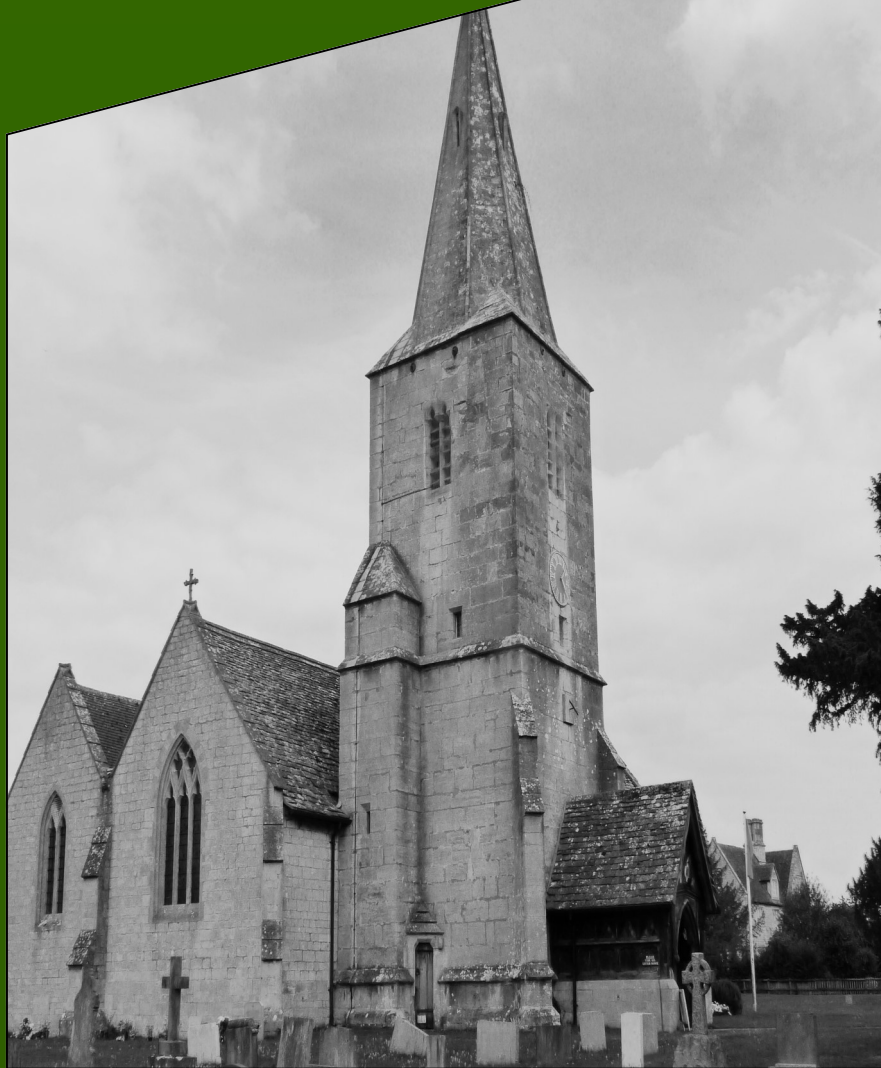


# Around the Spire



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

**September 2024**

**Issue 104**

**Have you ever told a white lie? page 9**

**Who do you think you are? page 12**

**Clearwater Leavers Service page 8**

# From your Editor—Fr. Hugh Broad



*This month we have some interesting features. There is an article from Our Next Steps committee, it is looking at ways of enhancing St. James' and making it appealing to future generations. Our Saturday clean-up went particularly well. We are still receiving a good number of enquiries for baptisms and there are some splendid photos in the magazine of our recent events.*

*As we approach September we are looking forward to Tea@2 and Bounce & Rhyme returning after the summer break. If you'd like to attend either of these groups the information is displayed in the magazine. Alternately you can contact the organisers - numbers on the back page.*

