better lives in dynamic balance with nature is how we are called to find new growth.

A healthy planet is absolutely intertwined with healthy and happy lives, new energy and genuine growth that does not leave it in debt to future generations.



What I am praying about

As I write, we are just several days into a new and increasingly destructive conflict between Israel and Palestine. Within our parish we have those with connections in both Palestine and Israel and sometimes both.

Like so many of us I feel heartbroken that the place we call 'the Holy Land' is once more a place of war and destruction. There is a sense of bewilderment, of desolation.

What do we humans think we are doing in these endless cycles of violence and revenge around the world? For me, the foot of the cross is a place with that same sense of bewilderment and desolation. It is a place to come to at times like this and at times when we remember those who have lost their lives in conflicts in the past. Jesus' words from that place of desolation offer a kind of acknowledgment of the bewilderment of this violence: 'Forgive them Father for they know not what they do.' Lord forgive us and show us all your way of Peace and bring us to new life once again. AMEN

"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 November by
Fr. Ian Robb***



1st: All Saints: This feast-day recognises those heroes of the Church, known and unknown, whose lives have brought others to holiness and affirms a communion, a living fellowship, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven.

2nd: All Souls: In Christ all the faithful, living and departed, are bound together in a communion of prayer. From the beginning, the Church has recognised its unity in God's redeeming love with all those who have said, who say now, and who will say "Jesus is Lord!"

6th: William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury: He is especially remembered for his ecumenical efforts and for his concern with social issues, making a large contribution to the debate which led to the creation of state welfare provision post-1945.

9th: Margery Kempe, Mystic: born in Lynne, Norfolk, in the late 14th century, she was a contemporary of Julian of Norwich. She received many visions of the holy family and the crucifixion. She was much sought-after as a counsellor and seems to have been favoured with singular signs of Christ's love.

16th: Margaret of Scotland: born in 1046, Margaret was the daughter of the Anglo-Saxon royal house. Following the Norman invasion, she was welcomed into the Scottish court and married Malcolm III. Her Christian faith brought a civilising and holy presence to the union and she was involved with church reform and the founding of several monasteries and pilgrim hostels.

17th: Hugh of Lincoln: born in Burgundy in 1140, Hugh became a monk at Grande Chartreuse. King Henry II invited him to become prior of Witham in Somerset and in 1186 he was persuaded to accept the See of Lincoln - at the time, the largest diocese in England. While supporting the king, he also held out against any royal measures he felt to be extreme, yet managed not to make an enemy of the king.

22nd: Cecilia, Martyr at Rome: living in Rome in the 2nd / 3rd century, she allowed the Church to meet in her home, risking the censure of the authorities. She was martyred for refusing to renounce her faith, together with her husband and brother.

23rd: Clement, Bishop of Rome: quite probably a disciple of the first apostles in Rome; he wrote an epistle to the Corinthians which witnessed to ministry in the Church and explained their authority and duties, setting a pattern for episcopal practice and ministry. He was martyred in Crimea by being drowned tied to an anchor.

25th: Catherine of Alexandria (Egypt): because of her Christian faith she refused marriage to the emperor, claiming that she was already a "Bride of Christ". A large group of philosophers was tasked with showing her the error of her ways but she proved superior in argument with them all. She was eventually tortured and martyred for her faith.

30th : Andrew the Apostle: John's gospel tells us how Andrew the fisherman was one of the first to accept the invitation to follow Jesus, and how he brought his brother Simon (Peter) with him. He then remained with Jesus to the end. He is said to have undertaken several missionary journeys and eventually to have been martyred on an X-shaped cross



Jesus' Jester



The Venerable David Sutch TD

Having just moved here, I was sorting through my papers and found my grandfather's (The Venerable Ronald Sutch, Vicar of Cirencester and Archdeacon of Cheltenham -AT THE SAME TIME!)-book of Religious Jokes.

