



Around the Spire

FEBRUARY 2026

ISSUE 117



S
JAMES
QUEDGELEY
Living God's Love Together

Saint James' Church
Quedgeley & Kingsway
FREE MAGAZINE

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Enjoy the read!

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH

Quedgeley & Kingsway



Morning Prayer
9.15am daily
during term
time

Holy Communion
Wednesday
10.00am

Holy Communion
Sunday
10.00AM

Tea/Coffee—served from 11.30am

EVERY SUNDAY 11.30am — STJ's Family Service

StJ TEAM
Living God's Love Together

God Loves Quedgeley

Let's live God's love together!

We love getting to know other families

StJs WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE

bible stories, craft/activity
great music

EVERY SUNDAY, 11.30am

I never knew church could be so much fun

The perfect way to spend Sunday morning together

The music is amazing and I love the dancing

Come and join us at

Tea@2

Wednesday 2pm -4pm
St. James' Church

BINGO Quiz

Light refreshments

£3.00 per person

FREE

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH
QUEDGELEY & KINGSWAY

SING & PLAY

Wednesday 11.00am -12noon
Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley GL2 4PN

FREE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

St JAMES QUEDGELEY
Living God's Love Together

MARDI GRAS

Team St. James

Street Food Festival

Sunday 15th February

12noon -2pm

The New Rectory
St James' Close
(off School Lane)
Quedgeley


Food from around the world to enjoy here in Quedgeley!

Lilia Floral

Whatever the occasion Lilia Floral is here to make it special

Based in Quedgeley, we design floral arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Corporate Events & Gifts.

Please visit our website www.liliafloral.co.uk for more information



HELP WANTED

We are aiming to deliver newsletters to your door on a seasonal basis. However, this depends on whether we can recruit enough deliverers.

Apart from helping to spread the word, just think of the health benefits from all those extra steps! If you can help deliver in your area give us a ring on 07853217954 or email us at saintjamesquedgeleyandkingsway@gmail.com





Out and about with Revd. Mark



I am writing this month about a local business that we have attended multiple times as a family and that is a special favourite as a treat on wet days and dark evenings. Dixie Dot Crafts is in Kingsway and if you love crafts and pottery it is a great place to try out.

We have tried the pottery painting, which involves choosing an unglazed and unpainted piece such as a mug, plate or ornament and decorating it. There are drinks and snacks available and it is a lovely activity to do together as family or friends.

It is £10 a session, which for us puts it in the category of a treat but it is good value from the point of view of having a really fun activity during which you create something worthwhile to bring home. The price includes firing. We have used our sessions to create one-of-a-kind personalised gifts for family members. A lovely, creative and friendly local business to have fun supporting. We love it!

<https://www.dixiedotcrafts.com>

Unit 10, Kingsway Local Centre, Thatcham Ave, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2GT

Get there:

Phone: 01452 933768

Mark



Knit & Natter Groups at Tesco

Last year the Knit & Natter groups held at Tesco Quedgeley raised over £14k for local charities, groups, schools, clubs and individuals for our local community. Well done!



Draw near with 40acts

The Church of England is inviting people to take part in a 40-day generosity challenge, building habits, deepening faith and reflecting the heart of Jesus through everyday acts. Each day offers a simple invitation to give, bless, and grow in generosity, one act at a time. Every day there will be a new challenge, from writing a note of encouragement to someone, to buying a gift for a friend. To take part, sign up at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts> and respond to the daily prompts.

Just Sust – Sustainable fashion festival 28 February, 11am to 5pm at Brimscombe Mill, GL5 2SB A joyful day of workshops, making, mending, inspiration and community creativity centred on the possibilities of circular clothing. <https://www.brimscobemill.org.uk/whats-on/justsustfest>

From the Editor's desk...



I find myself at the Editor's desk this month. Sadly, Fr Hugh had a nasty accident before Christmas and is currently recuperating. I'm sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery, and we very much hope to see him back at his desk next month.

