



Saint James' Church

FREE magazine for

the

parishioners of

Quedgeley & Kingsway



God Loves Quedgeley

Let's live that love together!

Issue 105

October 2024

- On reaching 50! page 8
- Blessing of animalspage 8
- Journey to Planet Mars this autumn page 7



From your Editor—Fr. Hugh Broad



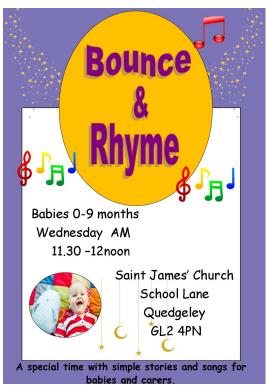
We are now only two months off the end of the year and Autumn has truly approached. Our Harvest Thanksgiving this month will be held on Sunday 6th October We very much hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. We are asking for donations—non perishable items cans, packets, etc. All donations will be given to Quedgeley Community Pantry. Please leave your donations in the box provided near the entrance in the church.

At the end of September we held a blessing for all animals. Many of you brought your pets and it was lovely morning. You'll see photos of the event in this magazine edition.

Enjoy the read!

Fr. Hugh







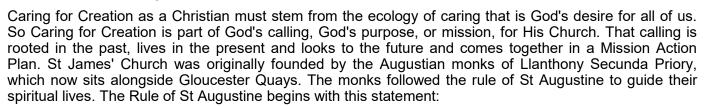


A Plan for Creation Care Revd Mark



1 John (4.19)

Let's live that love together



'The main purpose for your having come together is to live harmoniously together, intent upon God, with one heart and one soul' (Acts 4.32-35)

And so as we discerned as a Church we considered this history and what we have learned from this parish of St James to govern our plans over coming years, our Mission Action Plan:

We know that God loves Quedgeley (1 John 4.19)

Lets live that love together in the midst of...

Growing Community

by partnering with those of good will

by removing barriers and increasing access to inclusive worship

by increasing the capacity of the church building

All Stages of Life

by worshipping and caring in ways that suit different stages of life

by engaging with Creation across generations

by developing an accessible and flexible church building

God's Creation

by teaching, preaching and leading on Creation Care in Quedgeley

by building community engaged with Eco Church

by adapting the church building towards the 2030 Net Zero commitment of the Church of England

Caring for Creation comes from an ecology of church, which is true to who we are as a parish. After all, and perhaps also before all, God really does love Quedgeley. One of the striking patterns to emerge as we have listened and prayed is how important developing our beautiful and well-loved church building will be as we look to the future. The Next Steps article in this edition will explore how this Mission Action Plan is being used to plan the future of our parish church building.

Mark



From the Editor's Desk by our Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



CREATURES OF HABIT

With the onset of Autumn several parish and local groups resume their activities after a summer break.

This is true here at St James where our popular Wednesday afternoon 'Tea for 2' Is enjoyed by a large group of mainly senior citizens enjoy a time of lovely teas and cakes, a quiz and of course bingo. Those who come get to know one another really well, specially those who are seated near their friends. It is clear that the members always sit in or around the same places! Getting to know one another is a major part of the activities, and most of the members do just that.

It is a similar feature with many of those who attend our Sunday services; our worshippers do, on the whole sit in the same places each Sunday.

As I have discovered in all the parishes I have served, this is a regular feature.

So here are two examples from our local life where we can be seen as Creatures of Habit! I do believe this is a strength rather than a weakness of our community.

I can think of several occasions when a member of our regular church members have gone out of their way to give a warm welcome to a person who seems to be with us for the first time. Indeed it has just happened when one of our regulars did just that with a couple and they have since become regular members of our congregation. One of my priest colleagues makes a special effort to greet anyone who seems to be a visitor or newcomer.

So the point I am trying to make is that although it is very easy to be habit forming, this does also be an opportunity to help to build up the life of a community and what better way forward could we have than that?

So what about you - do you have a habit which is a real help to those around you? Why not send me your example so that I can in turn pass it on to others?

FATHER HUGH YOUR EDITOR



"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"
(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

In Memory...

With many thanks to James Harris for his generous donation in memory of Val, which has enabled us to plant a shrubbery on the east side of the churchyard. This will prove a blessing for our church flower arrangers in future years. JR



October Days

The warm summer days are over now, as we witness October's chill,

When strong winds will threaten the colouring leaves; but when those winds are quite still,

We'll experience the first of the winter frosts, and a robin will sing for a mate.

The swallows have flown off to warmer climes, and the sun will start getting up late.

Red berries will brighten the hedgerows, and squirrels will fill up their store,

Knowing winter will soon be approaching, for the dormice, it's time for indoors.