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

A Catholic priest and a Protestant minister had a heated discussion over the merits of their respective faiths. Finally they agreed to differ and as they parted, the Catholic priest said, "Let us go our ways – you continue to worship the Lord in your way and I will continue to worship Him in His."

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

Laughter is the best medicine

— • —

Fr. Hugh's 55th year as priest

It was a weekend of celebration and quiet reflection for Fr. Hugh as he celebrated his 55th anniversary as a priest. Many will recall Fr. Hugh's 50th anniversary in Gloucester cathedral. Tea@2 presented him with a small gift before he and his wife Jackie travelled to Hereford. It was in Hereford Cathedral that Fr. Hugh was ordained, 55 years ago. Although now retired (hard to believe), Fr. Hugh still keeps active. He officiates at church services and is the Editor of this magazine. Thank you Fr. Hugh for all that you do for Saint James'. We look forward to and sharing in celebrations at your next milestone of 60 years!!



Fr. Hugh in Gloucester Cathedral celebrating 50years with his wife Jackie



Fr. Hugh 5years later in Hereford Cathedral in his 55th year as a priest



Fr. Hugh regular attendee at our weekly Tea@2 event.

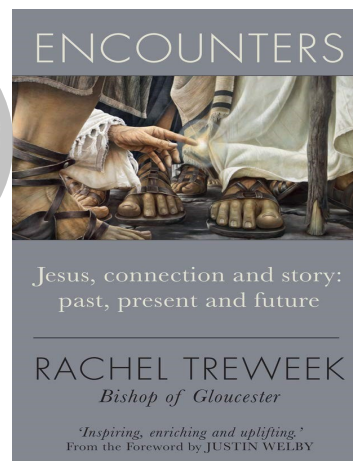


By Fr. Hugh Broad



'ENCOUNTERS'

by Bishop Rachel of Gloucester.



I can best explain this remarkable book by stating that reading it is indeed 'an encounter!'

Written and published in the wake of the pandemic and all that this involved for everyone, here Bishop Rachel seeks, in a series of passages from the Gospels to relate extracts from her own vast experiences of people and places.

One of the most unique parts of the book is that at the end of each chapter there is a short meditation or prayer, and then - a blank page! So here is the opportunity for the reader to express in writing personal thoughts which that chapter draws out.

On reading the book I found that I was soon helped to jot down a phrase or two which helped me to relate to Bishop Rachel's thoughts based on her own experiences.

Writing the Foreword to Encounters, Archbishop Justin of Canterbury states -

"As we face our current challenges, and think about how we can bring our world just that bit closer to the kingdom of heaven. Bishop Rachel has, as ever, been prescient in identifying that it is through relationship and connection that we can participate in God's mysterious but wonderful work here on earth"

In the Preface, Bishop Rachel points out -

"This book with its focus on encounter seeks to celebrate everything that the term social distancing does not. It is about community and intimacy and the discovery of self in close encounter with God and neighbour"

So here it is - a book which enables us to see just what an Encounter can mean in a Christian context - and I do commend it to you, dear reader. - and it comes with a real sense of gratitude to our own dear Bishop.

October's Coffee Morning

The October Coffee Morning raised just over £300. Many thanks to Jackie Broad and Lu Pearce for organising. Also huge thanks to the various stallholders and the catering team and to all those who supported us.



The Hymn quiz

Many of the hymns we sing at St James are familiar, but I wonder how often we appreciate the poetry in them? Below you will find selected lines from verses of six hymns and songs you may know.

As a challenge, see if you can identify, from the extracts below, the first lines the six hymns or songs that the lines are taken from. They are all in Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New. To give you a start, I have added the author's (in brackets).



November

Thou flowing water pure and clear make music for thy Lord to hear (W H Draper)

Christ doth call one and all, ye who follow shall not fall (Robert Bridges)

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame, until your justice burns brightly again, (G Kendrick)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blest (F J van Alstyne)

Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth (Michael Saward)

The golden evening brightens in the west, soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest, (W .W How)

Answers next month:

Chris Baldwin

Community News

Another great fund raising initiative led by Theresa Fisher from Tesco. The Knit & Natter group raised £200 for the Gloucester City Mission. The money will be used to support the day centre for the homeless in Gloucester.