So, as we begin a new year, I wish you all a Happy New Year. This first issue of the magazine for 2026 may arrive at a time when Christmas already feels like a distant memory. I'm told that just over 1,800 people attended our church services during the Christmas period, with our church being extremely busy throughout December.

For some of us, however, the festive season was spent rather more quietly. If, like Mr H and I, you were nursing stinking colds, you will know how quickly plans can change. Despite the impressive array of tinctures, cough pastilles, nasal sprays and remedies lining the shelves of supermarkets and pharmacies, there are times when the only real solution is to slow down, let nature take its course, and rest at home.

After a couple of weeks of doing just that, and feeling much better, we decided it was time to venture out for some fresh air. As we often walk along the canal, we chose instead to visit Standish Woods.

Wrapped up warmly and guided by the Sat Nav, we set off. The woods are easily accessible and welcoming. After a slight incline at the start, the woodland opens

out into a choice of clearly marked paths. Being mindful that it was already afternoon and that we were easing ourselves back into things, we chose one of the gentler routes.



The walk took us through the trees and up to Haresfield Beacon. By that time, the wind was blowing a howling hoolie, the weather was bleak, and the light was beginning to fade. So at that point we decided to return to the car.

The views over the Severn Vale would be fabulous on a fine day, and it's dog-friendly too. I'd certainly recommend it, although visit when the sun shines! We'll certainly be going back — but the afternoon provided us with a little fresh air, a time to pause, reflect and I'm sure it did us the world of good!

Jackie Hall
Deputy Editor

Mudfest - WWT Slimbridge

Go mad for Mud 14th to 22nd February 2026

Grab your wellies and head to WWT Slimbridge this February half term to get stuck into MUDFEST—where messy means fun!

For further information contact: - <https://tickets.wwt.org.uk/branches?catID=27784>



Times and Seasons The Christian Year

Fr. Ian Robb



*A look at the various seasons of the Church Calendar: this month we shall enter the season of **LENT** – **Ash Wednesday is on 18th February** this year.*

"Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord"

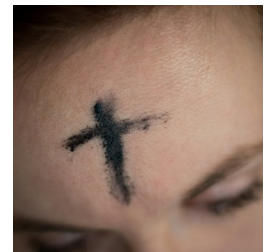
(A Latin verse from 11th century)

Just as Jesus' time in the wilderness followed his baptism, Lent originally followed Epiphany, but it soon became attached to Easter with the emphasis on baptism and the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship because of serious faults.

In the early days of the Church's life, candidates for baptism received instruction in Christian faith during Lent, and as penitents prepared themselves – by fasting and penance – to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian family was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance. Thus came into being the characteristic notes of the season: self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and alms-giving.

Originally this time of preparation lasted no more than three or four days but the Council of Nicea (a meeting of bishops from countries across Europe, the Middle East & North Africa, held in 325AD) agreed that Lent should last for forty days, reminding us of the fast of Moses and especially that of Jesus, following his baptism, when he withdrew to the desert for a time of testing before beginning his ministry. It is the emphasis on self denial which has led to the custom of "giving up" things for Lent, but we can see that the original intention was for Christians not to "give up" but rather to take on something extra during this season as a means of preparing for Easter, the great and distinctive Christian festival.


Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross – the ash is made by burning the previous year's palm crosses. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history; it is now the practice to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays which are always regarded as festival days), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter – the date of which varies from year to year because of the direct connection with Passover, which turn is linked to the phases of the moon.



You will note that during Lent the church is kept bare of flowers and decoration; purple (or sackcloth) is the colour for vestments and altar hangings; "Alleluia" and "Gloria" are not used, and our attention focuses on the climax to the earthly ministry of Jesus in Holy Week and Easter.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – originally called Laetare or Refreshment Sunday – was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the feast of the Annunciation always falls in Lent. These breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent. The final two weeks of Lent are also known as Passiontide, and worthy of a separate article.