Crop-less fields are ploughed up once more, to be planted with winter grain, and pumpkins are sold in abundance, as Hallowe'en approaches again.

The autumn leaves are stripped from the boughs, Mother Nature's shutting down for a rest.

Lovell Cornwall.

It's these October days that herald the winter, but it's a month that I really love best.

Out and about with the Revd. Mark





God loves Quedgeley

1 John (4.19)

Let's live that love together

Over Lent and during the Pentecost period after Easter we have been working hard at St James to listen to the parish, including regular churchgoers and parish residents to try and find out what St James Parish is called to be and do over the next few years. We are looking to 'discern' or sense what God is calling this parish church to, our presence and or purpose.

We have had conversations across generations in the congregation. We have talked to schools and community groups like the WI, scouts and guides. We have carried out an on-line survey and surveys in Tesco and at the church summer fete. All in all we have had input from a diverse group of several hundred people alongside bible study and prayer and so what have we found out?

We have found that St James is loved and appreciated by the vast majority of those we have talked to. We have found that the presence of St James church is a comfort and a help right across the parish and as we explored why that is the case we were reminded that 'we love because he first loves us' (John 4.19) and that the greatest strength of St James is the faith that God does indeed love Quedgeley. The statement 'God Loves Quedgeley' offers a very strong sense of witness and presence. From that witness comes an invitation and a purpose because in response to the statement 'God loves Quedgeley' we are all called to live that love together.

As you will read throughout this edition of Around the Spire, this vision and purpose is already beginning to bear fruit as we look to the future together with presence and purpose.

What I am praying about...

Since the beginning of Lent, right across the worshipping community at St James we have been studying the bible, listening and praying to discern God's presence and purpose for St James Parish and we are ready to say:

God loves Quedgeley

1 John (4.19)

Let's live that love together

If we are ready to say that, then now we need to gather the resources to make that happen and to make real the Mission Action Plan that you will read about in this edition of the magazine. Those resources involve three things: 1. Partnerships across the parish; 2. The time and skills of volunteers and; 3. Money.

In this next period I will be giving thanks for the resources we have and pray for the deepening of partnerships and continued growth in the number, passion and skills of volunteers. Perhaps the area which needs the most prayer though is money. The Church of England works very hard to support churches throughout our country, subsidising ministry, training and support but in the end your local parish church is supported by your generosity and good faith.

We are a hard working church that is looking to follow God's heart and desire for our community by living God's love together. My prayer is that as a community we will search our hearts and look to either become regular givers for the first time or to increase our giving in line with recent high inflation or perhaps even inspired by our vision to live God's love together. Please join me in prayer as we ask together -

Lord, you love Quedgeley, what are you calling me to offer? AMEN

What's on

A warm welcome awaits you!

at

1ea2

Wednesday

2.00pm- 4.00pm

Tea/Coffee Bingo

Home made cake Quiz

Assortment of refreshments
£3.00 per person



From the Diocese...

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









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



Congratulations Fr. Michael

At the Parish Eucharist at St James recently Michael Garland celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a priest. This is a real milestone in the life of a priest to look back on with so much to look back on in a variety of parishes and other forms of ministry in so many areas.

Here is a picture of Fr Michael, his wife Viv and other priests who have reached this milestone and were at the service to join him in is celebration.





There were approximately 30 people and their pets gathered at Saint James' on Sunday 22nd for the Blessing of animals. The service was led by Revd. Mark. Despite the threat of rain the service was held outside and several gazebos were erected to ensure that people and their pets could take cover should the weather become inclement.

The old favourite — *All things bright and beautiful* was sung at the beginning and end of the service, prayers and a blessing brought the service to a close.











Hagar – Slave Girl and Mother of a Nation By Fr. Gordon

Hagar was the Egyptian slave girl of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

She is introduced into the story of Sarah and Abraham at the point at which we are told that Sarah was barren.

It was Sarah's task to produce a son and heir to Abraham, but she could not. Both she and her husband were getting older, so Sarah took matters into her own hands. She gave Hagar to her husband as a surrogate mother.

To a woman in Hagar's position, the prospect of becoming pregnant to the leader of the tribe was an

honour, it would result in a dramatic rise in her social status and she would no

longer be a slave.

her mistress with contempt, and so Sarah complained about her behaviour to Abraham. The women fell out and Sarah blamed Abraham for what has happened – after all

he had done nothing to prevent the plan. Abraham replied, 'Your slave girl is yours to do with as you wish.' Sarah treated Hagar so harshly that she fled.