Pupils from the Clearwater Church of England Primary Academy were having a great time during their school week at the Forest School. Learning lots of new skills in the open air. The weather wasn't always kind but it didn't dampen the pupils enthusiasm.

At Fieldcourt Church of England Infants Academy pupils were busy exploring Quedgeley. A trip to the Nature reserve was followed by exploring the Quedgeley Library and learning new facts about our world and beyond! Next to St. James' Church where pupils took some time to reflect, pray and learn about some of the exciting celebrations that take place in the church.



Quedgeley Town Council



Welcome to November's update from Quedgeley Town Council.

This month's priority is our annual fireworks event which is due to take place on Saturday 11th November 2023 at Fisher's Meadow. Gates will open at 5pm and the Fireworks will commence at 7pm prompt for 20 minutes. We urge anyone who hasn't yet bought tickets to do so as this event is selling fast and although tickets can be bought on the night, they are more expensive and it takes longer to get in due to the sheer volume of people trying to pay on the night. We work together with Danter's Fun Fair and a lot of preparation takes place in advance to ensure that the event is safe and affordable. We do appreciate that fireworks are not everyone's cup of tea, however feedback from last year's event and previous events, shows us that there is a huge appetite for this event. We provide free car parking at Severn Vale School and we urge anyone driving to the event to park responsibly and considerately. Being a

local event however, we hope that most people will walk. If you want to purchase tickets in advance then please visit the Town Council office on the Matalan Retail Park between Mondays and Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm.

This month the councillors and staff gathered together to discuss future aspirations for the council and how it can work to further support the community. Lots of ideas were shared and a 'Future's Group' will continue to meet quarterly to discuss ideas and wherever possible, provide reasonable costings with a view to delivering those ideas.



Councillor news: sadly, we say goodbye to two councillors, John Hunter and Jan McAllan who will both be greatly missed. This means we have two vacancies for councillors on the Town Council so if you are interested please contact the Town Council on 01452 721552 where further information can be provided on the role. In the meantime, a big congratulations to Cllr Graham Smith who this month was awarded with his 15 year's service certificate at Full Council. Graham can be seen being awarded his certificate by the Chair, Steve Smith.

Our Saturday Surgery took place in ASDA recently which proved hugely successful with many residents taking up the opportunity to meet the Town Councillors and be able to get questions answered on the spot. Our next surgery will be in Tesco, date to be advertised on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/qtccouncillors.



A reminder to everyone that your Town Council Office is situated in the same retail park as Matalan. We are open Mondays – Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm. We are also available on email, Office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk up until 5pm.

Website: [Quedgeley Town Council \(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk\)](https://quedgeley-tc.gov.uk).



StJ's Season of Creation • Blessing of the animals

Forty people and their pets attended Saint James' in Quedgeley on Sunday 8th October for a service of blessing the animals. The weather was hot and sunny, so this enabled the service to be held outside.

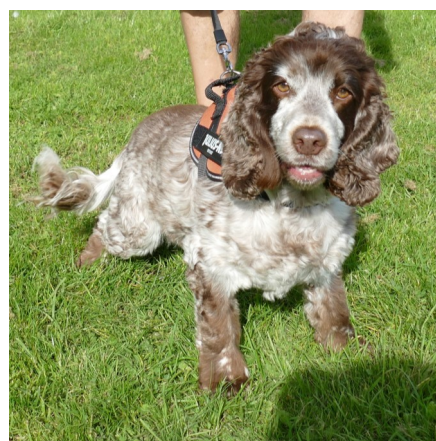
Most of the pets were well behaved and enjoyed the fuss and attention they were receiving throughout the service.

Pets varied from two goldfish named Winnie and Fred to dogs, cats and rabbits.

The service was conducted by Revd Mark and Fr. Hugh.

