

Around the Spire

Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway



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March 2022 Issue 78



Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad
Thoughts for March



“WELL, DID YOU DO IT?”

Now there's a question! In case you are wondering, cast your mind back one month to the February edition of 'Around the Spire'.

If you recall there I told to story how a poor starving Mum striving to keep her children alive with all that meant, and in spite of that never stopped praying!

What I was trying to put across with that true story from Afghanistan was the fact that whatever the circumstances in which we find ourselves it is so important for us to remember this and put it into practice in our lives.

Now if that was important a month ago, gosh – how more it is today! As I write this Editorial, the world is even more in turmoil as Russia and the West seem on the verge of armed conflict with all that this means, not just for those in that part of the world, but for us here too. If this conflict does come about, or even if it doesn't, then it will have impacted our lives in some way!

**SO THE UPSHOT OF ALL THIS IS –
YES, OUR PRAYERS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT!!**

Now for us as Christians, really vital ingredient of our lives is that we do live as a praying people!

Just how, where and when we pray is of course at the heart of what we do, and this is an article on another occasion!

So I leave you with this picture in your minds!

The Parish Church of St James is at the heart of the Quedgeley Community. This has been the case for a very long time. In fact records show there has been a parish priest here for many centuries. So it follows that countless numbers of people from the local community have prayed In this House of God for all sorts of causes.

We are aware that this part of the life of the Church is very real today. We know just how important this part of our life as Christians today! Many people come to St James Church to say their prayers; a good number light candles at the Shrine dedicated to Mary, the mother of the Lord.

It is for these reasons we do our best to ensure that the Church is open each and every day! To assist people in their prayers here there are a variety of books and leaflets to assist those who come our way.

So to conclude – yes, to visit our church or any other holy place is so much of a help when it is possible, but for many of us, prayer is valid at any time and in any place.

SO PLEASE GOOD PEOPLE –
PRAY!!

Open the Book Team

Our Open the Book Team have been busy once again. This time they visited Clearwater School in Quedgeley and acted out stories from the bible. This month the stories are about the friends of Jesus.



From left to right—Liz Keenan, Pete Allen, Sue Parker, Jane Rogers and Una Steer

Pupils in all our schools love Open the Book visiting them and youngsters are enthralled by the stories that the team tells. It is part of the outreach that Saint James' provides each month. Our thanks must go to the team who spend many hours practising before the 'live' performance!

Something to ponder!

Years ago, I was working in an office, and overheard a lady explaining to a new recruit what his job would be. When she had finished she asked if he understood. He said "I think so". She said, "There's no such thing as think so, either you understand, or you don't". He said that he didn't. "OK" she said, "Listen up, and I'll tell you again".

That reminded me of a similar response that I heard some years before.

I know you believe that you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard, is not what I meant.

Lovell Cornwall.

The Faith We Sing

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



Hymn Tunes of Gloucestershire

A photograph of a page from a hymnbook. The page is numbered 175 in the top left corner. The title 'FIRST TUNE' is centered at the top. Below the title, the text 'DOWN AMPNEY 66 11 D' is on the left and 'Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958' is on the right. The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notes are: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4; Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

Words only hymnbooks are short on information. As a singer, I like to see the tune in front of me and I also value the information that it provides about the tune name, the composer, and the metre. Have a look at the example above. This is the tune we sing to the great Pentecost hymn ‘Come down, O love divine.’ The composer is Ralph Vaughan Williams who was born in the Gloucestershire village of Down Ampney 150 years ago in 1872. To the right of the tune name, you will see some figures that tell us about the metre of the verses – 66 11 D. This means that in each verse lines one and two have six syllables and line three has eleven syllables. The ‘D’ means that that pattern is doubled to account for the six-line verses of the hymn.

Quite a number of hymn tunes are named after places in Gloucestershire. Basil Harwood, born in Olveston in 1859, has a fine tune called ‘Thornbury’. We sing it to the words ‘Thy hand, O God, has guided.’ A lesser-known tune called ‘Gloucester’ was written by Herbert Brewer, organist at the Cathedral just over one hundred years ago. A friend and colleague in The Hymn Society, John Barnard, taught music at Cheltenham Grammar School in the 1970s.