Alone and unaided, she heroically followed the road to Shur, which was on one of the trade routes across the Sinai Peninsula - a bleak and arid land.

An angel found her by a spring of water in the desert, he said to Hagar, 'Where have you come from, and where are you going?' Hagar replied, 'I am fleeing from my mistress Sarah.' And the angel told her to go back to her mistress and submit to her. He also told her that her descendants would be beyond number, and that she was to name her son Ishmael.

Despite Hagar's return, relations between the two women remained unresolved. Until Sarah's son was born fourteen years later, Hagar's son Ishmael was Abraham's son and heir and Hagar's status as his mother was unchallenged.

However, after the birth of Sarah's son Isaac everything changed. Sarah now saw that Ishmael was a threat to her son and the old enmity resurfaced - even worse than it had been before. Sarah saw Abraham's two sons playing together and was afraid that they would be treated as equal heirs, Hagar had lost this power struggle. Sarah hated Hagar and sought her death. She insisted that Hagar and Ishmael be sent away.

Abraham was uneasy about expelling them into the heat of the desert, but Sarah's power over him was such that he couldn't prevent it.

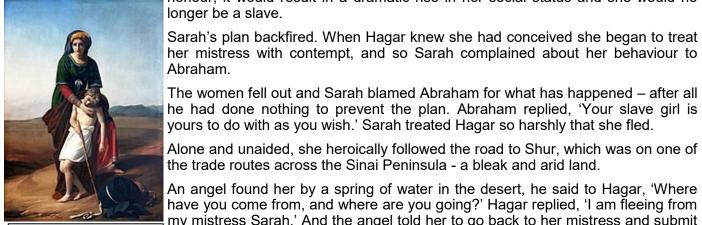
Abraham gave her bread and water, not only as sustenance, but as a signal to the tribe that she remained under his protection and should not be killed when she was out of his sight.

Hagar and her child soon used up their supply of water and even though she searched, she could find no more. She prayed for help, her eyes were opened and she saw a well of fresh water – they were saved.

They lived in the wilderness – in Paran. When Ishmael grew to manhood Hagar chose for him a wife from her own people – not a Hebrew.

Hagar and Ishmael have indeed a special place in the Islamic tradition (as indeed does Abraham). Where Ishmael is regarded as the ancestor of the Arabs and Hagar the mother of a nation.

Next time we'll take a look at a critical spirit - the sister of Moses and Aaron - Miriam. Her story can be found in the Book of Exodus chapters 2 and 15 and Numbers chapter 12.



Hagar and Ismael in the Desert François-Joseph Navez

1787-1869

Royal Museums of Fine



"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 October

1st: Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury 1801 – 1885. His service in Parliament was marked by a desire to reform social abuses. His string Christian faith led him to campaign successfully for measures to improve housing and to create schools fore the poor. He pioneered legislation on conditions of employment in mines and factories, particularly with to the protection of children.

4 th: Francis of Assisi, 1181 – 1226. Following a period of captivity during a civil war in Italy, Francis believed God was calling him "to repair my Church". Having been joined by others, he composed a gospel -based Rule of Life for them to live by. The Order preached the gospel of repentance & emphasised the poverty of Christ as an example to his followers.

6 th: William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures, 1494 – 1536. A son of Gloucestershire & student of Oxford and Cambridge. He was determined to translate the Scriptures into English. Opposed by the Bishop of London, he fled to Hamburg, where he completed his task. His work proved good enough for the team of scholars who later produced the King James (or Authorised) Version. Tyndale was executed in Brussels, charged with heresy.

10th: Paulinus, Bishop of York. He was among the second group of monks sent by Pope Gregory to assist Augustine in his work. He built the first church in York in 627AD and was its first bishop. He travelled much north and south of the Humber, building churches annu baptising new Christians.

11th: Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, dec'd 675AD. Sister to Erkenwald, Bishop of London, she owned, and was abbess of the monastery at Barking. The Church historian Bede relates many miracles occurring around her.

12th: Wifrid of Ripon, Bishop of York, 633 – 709. Educated at the monastery at Lindisfarne, but dissatisfied by the insularity of the Celtic church, he travelled to Rome before returning as abbot of Ripon. At the Synod of Whitby he was vocal in the uniting of the Roman and Celtic branches of the church in England. He served as Bishop of York, then Bishop of Hexham, before retiring to the monastery at Ripon.

12th: Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1780 – 1845. Born in Norfolk, she married Joseph Fry, a strict Quaker. Elizabeth became a minister in the Society of Friends and became a noted preacher. She devoted much time to the cause of prison reform and the welfare of female prisoners and as involved in the formation of a night-shelter for the homeless in London.