*Enjoy! Fr. Hugh*

**Bounce & Rhyme**

Babies 0-9 months  
Wednesday AM  
11.30 - 12noon

**We are back Wed 4th Sept**

Saint James' Church  
School Lane  
Quedgeley  
GL2 4PN

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

**st J's**  
WORSHIP ACROSS GENERATIONS

From 8th September st J's is every Sunday at 11.30am for tea, coffee and juice with worship at 11.45am-12.30pm

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

4th August, 10.30am, St James' Church - Outdoor Baptism  
Want to be baptised? Phone Revd Mark on 01452 722916

8th, 15th, 22nd September, 11.30am tea, coffee and juice, worship 11.45am-12.30pm, CARING FOR CREATION - Stories, Crafts And Songs

14th September, Ride and Stride - 15 mile sponsored family bike ride for the Churches Conservation Trust. Email [drmarkid@gmail.com](mailto:drmarkid@gmail.com) for details

22nd September, 11.45am-12.30pm, friendly pets under careful control are very welcome! The Blessing of the Creatures

**God Loves Quedgeley**  
Let's live that love together!

**RIPE+STRIDE**  
for Churches

Contact Paul Bridges at  
[lespons45@gmail.com](mailto:lespons45@gmail.com)  
for further details



**Saturday  
14th  
September**



## Change of Hours

Please note our new Cafe and Soft Play opening hours

Monday - open 9:15am - 12:00pm  
Tuesday - open 9.15am-2.00pm  
Wednesday - open 9.15am - 2.00pm  
Saturday - Open 9.00-12.30pm

# Out and about - Creation Care in our neighbourhood Revd Mark



Being Out and About and Caring for Creation are both part of my DNA as a parish priest and so I am combining my two regular articles this month.

These late summer months and into Autumn offer a very joyful way of caring for creation and caring for our wallets and bodies. This year has seen challenges for growing vegetables with late rains and highs and lows in temperature, including late frosts. These same conditions have seen a huge glut in fruit harvests. We have seen early apples, pears and plums in our garden and these provide a happy chance to share and make a little money for St James.

Dan, Emily and I set up a stall at our front gate. Emily sold some of her artwork and we sold plums, cooking apples and rhubarb for £1 a bag - good value for purse, healthy for body and delicious. It was a great chance to meet local folk on their way to and from Tesco's, enjoy a chat and answer questions about church life.

We chalked the vision of St James' parish on the path in front of the stall:

***God Loves Quedgeley, let's live that love together.***

What a fun way to do just that over the summer hols. Thank you Dan and Emily for your help and thank you Andrew for the rhubarb and thank you happy customers!!



**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**

We start Tea@2 again on Wednesday 11th September at 2pm. in the church. We look forward to seeing all our regulars and if you haven't been before - then why not join us? We offer copious cups of tea and coffee, homemade cake, biscuits etc all for £3.00 per person. Plus you have a chance to win a prize at our weekly bingo! Do come along I'm sure you won't be disappointed.





# ***From the Editor's Desk by our Editor***

***Fr. Hugh Broad***



## **WHAT PRICE A VOCATION?**

To answer this question here are two very different examples.

Firstly is one from my recent past.

During August I became ill and taken into hospital. Of course this is never an enjoyable experience as we undergo tests of all kinds and we wonder what will be divulged about our state of health. But as I found out on my 10 day spell there was a side to it which was so very different! The atmosphere in the wards was full of cheerfulness from the start of the day! The team of nurses brought with them a wonderful and happy approach to their work which was often very demanding.

They are from many countries and what wonderful names!

In spite of their work they often found time for a chat. Again and again I found them saying that nursing was not just a job - far from it - it was a way of life which they loved and cherished

THIS, THEN, IS WHAT VOCATION IS ALL ABOUT!

**IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU READ THIS - WELL DONE GLOUCESTER ROYAL - YOU ARE THE TOPS!!**

SECONDLY - AND BY COMPLETE CONTRAST -

The role of the priest is very much one of VOCATION!