Our **Lent study** this year will be a five-week course "Alive in Christ", **led by the Revd. Meg and the Revd. David Heywood, and will be held on Sunday evenings from 22nd February to 22nd March at 4pm.** Depending on numbers, there may also be a group on Wednesday afternoons or evenings. For more details, **contact the Revd David on d.heywood@hotmail.co.uk**



'Draw Near' is the Lent theme of The Church of England.

Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell say:

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

For further information:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent>

What I am praying about...

I have written previously in this column about prayers that I use when words escape me. To that list I want to add a prayer that I use when discerning what to do and how to respond to the things life inevitably throws at me. This prayer is in Aramaic. It is often said that Aramaic is a language as much breathed as spoken and so this prayer comfortably accompanies meditation and that Christian sense of 'waiting on the Lord'. The prayer as I say it is as follows:



'Maranatha, come Lord Jesus....AMEN'

I will often breathe in slowly on that first word 'Maranatha', which means 'our Lord come' and breathe out on the second phrase 'come Lord Jesus'. This simple pattern can be repeated as many times as feels comfortable. If there is only a short time to pause during a busy day then, for Christians, to say the prayer three times carries a special resonance. The world may look crazy to us but in Jesus we have a long and short view that is held in love through the eyes of the cross and the hope of the resurrection. This prayer reminds me of that and helps me connect with the peace of Christ even in trouble times. Give it a go!

Mark

Creation Care

Something I have been noticing this winter is how distinctive it is and how the pattern of seasons this year has impacted Creation around us.

Do you recall that very dry summer in 2025? That left the ground very cracked and dry. The heavy rains during late Autumn and through to mid-Winter then saturated the ground. The churchyard was significantly impacted and needed substantial works to level the ground around the graves.

The warm and wet first half of winter also gave the perfect conditions for fungi. Dan and I noticed this on one of our hikes with our friends Ian, John and Robert. The forest floor was full of tens of different varieties that we could see and certainly hundreds of microscopic and subterranean fungi that were hidden from us. It was a wonderful time to explore these beautiful living creatures.



Finally and sadly the very warm early winter left hibernating species very confused and I sighted bats active in the churchyard on Christmas Eve. My prayer is that the cold weather following winter did provoke hibernation so that these fellow Creatures of ours can rest and mature during their life cycles.

These observations also point to the effect that human-made changes to our climate have on the ecosystems that we are part of. Although there are many factors influencing the cold and flu season, bacteria and viruses often mirror fungi in the ways they thrive and survive.

As the creatures around us are impacted by Climate Change, don't forget the many ways that we are too, including our own health.



The diocesan website has a series of Easter to Pentecost Lectionary reflections that people can use to focus on sharing faith through the readings. There is a guide to telling your story, for use in small groups, home groups, coffee mornings etc or as part of an away day. The resource is useful to work through with others so you can practice sharing your story with your friends. There are also links to resources for small groups, including podcasts, DVDs and books. <https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/your-prayer/sharing-faith/>

Introducing Rosa ...

We are pleased to welcome Rosa Speyer. Rosa is training to be a curate and will be taking up her post in the summer. Please remember Rosa in your prayers as she prepares for the next stage in her calling.



Hello, I am Rosa, and I am delighted to be joining you as your new Curate this summer.

I live nearby, in Tuffley, with my husband Edward, who works as a Nurse across both Gloucester and Cheltenham Hospitals, and our two cats, George and Lyra.

Born in Burnley, Lancashire, I studied and worked in London before moving to Bristol, then Nailsworth before finally settling in Gloucester in January 2014.

We have been worshipping at St Barnabas ever since where, I volunteered with the Children's Team and led worship as a Lay Minister before continuing my journey of discernment towards full time ministry.

After University I worked for 15 years in magazine and online advertising sales and sales management before stepping into freelance training and sales alongside some work in hospitality.