Several of his tunes are names after Gloucestershire villages, the most well-known is 'Guiting Power' which we sing to 'Christ triumphant, ever reigning.' Other tunes include 'Yanworth,' 'Stanton' and 'Chedworth.'

One of the best loved tunes we sing at Christmas time is by the Cheltenham born composer Gustav Holst. 'Cranham' is the tune we associate with 'In the bleak mid-winter.'

John Dykes Bower (1905-1981) was born in Gloucester and had an interesting background as he was the great-grandson of the Revd John Bacchus Dykes, one of the great Victorian hymn-tune composers. The four hymn tunes written by Bower which are in use from time to time include 'Standish,' 'Maisemore,' 'Haresfield' and – you may have guessed it – 'Quedgeley.' We really ought to sing it sometime!

There may be many other hymn tunes associated with Gloucestershire towns and villages that I have not mentioned here. Let me know if you can think of some more.

Fr Michael

Come and join us at
Tea@2
Wednesday 2pm -4pm
St. James' Church

BINGO
Quiz

£2.00 per person

Light refreshments

Summer Raffle

Summer Raffle tickets will be on sale soon! We need your support in selling them. There are some great prizes.

Please sell as many as possible so we can make lots of money for church funds.

“What is that called?” and “What is it for?”

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb



This month we focus on some aids for our worship: “Sight, Sound, & Scent”

When you were being encouraged to pray – at home, church, or Sunday School, were you told “Hands together, eyes closed” so that you could concentrate and not be distracted? But worship involves all our physical senses and we use physical objects to stimulate those senses for worship. Here we look at three of them:

Sight: Candles

Jesus described himself as “The light of the world”. To the left side of the nave altar stands the **Paschal (Easter) candle**; lit during the Easter vigil ceremonies and brought into a darkened church, it is welcomed as the Light of Christ, as we proclaim his victory over sin and death. The candle burns throughout the Easter season and is then lit at every Baptism and Funeral as a reminder that as Christians we are called to reflect Christ’s light in all our words and works, and at the end of our earthly life, the light of eternal life will welcome us into the heavenly kingdom.

Before the advent of gas or electric lighting, **Altar candles** provided light for reading. Now they too are a reminder of the light of Christ and of how his word and works give us light and life.

Just as a light burned continually before the Ark in the Temple in Jerusalem, so a white **Sanctuary light** burns beside the tabernacle on the high altar where the consecrated bread of the Eucharist, the Body of Christ, resides and reassures us that Jesus is always present in his church, feeding his flock.

When we offer our private prayers in church, we light a **Votive candle** – for ourselves, for a loved one, or for a special need which we lift to God. The candle continues to burn after we have left the church; it's a reassurance that our prayer is heard and that we are always in our Father's heart.

Sound: Bells

Bells have been used in Christian worship since the 6th century AD; the oldest peal in England is said to have been installed in Crowland Abbey in the Fens in the 9th century. They are traditionally rung to summon the faithful to prayer, but over the years the tradition known as “Change Ringing” - a system of mathematical patterns – has developed and bells are rung to mark all kinds of occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, coronations. A “full peal” of 3,000 changes may take up to three hours of uninterrupted ringing – quite a skill as well as a feat of stamina for the ringers. More usually we may hear a “Quarter Peal” of forty minutes marking a special event. Our ringing team at St James are always looking out for new members; you do not need to be extra- strong, just able to count from one to six! Why not come along on Thursday evening and have ago?

Inside the church in times past, the **Sanctus bell** was essential when not everyone had the ability to read, or had the finances to afford expensive prayer books. So the Sanctus was rung to call for silence and to mark the beginning of the service. It was rung again at the Offertory as the elements were presented at the altar, and again as the prayer of Consecration was begun, to remind worshippers that the solemn part of the Eucharist had begun. As the priest lifted up the Body and Blood of Christ, the bell would ring again so that all who wished to could make an act of devotion to our Lord Jesus in his holy Sacrament. The bell would finally be rung to signify the moment when the congregation should approach the altar to receive Holy Communion.