During this month of September - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> we shall be coming together at St James here in Quedgeley to give thanks to God for Canon Michael Garland who will be celebrating 50 years as a Priest!

Those of us who have reached this stage will look back on the years with great satisfaction in serving God in many different places and in all sorts of places.

But we have done so with dedication, hopefully with good humour and love for those we meet and serve.

So you see that in spite of the differences both nurses and priests do share what is

**VOCATION !!**

***Fr. Hugh***

# Revd. Mark - What I am Praying For...

**Wonderful, musical, beautiful and meaningful**  
*Summer Baptisms and Confirmations at St James*



Over summer we had a very special time of worship with the Baptism and Confirmation of seven adults and four teens and pre-teens. Of these wonderful folk, six were baptised and confirmed and we had one infant baptism with godparents too. In the Church of England, local priests can baptise children and adults and when folk are ready they can seek confirmation, which is 'owning' that baptism for themselves. Bishop Robert described confirmation as saying yes to God. Since the turn of the year Revd Mark had met and prepared all the candidates and they expressed their reasons for seeking confirmation personally in writing to Bishop Robert. Each candidate chose music for the worship and the choir worked hard to get it perfect on the day. Individuals contributed to flowers and the flower team, cleaning team, sides team, hospitality team, servers and ministry team all came together as we grew together on that special Sunday when God welcomed twelve new members into His Church. Thanks to Bishop Robert and everyone who made it such a special day.



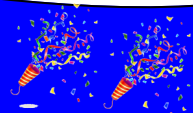
**My prayer is one of thanks for all that the Holy Spirit is doing in Quedgeley. Thank you God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN**

## News Snippets ...



The Venerable David Sutch officiated at the renewal of marriage vows for Norma and Terry supported by their daughters on 26th July. May they both continue to have a long and happy life together.

*Happy Birthday Pete*



These photos were taken at Pete's 80th birthday celebration, organised by his wife Di.

Pete looks very trendy in his 'Awesome 80's' T shirt and judging from the photos everyone had a great time.

We wish you good health and all the very best for the future Pete. Look forward to celebrating your 90th



# Open air Baptisms



*Once again on a Sunday in August, Holy Baptism was top of the Order of Service - conducted on this occasion in the Open air and by total immersion of the candidates in a tank of water! As previously, candidates included both adults and children.*

*Revd Mark and members of the Ministry Team took part. Thanks also to Andrew Wakely and Jane Rogers and yes - they got wet as well!*

*These two special services are a real landmark in the life of this our Parish Church! - FH*

*More photos next month!*



## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

The GHCT Ride and Stride has been set for Saturday 14 Sep 24 and, as last year, I intend to organise the event for St James Church Quedgeley. The Gloucestershire amount raised for 2023 was a huge £50,000, an increase of over £12000 on the previous year. The R&S County organiser passes on his sincere thanks to everyone who took part and contributed to the success of the event. Our day proved challenging with road resurfacing on the route, covered over 20 miles, visited 6 local churches (a café and pub where we took refreshments). An enjoyable day and great fun but our younger team were disappointed as they missed the gelato stop at the Wholly Cow!



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



# Busy Morning for Bishop Robert



**0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**  
 A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

LUKE JERRAM  
**MARS**  
 WAR & PEACE  
 GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL  
 15 OCT - 3 NOV  
*Journey to Planet Mars this autumn at Gloucester Cathedral*  
**FIND OUT MORE**  
[www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk)

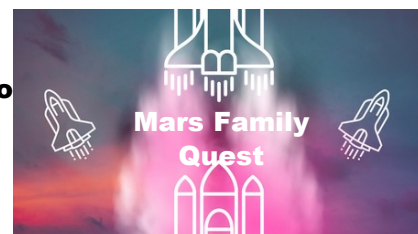
**Gloucester Day**  
 Saturday, 7th September 2024  
 11 am to 6 pm  
 Entertainment at Kings Square, Gloucester, GL1 1RP  
 11 am  
 Mock Mayor of Barton Parade  
 2 pm  
 Gloucester Day Parade  
 Come along for Entertainment, Music, Food, Community Groups, Stalls in the Four Gate Streets and Fun For Everyone!  
 For more information, contact: [alanmyatt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alanmyatt@blueyonder.co.uk)



## Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am  
 During term time.  
 Pop in after the school run  
 Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer

**Tuesday 15 October to  
 Sunday 3 November,  
 Cathedral opening  
 hours**





# News from the schools

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, there was joy in the air as we – Clearwater's Year 6 pupils – attended the Diocese of Gloucester's Leaver's Service at Gloucester Cathedral for the very first time.

The day marked an historical event for the school, as we were the first ever attendees representing Clearwater C of E Primary Academy. For decades to come, our fellow Year 6 pupils will follow in our footsteps.

Leading the way, our banner-bearers, Evie Harrison and Jacob Lister, proudly carried our incredible banner as we walked into the Cathedral for the service.

This banner caught the eyes of many as it made its debut down the cathedral's isle. Made by one of our talented parent volunteers, Ashleigh Harrison, it is eco-friendly, made from 100% recycled materials. The beautiful banner was made out of Mrs Moss' (our Headteacher's) old-but-lovely curtains, recycled school uniform and a re-purposed wooden curtain pole.



We had an amazing experience as we all sang together, perfectly accompanied by some impressive dance moves. Prior to the day, we had collectively written a prayer that was wonderfully read by our class representatives, Valerie Dare-Samuel and James Berry. At a poignant part of the service, Year 6 representative Lydia Joslyn, along with Mrs Moss, came together to hold a candle that represented the light, presence and our finale in our journey at Clearwater School.

This leaver's service is certainly something that we will never forget and we look forward to generations of Clearwater leavers experiencing the special day in the same way that we have.



## Rev. Mark presents...

*Double celebrations were in order for two local schools ...*

The photo to the left shows Revd. Mark presenting flowers and a card from the PCC to congratulate and thank Clearwater School for achieving their first graduating class.



The bottom left photo shows Revd. Mark presenting Waterwells School with flowers and a card from the PCC to congratulate them on their 10th anniversary as a school.



Finally Beech Green Primary held a **BUG HUNT** in July. Saint James' was asked if they would mind looking after a 'bug'. Given colour scheme I'm sure most of the folk that took part managed to find it.







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

***Laughter is the best medicine***

### **THE WHITE LIE CAKE**

*Have you ever told a white lie?*

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but forgot to do it until the last minute.

She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix and quickly made it between drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack for scout camp.

When she took the cake from the oven, the centre had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She thought, "Oh dear, there's no time to bake another cake!"

So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the centre of the cake. She found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect.

Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone and called her mom.

Alice was horrified. She was beside herself! Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed!

All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She didn't really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa, but having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old south and to Alice's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert!

Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!"

Alice, still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself."

Alice smiled and thought to herself, **"God is good."**



Quedgeley  
**COMMUNITY  
GARDEN**  
QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

It you would like to volunteer to help with the Community Garden or the Community Pantry please contact Vicky Ranford at:-

[victoriananford@outlook.com](mailto:victoriananford@outlook.com)

# Sarah – Princess and Mother of a Nation

By Fr. Gordon



Sarah was the wife of Abraham and the matriarch of the tribes of Israel, she was their founding mother. Sarah and Abraham accompanied Terah, Abraham's father, when he set out from Ur of the Chaldees until they settled at Haran.

When a famine struck the land, they journeyed to Egypt to escape. The couple were uncertain of the treatment they would receive there – especially as Sarah was so beautiful and likely to attract men's attention.

So Abraham decided to pass Sarah off as his sister, not his wife. If they saw Abraham as her husband, they may try to kill him to get at Sarah. What Abraham feared, happened. Pharaoh had his soldiers take Sarah from her family, and placed her in his harem.