I currently work for the Diocese of Hereford as a Parish Giving Adviser, helping churches with all things to do with giving, generosity and stewardship. Working alongside Clergy and church volunteers to help with practical advice about setting up giving mechanisms as well as helping them to inspire generous discipleship in their contexts.

Brought up in a secular household it was only when I was asked to become a Godmother that I explored the Christian faith. After some time reflecting and talking with others I was baptised alongside my Godson in 2008.

I love people and am, I am afraid, quite the chatterbox. But am told I am a good listener too. My greatest joy is getting to know people and learning what gifts God has given them, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all.

When I am not working, studying or worshipping you can find me in front of a good film, engrossed in a murder mystery book, playing board games and knitting, not necessarily all at once! We both love a good quiz and Edward enjoys walking and gardening. I am sure you will get to try his delicious rock cakes, home-made jams and chutneys.

Coming to faith later in life means I am passionate about helping others to see where God might already be working in their life as well as making all people feel welcome in our churches, especially those who – as I was – are unfamiliar and a little nervous about stepping inside.

You can imagine my joy then at the wonderful welcome we received when we came along to worship with you in the spring. We only came a couple of times, you didn't know who we were, why we were there, and whether we were passing visitors or new lifelong members, but you noticed us and greeted us with warmth and care, without being overbearing.



Thank you. We are so looking forward to being among you all again soon.

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During December children from Field Court Infants Academy joined our Tea@2 Christmas Party and sang some beautiful carols for us. Santa joined in and handed out gifts to the children and Tea@2 members. The afternoon was very enjoyable and pupils were really excited to see Santa.

... and a visit to a museum and synagogue!

At the Wilson Museum, pupils explored fascinating historical artefacts and studied a range of portraits and self-portraits. They discovered how artists use different textures and materials to create their work, and they were especially excited to see artwork by Edward Wilson. The children remembered him from learning about Robert Scott and Ernest Shackleton and their famous yet fatal expedition to Antarctica, which made the experience even more meaningful.

At Cheltenham Synagogue, pupils were warmly welcomed by Jenny, who helped bring their Religious Education learning to life. They saw a mezuzah, the Eternal Light, the bimah, and were amazed to see the Ark containing many copies of the Torah – some over a metre long! Jenny shared a special story about an apple tree with a powerful message about gratitude, before reading blessings in both English and Hebrew. The children took time to reflect on all the things they are thankful for.



Christmas 2025 at St. James'

by Andrew Wakely



The Church was packed many, many times this Christmas season with a variety of carol services for different various specific groups including our local schools of course. In December 2024, the Carols with the Gloucester Charter Band was so popular with standing room only, that we decided to have two services last year and both were almost full with only a dozen or so seats left. In all, the Christmas season gave us the opportunity to welcome close to 1,800 grown ups and children that joined us, singing Carols and hearing the Christmas message.



First service, a very few seats left in the aisle



...and the second, just 7 or so left at the front

As well as Carols in church there were other activities during Christmas week like Messy Church, and Carols in the Community amongst the local homes and in Tesco. Thank you for coming, we hope we shall be able to welcome you again soon at Team STJs, Sing and Play for the very young, or at our weekly Communion services.

Carols in our Community

The Nativity Float was mobile again this year around local homes in the area. This time we were more eco friendly and the whole float was designed, built and ridden by Priest in Charge, Mark Siddall. There were four trips out this year, going round homes in Clearwater, Waterwells, Kingsway and Green Farm. On every occasion, the float, its music and the accompanying walkers were met with a wonderful welcome as families and small children came out of their houses to see the stable scene, hear the Christmas Music and have a welcome Choccy. We were overwhelmed by the massive generosity of so many who gave Christmas offerings to help church funds.