12th: Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1865 – 1915. On completion of her training she served with the Red Cross in Belgium. During World War I she cared for th wounded on both sides. Having refused repatriation, she began smuggling British soldiers out of Belgium. Following her arrest, and refusing to name those who had worked with her, she was executed by firing squad, praying for her executors, convinced that she had done her Christian duty.

18th: Luke the Evangelist. Friend of St Paul, mentioned three times in Paul's letters. A native of Greece, he is regarded as the author of the Gospel which bears his names, and of the Acts of the Apostles. He was a doctor by profession and is said to have met the Blessed Virgin Mary - from whom he may well have heard about the early life of Jesus.

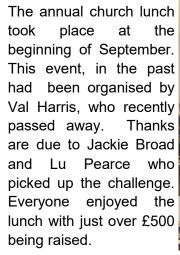
26th: Alfred the Great, 849 – 899AD. King of the West Saxons, his oversaw the end of the threat of Danish domination in England. A devout Christian, he provided for the building of schools, and houses for the poor, and places of respite for travellers. He attended mass daily and helped to create a legal code based on common sense and Christian mercy.

28th: Simon & Jude, Apostles. Named among the twelve apostles in Matthew, Mark, & Luke. "Simon the Zealot" was a member of a nationalist resistance movement opposed to the rule Rome, possibly seeing his political stance as a response to God's call to proclaim the kingdom. Jude is often referred to as Thaddeus (a family name) to distinguish him from Judas the betrayer.

Church Lunch









In Val's memory, Ian Pearce presented a beautiful flower pedestal that he had carved out of wood. Val loved flower arranging. The inscription on the pedestal is simple

' Val Harris 1942-2024

Who loved arranging flowers at St. James'

R.I.P Val.







faith
Living as adventurous
followers of Jesus Christ

Next Steps





Next Steps - October update

Things are progressing positively in the background. Where are we now, what's the plan?

This a quote from a book on Mission action planning (MAP)

'The Map is built on a clear sense of God's vision for the church. It is exactly what it says on the tin, an action plan for mission'

We started with a massive consultation with the church family and the community we serve. From the 260+ responses, we defined what we believe is Gods vision for where He wants us to be in the future, and then developed a MAP of how to get there. Next steps is following those guidelines in relation to the practical business of re-ordering the buildings in which we are based.

The consultation process was the starting point. We are now developing those visionary ideas into an Architects brief from which we will receive three optional plans to discuss with the church family and wider community, before any final decisions are made. It is a considerable document and work is well underway on that. We expect to be ready to present this to the next PCC meeting for their alteration or approval before sending it on.

The detailed sections of this brief mirror the three basic elements of our MAP. To provide enough space for the worshipping family now and in the future, the flexibility to provide for the desires of the community, and meeting the varying and specific needs of everybody, in such a manner that we are indeed helping in the care of Gods creation. Next Steps job looks at each area of the building as it stands, maintaining the essential sacred space for worship, and encompassing what we believe are Gods plans for the future, the MAP.

Another group of volunteers is being trained and already active in the process of applications for grants, and we are starting to see results of some of these initial smaller applications coming through. We are on the way!

Andrew Wakely - Chair 'Next Steps' Group

Lord - Teach me how to pray



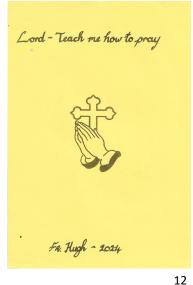
YES - As so many people have shared with me in the past few days - never was it more urgent for all Christians to pray - whether you go to church or not, the need is there brought before us with every item of news. Only yesterday someone stopped me in the street - she does not come to church but knew she needed to pray, but how!

I promised her a copy of my recent booklet on prayer to help anyone like her, or indeed all of us!

Copies of this booklet are still available in church - do take one!

No charge - money in wall box if you wish!

FR HUGH



Community News



QUEDGELEY WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Our outing in August to Stratford with a river cruise and a cream tea was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Our speaker in September was Helen Plumb who spoke about coloured gemstones, she explained that she had been interested in gemstones from a very early age when she remembered prizing the stones out of her grandmother's jewellery. She studied



Geology at University and she became a Geologist, but has now got her own jewellery shop in Winchcombe. She brought along lots of examples of gemstones for us to look at.

It is nearly the end of 2024 but there is still quite a lot to look forward to.

Our October meeting will have a bird theme as we will be hearing about owls from Morgan Tabis who will be bringing a real owl to the Village Hall. The competition is "Bring a photo of a bird".

We have a theatre trip to the Everyman in Cheltenham to see Birdsong in October and another trip is planned for April next year to see *That Will Be The Day* at the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury.