*Abram's counsel to Sarai*

*James Tissot c.1896-1902*

Egypt became afflicted with plague. When Pharaoh found out that Sarah was Abraham's wife, he viewed his nation's misfortune as punishment for his own sin. He restored Sarah to Abraham, and they returned home.

Sarah's life was blighted by the lack of a son. After many years in a loving marriage, she was still childless.

In desperation Sarah offered her slave girl Hagar to her husband Abraham; so that Hagar could bear him a son.

The plan back-fired: Hagar did indeed bear a son - Ishmael, and Hagar's status in the tribe rose. Poor, childless Sarah became even more despondent.

God came to Sarah's rescue. He appeared to Abraham but, this time, in disguise. Three men approach the tent – were they angels? Or was it God? Abraham was sitting in the open front section of the tent. Sarah is in the back part, a private section for women and children separated from the front section by a heavy woven curtain.

Abraham greeted the men with the ritual hospitality of the East. They told Abraham that Sarah, despite her advanced age, would have a son. Abraham was perplexed, to say the least.

When they finished eating, they asked about Sarah. Where was she? Listening from behind the curtain, Sarah heard and laughed. It was absurd at her age.

God heard her, and asked Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh?' She was afraid and so she denied having laughed, but God contradicted her, saying, 'Yes, you did laugh! Is there anything that the Lord cannot do?'

She had a son, Isaac, whom she loved deeply. One day, after Isaac had been weaned, Sarah saw him playing with Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar, and she told Abraham to banish Hagar and Ishmael for she did not want him to have the same rights of inheritance as her own son, Isaac.

Before she died, there was one more event that Sarah has to deal with: Abraham's aborted sacrifice of her son Isaac. Sarah isn't mentioned in this incident, but she must surely have known about it. We don't know her side of the story we can only imagine how horrific it must have been for her.

Sarah died at Hebron in the land of Canaan when she was 127 years old. Because he was a foreigner, Abraham asked the inhabitants of Canaan - the Hittites - for a piece of land in which he could bury Sarah.

We need, as part of Sarah's story, to hear more about her relationship with Hagar. We'll look at her story in a bit more detail next time, you can read it in the Book of Genesis Chapters 16, 21 and 25.

*Gordon*

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# **“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 of September*

**2nd: The Martyrs of Papua & New Guinea:** The Church in Papua New Guinea was enriched by martyrdom twice during the 20th century: in 1901 a group of English missionaries, and in 1941 two English priests, seven Australian & two Papuan evangelists all surrendered their lives for the sake of the gospel.

**3rd: Gregory the Great: Pope from 590 – 604.** It was his initiative that sent Augustine & his group of monks to re-establish the Church in England. Gregory styled himself as “Servant of the servants of God”.

**9th: Charles Lowder, priest: 1851** – the first vicar of St Peter London Docks. Dedicated to the poor and destitute, he epitomised the 19th century “slum priest”.

**15th: Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, 248AD:** He spoke out against the persecution of the Church in North Africa and defended those who turned to the Church after having been pagans. He was martyred in 258AD.

**16th: Ninian, Bishop of Galloway:** The son of a Christian Cumbrian chief, he studied in Rome before returning to Britain, where he set up a community in the English / Scottish borders. He travelled extensively through the borderlands and north to Perth and Sterling.

**17th: Hildegard of Bingen, Abbess & teacher:** She entered the abbey of Bingen and eventually established other convents in the Rhineland, teaching and writing in addition to leading her community.

**21st: Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist:** called by Jesus, he gave up his job as a tax-collector and affirmed that his life would now change and that he would make amends for any former wrongdoing. He is regarded as the eye-witness behind the gospel which bears his name.