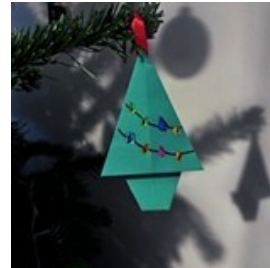
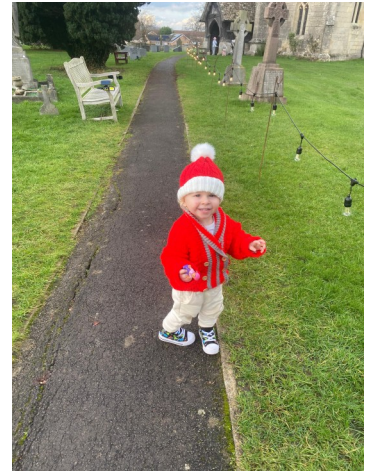


Messy Church

Always popular with the younger children, parents and carers, and this time was no exception. The usual mix of Craft activities, this year it was table lights, Christmas cards to make and origami, seeds to plant and grow at home, Stories, Games and Refreshments were added, with a special area for the young ones to let their hair down and dance a bit if they wanted to – and they did! It was wonderful to hear several Mums asking about the Team STJs services every Sunday at 11.45



Messy Church in action ...



Carols in Tesco's



Thank you to everyone who supported the Saint James' Church Christmas charity appeal last year - Gloucester Feed the Hungry CIC and Smiles coffee shop. A total of 97 chocolate selection boxes were delivered to their HQ by Lu Pearce. Our donations went out to a local school supporting children with learning difficulties.



Gardening with Victoria



*This month **Victoria** explains the jobs that she does around the garden during **February**. There is a lot to do to prepare the garden ready for the spring and summer.*

February is a time when, with the days gradually getting longer and temperatures rising we start to see the first signs of spring. From bulbs pushing up through the earth to snowdrops and the blossom laced trees later on in the month. I find it is always a hopeful sight and one that puts a smile on my face – especially when I realise that the bulbs are not actually appearing where I remember planting them! It is a sight that can encourage me out to potter and plan for the coming year!

Pruning is a central job for February in a lot of gardens. If like me you have a Wisteria, now is the time to prune. Unfortunately there were a couple of years that I left mine to ‘ramble unchecked’ and to my horror this winter I noted that it has ‘rambled’ all the way up my neighbours tree! Though this may give my neighbours dappled hints of purple through the leaves I will see nothing. Not only would pruning have stopped the rapid take over of next doors tree but it would (and will!) help to promote more flowers (on my side) by encouraging flower bud formation on short spurs.

Another useful job that can be done this month is that of pruning winter flowering shrubs once they have finished flowering. There are several reasons why annual pruning is important. Not only does it promote healthy shoots and improve flowering it also helps keep the plant healthy and prolongs its life span.

February is a good time to prune overgrown hedges as it is too early in the year for birds to have started nesting. Also, if you have a buddleia, this month is a good time to give it a drastic prune. These beautiful shrubs that attract bees and butterflies are very vigorous growers so don't worry if you think that you have been over keen - you will be surprised by summertime.

If anyone has deciduous ornamental grasses one job that you can do this month is to cut down the old growth in order for the new shoots to come through. If your grasses are of the evergreen type just give them a comb through, with your fingers, to help get rid of dead leaves.

February can be a good month for planning your summer garden. I already have had one gardening brochure arrive tempting me with lots of beautiful flowers of all different colours, heights and types. Many a coffee has been drunk while flipping through these – before putting them in the recycling. It is also a good time to go through your seed collection – sorting out types and when they need to be planted – as well as expiry dates. Plug plants will start to be available – the smaller they are the cheaper – but then you need to keep them alive until it is safe to plant them out. If like me you enjoy having hanging baskets dotted around the place you can get through a fair few plug plants!

Gloucester Cathedral Chorister voice trials applications open

If you know a child who would jump at the opportunity to sing in the Gloucester Cathedral choir, chorister voice trials taking place in March could be a gateway to a new future for them.