Music – especially Singing

How much we missed singing in recent months! Worship is enhanced by hymns, anthems, chants, and songs – just as much now as in the worship in the Temple of old. It is a natural reaction to lift up our voices in song when we want to praise God; and everyone can sing (even those who say they cannot!) In the days before sound systems, singing helped to carry the words of the service around the church.

Scent: Incense

Used in many different religious traditions, the perfumed smoke of incense is considered to symbolise prayer ascending to God. It was used in the Temple in Jerusalem – Zechariah was performing the task of offering incense when he received his vision and the news of his impending fatherhood. The book of Revelation implies that incense was used by Christians in the 2nd century AD, and it has certainly been used throughout Christendom since 500AD. In the Middle East, the main ingredient is Frankincense but in cooler climates other herbs, spices, and resins are blended. The monks of Prinknash here in Gloucestershire were well known for their variety of incense blends which have been sold around the world. Sprinkled on hot charcoal in a Thurible (or Censer), the incense is blessed by the priest before the altar, church, and congregation are censured as a sign of purification before worship. The book of the Gospels and the elements of bread and wine are censured prior to their being offered to God.

So “Hands together”, yes! But eyes, ears, and noses open – so that our whole body can engage with our soul in the worship of Almighty God.

To be continued.....Fr Ian

What puts a 'Zing' in your pancakes

On March 1st it is Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) the day before Lent. We asked some local people and those running organisations in Quedgeley what they put on their pancakes. Nearly everyone chose the conventional lemon or lime option but several opted for a something a little different.



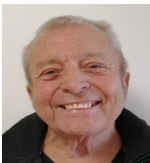
Richard & Sam both work at Quedgeley Q Club. Sam loves cinnamon sugar or Nutella and fresh strawberries—makes her think of home. Richard likes a savoury option Chicken & Mushroom with cheese - yum yum!



Keith is one of our helpers at Tea@2. Keith loves lemon and ice cream on his pancakes. 'Not very experimental' he says.



Theresa from Tesco Quedgeley tells us she like lots of sugar and lemon juice on hers. 'Very boring' - says Theresa.



Graham who is Vice Chair of Quedgeley Town Council says "plenty of sugar and lemon juice if I have some—pretty basic really".



Local City Councillor Justin Hudson like Jiff lemon juice brown sugar and a edge of lime. He says 'It's simple traditional yet ZINGY lemon'



Lovell a regular member and helper at St James' says "lemon and sugar although we don't often eat pancakes."



Rachel Addinall our local PCSO who you may see patrolling our streets loves Nutella spread on her pancakes with a splash of real lemon juice.



Tony one of our PCC members is more up market he prefers his pancakes with orange liqueur and vanilla ice cream. Sounds delicious.

Every one Welcome!

Coffee Morning

Assortment of beverages available

Saturday 19th March

10.30am -1.00pm

All Proceeds towards
Saint James' Church Quedgeley

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Stalls Raffle

SHIRLEY WILCE, a long-term member of St James Church died in February – arrangements for her funeral

ST JAMES CHURCH – FRIDAY MARCH 11th at 12 noon followed by Cremation.

“MAY SHE REST IN PEACE – AND RISE IN GLORY”.

Tea@2 - 90 years celebration



1932 was a very good year! We held two 90th birthday celebrations for two very special ladies - Beryl Piddington and Sylvia Townsend. Cake, cards, presents and Stevie Wonder's rendition of 'Happy Birthday' all made for a lovely afternoon.

An inscription on a gravestone in a Yorkshire village churchyard reads...



'Remember, friend, when passing by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, soon you will be,
Prepare for death and follow me'.

Someone had scratched on underneath.