November for our WI always means the Annual General Meeting when we hear the Financial and Annual Reports and are reminded of all the interesting speakers and events we have enjoyed throughout the year. During this meeting there will also be a Christmas Auction.

Our last meeting of the year will be a Social Evening with an American supper and Christmas carols. Next year will be our 100th Birthday and suggestions are being requested on how best to celebrate this event.

We meet 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, either as a visitor or new member, they will be made very welcome. More information can be found on our website quedgeleywi.co.uk or on facebook.com/quedgeleywi.



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

victoriaranford@outlook.com





News from the schools







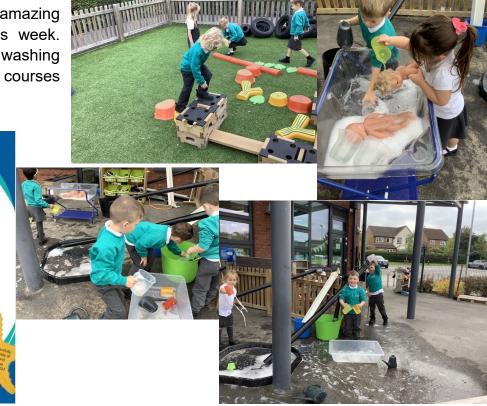


Reception have had the most amazing first few weeks at school. They have had so much fun exploring their new classroom and outdoor areas, playing with their friends and learning lots of new things already! Here are some photographs of what they have been up to.



Reception have had an amazing time exploring outside this week. They've had water play, washing babies, building, obstacle courses and so much more!





Quedgeley Town Council







This year is certainly flying by! As we now move into the Autumn months we find ourselves busy putting the final touches to our ever popular Fireworks Display, this year to be held at Fishers Meadow on Saturday 9th November 2024. This year however there is a big difference in that we have enlisted the help of Apex Events who will be running this event for us in partnership with Danters Fun Fair. As far as those attending are concerned, there will be no apparent changes, the times remain the same in that the gates open at 5.30pm and Fireworks start at 7pm, tickets will be on sale from the Town Council Offices during November, dates to be yet agreed and the prices for the event will remain the same. The only difference is that the display itself will be different as we welcome Apex Events to put their own stamp on things. The Town Council staff and councillors will be present as normal on the night. So as you can see, lots of planning has taken place over the year as we move closer to our biggest event of the year.

Another event in the pipeline is the Armistice Day Service due to be held on Armistice Day itself, Monday 11th November 2024. Everyone is welcome to come along. The service will only take 15 minutes and will take place around the war memorial at St James' Churchyard. This year we have enlisted the help of the local charity Help if We Can who will be running it on behalf of the council so a big thank you to everyone there for your help.

We say goodbye to Cllr Robyn Roberts who was elected onto the Council on the 2nd May. Sadly, family commitments mean that she can no longer dedicate her time to the council so we wish her well and thank her for her time so far on the council.

The parking problems at The Local Centre continue, however at the time of writing this, the Town Council have organised a joint meeting with the owners of the Local Centre Car park, Gloucester City Council Planning and Glouceser City Councillors with a view to trying to find a viable solution to all. Watch this space or indeed keep in touch with our Facebook Account for updates on this situation. We are aware that the restrictions that have been put in place without any knowledge to ourselves is causing much anxiety amongst our residents so until this is sorted out we urge you all to be mindful when parking in this



Last month we reported on the Social Club building which has now closed. Having been lucky enough to have received 3 formal expressions of interest, the council are now confident that this premises can be reopened for the benefit of the community. We are not in a position yet to say who will be running it or when it will reopen. We are working together with a preferred applicant, however there is quite a lot of remedial works that need to take place before it can be formally reopened. We are excited about this new venture however and when we are ready to formally reopen this venue we will be advertising this everywhere and we really hope that our local community will support this new chapter.

And finally, we are proud to announce that our very own Town Clerk, Jacquie Webster received an award this month for Mentoring services to new clerks. Jacquie has been doing this role, on top of her Clerk's role for a number of years now and it involves mentoring and assisting new clerks for the first 12 months of their time in role. She is responsible for the South West area. The award has come from the Society of Local Council Clerks and will be formally presented to her in the form of the John Crompton Cup on the 8th October. Well done Jacquie and well deserved. We look forward to a photo!

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).

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest –in– Charge	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
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Revd. lan 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
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Tea@2			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jackiehall1854@gmail.com
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Bell Ringers—Anne Heron		07360008632	anneheron@gmail.com
Open the book—Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
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Living and loving God, we pray that all of Quedgeley will live ever closer to your loving presence and purpose today and always.

AMEN