Gloucester Cathedral and The King's School Gloucester are looking for talented girls and boys from Years 2, 3 and 4 to take part in their chorister voice trials this coming March.

The dates for the voice trials are:

- Wednesday 4 March 2026 – Girls
- Thursday 5 March 2026 – Boys

The deadline for applications is Friday 6 February 2026.

No formal training is required to take part in the trials. Each child is asked to bring along one song that he or she enjoys singing: this might be a hymn, a carol, or a song from a show. For more information contact: <https://www.thekingsschool.co.uk/about-us/choristers>

Quedgeley WI

2026 will be another interesting year for Quedgeley WI when we will hear talks ranging from the Gloucester Mens Shed in January, February is our 101st Birthday Supper and in March there is a talk on the Air Ambulance Heart Defibrillator. April will be another visit from Paul Murphy with the second part of his talk on Charlie Chaplin.

May is a Social Evening and Resolutions and in June we will hear a talk by the Bishop of Gloucester, July will be The Life and Times of an Adult Tutor and August is always our Summer Outing. September is a fun evening of Bingo and in October the talk will be on a Blue Plaque Tour of Gloucestershire, November is the AGM and the last meeting of the year will be a Festive Social Evening and American Supper.

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. We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall and further information can be found on our website www.quedgeleywi.co.uk or on facebook.com/quedgeleywi.

Next Steps Update...

by Andrew Wakely



Despite the massively busy period of Christmas with all the joys it brought, work still continues with next steps, but by the very nature of planning and finance, it is all rather 'behind the scenes'.

We have more volunteers joining who bring new skills, expertise and contacts. We look forward to them joining the Next steps group and its fundraising team. These fundraising efforts are, of course, in addition to the work done in securing money for our everyday running expenses; the National Lottery Heritage fund will be the target of our initial approach as soon as we have more defined plans agreed; its rather chicken and egg.

By the time you read this, we shall have visited a Church that has recently completed a successful re-ordering of similar size to ours, and who are keen to share their experience at gaining grants as well as dealing with the planning paperwork.

As regards the latter, our Statement of Need and Statement of Significance, both quite extensive and vital documents, are now completed in draft form and we will be seeking DAC advice on them in order that the next stage of instructing architects for design options can begin.

In the meantime we hope that during the next Saturday 'Jobs' day and on other occasions, more progress can be made on improving the look of the floor tiles; a job that took a back seat during the Christmas period, for obvious reasons.

As always, please feel free to ask any questions you may have Mark or myself, we will be very pleased to chat things through with you.



Great news from the Help if we Can Executive Committee that the Quedgeley Show will be held again this year on Sunday August 30th at Severn Vale School, all day. This will also see the Dog Show reappearing.

They are also staging a Festival of Remembrance at the school (by kind permission) on Friday November 6th during the evening based loosely on the programme which takes place annually at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Planning of these events started last September and are coming together very well.

If anyone wants further information, they are asked to make contact.

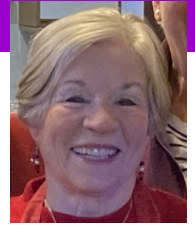
This year also sees the 20th visit by the Group to Ypres in Belgium in May where they take part in the Menin Gate ceremonial and visit many sites on the Salient. Because it is the 20th anniversary, a reception is being held at Flanders Field. Still one or two seats available for the 3 day visit, make contact now for booking in.

bulldog.smith@btinternet.com

Diocese of Gloucester

The Diocese of Gloucester offices can now be located at Church House 5 Denmark Road Gloucester GL1 3HW (near St. Catharine's Church and the junction of London Road)

Baking with Ann



This month, Ann Bridges is sharing her favourite chocolate cake recipe with us. She says it's fairly easy to make, and the results are truly excellent. So brighten up the next few days before the Lenten fast begins and give it a try—you won't be disappointed.