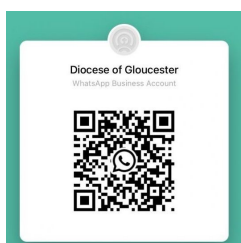
**25th: Lancelot Andrewes, 1555 – 1626:** Bishop of Chichester, then Ely, and finally Winchester. He was an Old Testament scholar and his translation of the Hebrew scriptures formed much of the Old Testament in the “King James” (or “Authorised Version”) of the Bible. He was buried in a church that was originally in the diocese of Winchester, but which is now the cathedral for the diocese of Southwark.

**26th: Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army:** ordained in 1881, he served in the parish of St Mary Abbots Kensington, London. The lack of contact between the Church & the “working classes” was a cause of concern and he began outdoor preaching. In 1882 he founded the Church Army with a view to building up a unit for teaching & practical care in the community.

**29th: Michael & All Angels:** Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael are the three named biblical angels, depicted as the beloved messengers of God. Michael is best known as the slayer of the dragon in the Revelation to St John, and Gabriel as the bearer of good news to Mary of Nazareth. Raphael is the bearer of the healing word.

**30th: Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures:** Born in Croatia in 342, he studied in Rome and became proficient in Hebrew and Greek. He made it his life's work to translate the newly-published Bible into Latin. He eventually settled in Bethlehem, where he founded a monastery and continued his studies until his death in 420AD.

**faith**  
Living as adventurous  
followers of Jesus Christ



**From the Diocese...**

**Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message with the TOP three inspiring stories, blogs or events, straight to your phone.**

# Who do you think you are?

## By Pat Wakely

*In light of the violent riots that have occurred in this country, Pat Wakely explains her work with refugees and some of the benefits from being a multi-cultural society.*

In August of 1972 the President of Uganda Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of its citizens from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. I was working for an airline at the time at Gatwick Airport so was personally involved with escorting these passengers from their aircraft and through immigration. I witnessed at first hand their arrival, as they descended the aircraft steps looking bewildered, frightened and lost.

Our country has become a melting pot, absorbing nationalities from around the world. My own relatives arrived from Russia at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to escape pogroms. Many settled in the East End of London, where along with the Irish refugees escaping the potato famine, communities lived side by side. It is due to the Jewish refugees traditional dish of fried fish and the Irish refugee's love of potatoes that we can enjoy fish and chips to this day. Indeed, there cannot be many people reading this article, who do not enjoy a good curry, a takeaway Chinese or foods from all around the world. How have we been introduced to all these different cuisines? I would suggest partly through foreign travel but mainly through immigration.

As I write, protests are taking place up and down our country regarding immigration. I am sure there may be people who read this article who do not agree with me, and I respect this. I can only speak from my own experience. I have been fortunate to travel widely and continue to be blessed by my friendships and experience of people from around the world. This tells me that most people want the same. We worry about our loved ones, we want what is best for our children, we need a roof over our heads and hope for good health. The colour of our skin makes absolutely no difference as to how we love.

My community has been working alongside refugees in Gloucester who have come from countries around the world. Everyone, many of whom have valuable skills to offer, want to work and contribute to the country that has given them a home. They like the people expelled from Uganda, are aspirational and hard working.

Whether we pray to God, Allah or just want to hold special thoughts, let us hope that this terrible time of unrest will come to an end soon.



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## Heritage open days around the diocese this September

Heritage Open Days 2024 are taking place from 6 to 15 September. These events are free and explore history and culture across the country. Lots of events are taking place around Gloucestershire, but these are some of the ways our churches are getting involved. For more information click on to:-

<https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/heritage-open-days-around-the-diocese-this-september/>





# Next Steps



We promised to try to keep everybody in the loop as regards the next steps to re-ordering the Church ready for the next generations to come. Regular updates in the 'Spire' magazine is one way we can try to meet that promise. We do not want anyone to feel they have been left out or unsure of plans or progress.

We have been pleased to have feedback from several people and will be responding as soon as we can.