During the half hour service each pet and their owner received an individual blessing.

Revd. Mark said "We are all God's Creatures, as St Francis knew well. Saying sorry for the ways we mistreat non-human animals, giving thanks to God for them and asking his blessing is a source of joy as we rediscover who God wants us to be in His Creation. It was a very fulfilling and happy time for all of us."



StJ's Season of Creation

HARVEST FESTIVAL & CHURCHYARD NATURE WATCH



Ploughmans Lunch

By Jean McCarty

The English talk about the weather
We are a funny bunch
It was absolutely scorching
When we all met up for lunch

A marquee was set up for some shade
And inside this the food displayed
A choice of ham or cheese was made
Along with coleslaw, crisps and bread
To keep them cool must have been a feat

A few people managed to find some shade
But the Church's interior was purpose made
Through the open doors a breeze swept through
So it was lovely just to sit in a pew

Pam's raffle ticket selling brought in lots of money
And also something very funny
Guess the weight of 'Biddy' Erica's terrier
The list was long, the more the merrier

Thank you Val for a lovely day
With friends helping you along the way
For Church funds you helped money to raise
And for this I think you deserve some praise



Advent & Christmas Page

It's that time of year folks! As we move through the season of Advent (Sunday 3rd December—1st Sunday of Advent) towards the festival of Christmas you'll find lots on at Saint James'. Be sure to put the dates in your diaries and please support us at these events.



St James' Church
Christmas Fair
Saturday 25th November
2.00pm - 4.00pm
Quedgeley Community Centre
School Lane
Quedgeley GL2 4PN
See you there!

FREE! We are back for our 2nd year running!
Saint James'
For a **CRAFT**
Messy Christmas
Saturday 9th December
1pm - 3pm
Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN
FUN **SNACK provided!**

Our Choir will be singing Carols at Tesco on 14th December at 4.30pm. Please pop along and support them at this event. All proceeds from the collection will go towards the up keep of Saint James' Church



Follow The Star
Join the Song

Christmas Events and Services
Messy Christmas - Saturday 9th December 1pm - 3pm
Lessons and Carols - Sunday 17th December 6pm
Christmas Eve - Crib Service 3pm
Christmas Eve Carol Service with Gloucester Charter
Concert Band - 6.30pm
Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Christmas Day - Celebration Communion for All Ages
10.30am



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

JAM - Every Sunday at 4pm – 5pm

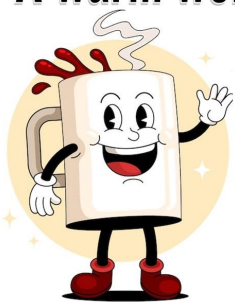


Be sure to buy your Christmas Raffle tickets soon.

The draw will take place on November 25th at our Christmas Fair.

First prize — £100 plus Hampers, wine and many more prizes!

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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Parish Registers

HOLY BAPTISM



August	20th	TOMMY MICHAEL RICHARD JOHN LEWIS
"	27th	SKYE ROSE POPPLETON ROMAN VICTOR PRICE
September	10th	ATHENA ROSE ELIZABETH BUCKINGHAM
"	17th	LOUISE DOUGLAS DARBY
"	24th	ELSIE MAY JASMINE LOCKE
October	15th	CHLOE MICHELLE DENNIS MAEVE ANGELA DARBY WOLF JOHN DARBY
	22nd	JETHRO KAGAHYET TENKUMA CHRISTOPHER

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S FAMILY

HOLY MARRIAGE

September 23rd MELV IAN YATES & EMMA LOUISE TANNER

THOSE WHOM GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

FUNERALS

GRAHAM EVANS
ARCHIE KENNEDY

REST ETERNAL GRANT THEM O LORD

Baptism of Jethro

Jethro and his family are regular worshippers at Saint James'. So it was an extra special morning when Revd. Mark baptised Jethro at the 10.30am Holy Communion Service.



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
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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
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Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
Tea@2			
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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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