'To follow you, I'm not content,
Until I know which way you went'

Lovell & Rita Cornwall

Baptism



Fr. Ian Robb baptising Sophie

Last month we welcomed Sophie into our Christian family. Over the last few months we've seen an increase in the number of families coming forward requesting a baptism. Our Baptism Ministry Team are always on hand to assist giving guidance and support. If you would like to arrange a baptism for either your child or yourself please contact a member of the clergy in the first instance. Their contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

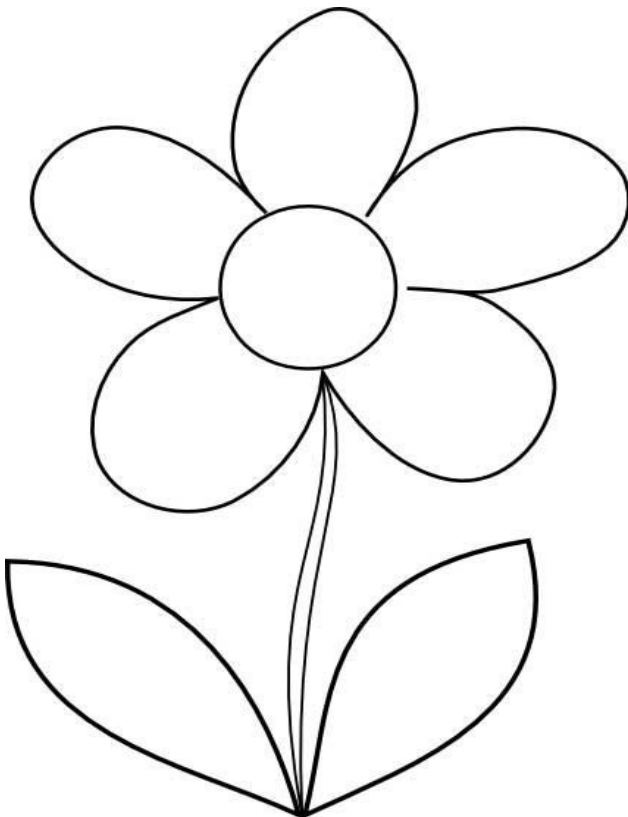


St. James' Baptism Ministry Team

For our younger readers

Mothering Sunday

On March 27th we celebrate Mothering Sunday. Many years ago the day was celebrated by visiting your 'Mother church'. People who were employed as servants at large houses used to be given the day off so they could go and visit their mothers too. A small gift of flowers was normally taken. Colour in the flower at the bottom of the page and give it to your Mum. Don't forget to give her a big hug too!



To
My Mum

Love
from

.....

Quedgeley Town Council

Quedgeley Town Council is working well from its new office in the same Retail Park as Matalan and Boots and if you haven't yet visited the office then please do make yourself familiar with your local Town Council. The Town Council is non parochial and is the local council to Quedgeley/Kingsway residents. It is also a Quality Gold Council. Pop in for advice on booking parties, planning advice, local advice, free dog bags, local events, Town Council meetings, the Town Council Cemetery, play parks, allotments and much much more.

The Council currently has 16 seats with 12 filled and 4 vacancies, plus a dedicated team of paid staff who work from the office, as well as paid litter pickers and cleaners for our respective buildings. If you would like to join your local council as a councillor and enjoy working with a proactive team for the benefit of your community then please contact The Clerk on 01452 721552 who will be only too pleased to provide you with further information. Local Councillors agree that the role is very rewarding and can be as busy as you make it.

Up and coming events will be the Town Council's Easter Egg Hunt which is traditionally held in the Nature Reserve off Curtis Hayward Drive on Easter Monday and The Queens Platinum Jubilee Pageant which is due to be held on Sunday 5th June. This is being run by the Town Council and will include the Council's annual dog show. It will include a procession leading to Fishers Meadow on School Lane. There are further events, however these are much later in the year. Please contact the office for further information or look out for display posters in our office window.

The Town Council Office can be located at Unit 8, Quedgeley Olympus Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 4NF.

Who's Who in the Parish Church

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