Milk Chocolate Cake

200g Self raising flour
225g Caster sugar
1 tsp salt
25g cocoa powder sieved
100g margarine
2 medium eggs
5 tbsp evaporated milk
5 tbsp water
Few drops vanilla essence

1. Heat oven to 180C Gas Mark 4. Grease 2 x 20.5 cm tins, not loose bottomed as the mixture would run out.
2. Mix flour, sugar, salt and cocoa
3. Rub in margarine. Beat eggs with milk
4. Stir egg mixture, essence and liquids into the dry ingredients and beat well.
5. Place mixture in prepared tins and bake for 30-35 minutes.
6. When cold sandwich and top with Milk Chocolate Icing or buttercream.

Buttercream icing -

200g softened unsalted butter
400g sifted icing sugar
Cocoa powder 3 tablespoons.
Milk 2-3 tablespoons

Beat butter until smooth, then add icing sugar, cocoa powder and milk until creamy

Sandwich the cakes together and spread remainder over the top of the cake.

If you have any cooking hints or tips you'd like to share with us or maybe a recipe or two? Please send them to jackiehall1854@gmail.com or aroundthespire@gmail.com



Grandparents and grandchildren exploring faith together: Faithful Generations returns

Faithful Generations will return in February at Saint John Baptist Church, Cirencester, following the success of last year's gathering at Gloucester Cathedral.

Jo Wetherall, Senior Children and Families Connector, said: "It will be similar to the Cathedral event, but it's going to be contextual to Saint John Baptist Church – it's being shaped by the team and the clergy there."

The theme for the day will be 'pass it on', focusing on how God's unconditional love is shared between generations and lived out through everyday acts of faithfulness and presence.

Families can enjoy creative activities, including a silent disco and a scavenger hunt exploring the church building and discovering what its features reveal about God's character. The day begins with an intergenerational communion service and ends with gathered worship.

"We want talking about God to feel normal... God is in everyday life, and we want people to feel comfortable noticing Him and sharing that across generations," Jo said.

Read the full article and find full event details at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2025/grandparents-and-grandchildren-exploring-faith-together/>



Thank You for Joining Us



Although Christmas and the New Year now feel a long time ago, we would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Event at the Pavilion. It was a lovely morning and we truly appreciate the support shown by our community. While we are now firmly focused on the year ahead, we have included a few photos to reflect on the event.

Moving Forward into 2026

With 2025 now behind us, we are working hard and looking ahead. This is both a time for reflection and a time for action. Our key areas of focus include:

- Setting the 2026 budget
- Finalising the 2025 accounts and completing the audit
- Delivering four community events:

Easter Egg Hunt
Summer Fiesta
Fireworks Display
Christmas Event

- Managing planning applications
- Booking and overseeing venues
- Maintaining play parks, the cemetery, allotments, and community centres
- Holding Saturday Surgeries
- Attending Council meetings — and much more



Financial Update

The 2025/26 financial year has proved challenging and 2026 will be no exception. Changes to business rate valuations have affected our community and sports centres and will have a significant impact on the new budget, which we very much regret.

Despite these pressures, we remain confident in our ability to continue delivering excellent value for money and high-quality services for our community.

Supporting Our Community

Our office is open **Monday to Friday**, providing a welcoming place where residents can:

- Book facilities
- Collect dog waste bags
- Ask about planning applications
- Seek advice or general support
- Receive help with basic IT needs

Whatever the issue, we will always do our best to help.

Contact Details

Office Location: Matalan Retail Park

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 2:30pm

Website: www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk

We look forward to another active, positive, and enjoyable year — working once again for the very best community.

Who's Who at Saint James'

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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
Revd. David Humphries	01452 529582		fr.didds@virginmedia.com
CHURCHWARDENS			
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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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Tea@2			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jackiehall1854@gmail.com
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Parish Administrator –Laura Elder	01452 307456		stjamesquedgeleyandking-sway@gmail.com

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

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*Lord, guide my steps this Lent,
Help me offer my sacrifice with a humble heart,
And serve You in others with generosity.*

Amen



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