In the meantime, work in the background has continued slowly but surely. The first thing is that we will soon be asking our contractor to start work on removing those dangerous wooden cusps on the south porch door frame. The Victorians who designed and built it were a good deal shorter than we are today, and if you have bumped into one, you know how very painful it is. The approvals are imminent. This work will also include re-plastering the hole in the inside roof, and replacing broken floor tiles, although they will not at this stage be polished; that won't happen until they match the interior ones.

Work has progressed on some of the repair work identified in the Quinquennial report which forms part of the overall re-ordering.

We have had discussions with the architects about the detail and layout of the information they need in order that they can then produce the three options for our consideration. The details that we are providing are based on the ideas that came from the various church family meetings and discussions, and subsequently agreed by the PCC.

Work is also ongoing in the matter of applications for grants and also time-line planning to ensure that our financial needs are met as required in a timely fashion throughout the project.

It will be a long and challenging task but as Paul says in Romans 'If God is with us, who can stand against us?' So we ask for your continued prayers for wisdom, direction, strength, patience and when needed courage, so that when we are finished, we shall have completed Gods task the way he plans it, and not allowed our personal ideas to cloud our vision of that.

Andrew Wakely Chair of Next Steps



## Clean up Saturday

The Church and the Churchyard are beautiful, but it doesn't just happen! Saturday workdays are an opportunity get some worthwhile tasks completed while having fun together as well. The latest of these was the day before the outdoor baptisms, so it all looked great for that very special day. Some 14 helpers joined in to enjoy that very special feeling of teamwork doing something valuable.

Inside, a team were making the interior shipshape for our services. The cobwebs are gone, the pews and woodwork are all dusted and polished and the interior furniture all tidied. The kitchen and area nearby is all deep cleaned and another team worked hard to make the silverware look fabulous and shiny ready for our next Eucharist.

Outside the edges of the main path were cut back and tidied, the ugly gratings which were partly falling off the windows have been removed, a bike stand has been installed and the grates and airbricks around the base of the building and the gutters above have been cleared. A new shrubbery has been dug ready for planting up for our flower arrangers to use. We even had the pleasure of a Robin overseeing the work from very close quarters.

Somehow, mugs of tea and coffee materialised from the busy kitchen, which washed down wonderfully the bacon butties and doughnuts that came from a local supplier called the Siddall family kitchen.

It really was a fun time as well as being very valuable in keeping our church and churchyard looking good and safe for the many people who visit us to enjoy a little peace and quiet, time to reflect, or just to enjoy walking the dog. You might like to consider joining us next time; it's well worth it.



## QUEDGELEY WOMENS' INSTITUTE



At our July meeting we heard about the cancer charity Charlies that Jo Stanford had started after being diagnosed with cancer and finding that there was no support for anyone going through cancer at that time. The charity officially opened in March 2014 and what started with a handful of volunteers has now grown to 65 and offers holistic therapies including Reflexology, Reiki and Mindfulness among many other things and the surprising thing is that they are all free of charge! The charity is based in Gloucester but also holds sessions in the Forest of Dean, Cheltenham, Newent, Cirencester and Stroud. If we had never heard of Charlies we do now and anyone who needs their services is going to be made very welcome.

With another reference to charity we heard from Victoria Ranford from the Community Pantry which was set up by Quedgeley Town Council. It is not a food bank and is not means tested so anyone who is in need of help can sign up for £3 a week and can choose ten items that have been donated at collection points in the area.

There will be no normal meeting in August as we are looking forward to our annual outing to Stratford upon Avon with afternoon tea and a boat trip. Our meeting will be back to normal in September when we will be hearing about Coloured Gemstones and anyone who would like to come along as a visitor or new member will be made very welcome.





Welcome to our September update. We hope you have all enjoyed the Summer, we have indeed enjoyed some good weather at last!

First of all we would like to welcome David Goddard onto the council. David joined in August and brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge which we know will benefit the council hugely. David is still learning about his new role as a councillor but is already eager to serve his community. Details of all our councillors can be found on our website or in our office window.



The other good news we are proud to share is being rewarded Quality Gold Status under the Local Council Award Scheme. This is the highest award a local council can receive and is a measure of how professional, visible and amenable the council is to its community. The high standards for this award must be sustained for 4 years, after which a vigorous and thorough investigation of the council takes place, together with an evidenced based assignment made up of 56 questions over a 38 page document which takes approximately 6 months to complete. We hope this award shows our

residents how much importance we attach to good customer service and being accountable to the public.

We thought we would take a moment to provide you all with an update on the Quedgeley Social Club building. Quedgeley Social Club ceased trading on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The club had been struggling for a few years and certainly post Covid times and despite numerous rent holidays, rent reductions and repayment plans offered by this council, the footfall for the club simply was not enough to keep it solvent. This council shares everyone's disappointment in the closing of this club and recognises that for some it was a lifeline. With this in mind, this council is committed to ensuring that whatever this premises is used for, it will be for the community. Several expressions of interest have already been received and the council are being careful in making the right decision for everyone which is why this takes time. We want to get it 'right first time' so thank you to everyone for being patient, bear with us and we will keep you as up to date with the process as we can.



As we move into September, so we see schools returning and we urge everyone to be mindful of their parking and driving around the schools. This subject always causes the most complaints. All we ask is that if you are driving or dropping off at schools be mindful of others and be mindful of the children.



On the subject of parking, have you seen the new notices at The Local Centre, Kingsway? Many local residents are being caught out so we urge you all to be careful when parking there. The Local Centre parking does not include the Kingsway Community Centre. Parking for the Community Centre is directly outside the centre. We are actively trying to resolve this matter however until such time as these parking restrictions change, we urge everyone to remain mindful of where they are parking when visiting that area.

Plans continue with regards to our Firework event which is due to take place this year on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at Fisher's Meadow. Taking on a slightly different feel this year, as we are working with Apex Events, we are confident that our community will once again enjoy a well designed and well organised event and with prices staying the same once again this year, remaining affordable to all.

A flavour of some of the concerns that come into this office at the moment are:

- Grass Cutting
- Flytipping
- Overflowing dog bins

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](mailto:Office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk) or you can visit our website on [Quedgeley Town Council \(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk\)](http://QuedgeleyTownCouncil(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk)).

# Who's Who in the Parish Church

| Priest –in– Charge                  | Land Line           | Mobile      | Email address                    |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Revd. Mark Siddall</b>           | <b>01452 722916</b> |             | <b>drmarksid@gmail.com</b>       |
| <b>Assistant Priests</b>            |                     |             |                                  |
| 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            |
| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>                |                     |             |                                  |
| Mrs Jackie Broad                    | 01452 541078        | 07928862976 | 60jackie60broad@gmail.com        |
| Mr Andrew Wakely                    | 01452 722528        | 07879883091 | andrewmwakely@gmail.com          |
| <b>PCC Secretary</b>                |                     |             |                                  |
| Mrs Lu Pearce                       | 01452 725178        | 07922115062 | androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk     |
| <b>Safeguarding Officer</b>         |                     |             |                                  |
| Liz Keenan                          | 01452 722320        |             | mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com      |
| <b>PCC Treasurer -</b>              |                     |             |                                  |
| Mr Ian Pearce                       | 01452 725178        | 07867502469 | ianlu123@hotmail.com             |
| <b>Tea@2</b>                        |                     |             |                                  |
| Mrs Jackie Hall                     | 01452 721062        | 07853217954 | jackiehall1854@gmail.com         |
| <b>Organist</b> —Chris Baldwin      |                     | 07811589867 | cpbaldwin359@gmail.com           |
| <b>Bell Ringers</b> —Anne Heron     |                     | 07360008632 | anneheron@gmail.com              |
| <b>Open the book</b> —Liz Keenan    | 01452 722320        |             | mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com      |
| <b>Altar Servers</b> —Angela Hughes |                     | 07984265977 | angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk   |

[www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley](https://www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley)

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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