

Around the Spire

The Magazine for the Parishioners of Quedgeley & Kingsway

May 2022

Issue No. 80



Revd. Mark installed
as Priest in Charge



Shirley Wilce
St. James' poet



Holiday activities &
Food Home Cookery
Kits

St. James & Saint Mary Magdalene
Quedgeley & Kingsway

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk



Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad

Thoughts for May



“IT’S SO HARD TO PRAY!”

This comment was made to me recently by someone who reads ‘Around the Spire’ each month but is not a regular churchgoer. It was part of a discussion about the state of affairs in the tragedy of war in Ukraine.

Of course I could have replied to this person that she might have found it easier if she were to come to one of our church services! However, knowing this person quite well, this was not the sort of reply she would expect!

So YES – with this sort of event constantly before us, and now been going on for so long, it is very difficult to know how to answer the question.

So in a scenario like this, we are challenged, I believe, to try for ourselves just how we as individuals can feel that our prayers are the best we can offer! We may well feel, given that the situation in that part of the world seems to be going from bad to worse, that somehow our attempts to pray about it are of little worth.

PRAY THROUGH ACTION!

If we can be active in taking part in some way to give positive help to this situation, we may well find that this in itself becomes a prayer.

Take for example the fact that this part of Gloucester has been at the forefront of giving much needed support by sending large lorry loads of much needed items to Ukraine might also be a form of prayer because it is responding to a genuine need.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS?

The Ukraine situation, vital though it is, is but one example of the importance of seeking just how we can feel that our prayers are achieving something. There are so many examples from Scripture of the way that those early Christians did find ways and means to answer Our Lord's call to be people of prayer.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS PLEASE?

I feel that we could all benefit from sharing our thoughts on this subject which is at the heart of our Faith.

I would appreciate just how you feel about it so that we can share with one another

JUST HOW WE CAN PRAY!



Thank you to everyone who supported our raffle at Tea@2. We made just over £70.00. The proceeds go to printing costs of *Around the Spire*.

The first week of May is 'Time for a Cuppa week' - 1-8th May. It's a national campaign supporting those with dementia, providing assistance for those who need it. Our Tea @ 2 afternoon on the 4th will be focused on this worthwhile cause. I hope as many of you as possible will support it.



Let's get together to share cake and a cuppa to raise vital funds for families

Tea@2 is supporting Dementia UK
Saint James' Church School Lane

Wednesday 4th May

2pm

Come and join us at Tea@2

All proceeds to Dementia UK

Help families face dementia

A message from the Revd. Dr. Mark Siddall

Dear Friends,

in preparation for my licensing on 15th May, please reflect on the following verse and keep the accompanying prayer in your hearts.

With every blessing,

Revd. Mark

Reflection and Prayer - John 14:6

Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Lord, lead us from our way of self-deception and death to your Way of Truth and Life. AMEN



Left to right: - LLM Katherine Bloomer, LLM (now ordinand) Dawn Beresford, Myself, LLM Tim Harle, Revd Alison Love (my training incumbent) Draycott Group of Churches.



Ascension Day falls on **Thursday 26th May**. Many choirs in the country climb up the steps of their local cathedral to sing anthems of praise. Look out for a service near you!

The Faith We Sing at Ascensiontide

By Revd. Canon Michael Garland



Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Ascension Day, invariably, falls in the month of May and this year we celebrate this important Feast Day on Thursday 26th May. It is a day when some cathedral and college chapel choirs ascend towers and sing special anthems. Ascensiontide hymns are majestic in their language and none more so than the hymn whose first verse is printed above – ‘Crown him with many crowns.’ It is a hymn which has seen many changes over the years, but credit is due to its original author, Matthew Bridges, who was born in Essex in 1800. He was brought up as an Anglican but was greatly influenced by the Oxford Movement which sought to reaffirm the catholic tradition of the Church. In 1848, Bridges entered the Roman Catholic Church and spent the latter part of his life in Canada. He died at Sidmouth in Devon in 1894.

Changes to the hymn were made later in the nineteenth- century when some hymn book editors felt that the original verses could no longer be used. What we have as a result is something of a hybrid. Matthew Bridges inspired the hymn initially, but a Canon of Wells Cathedral – Godfrey Thring, revised some of the original lines and added further lines of his own to give us the hymn in the form we have today.

The verses are full of biblical imagery and contain strong and striking images. Verse two is a good example:

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

The term, 'Mystic Rose' is a medieval title for the Virgin Mary, and it is combined with a reference to Isaiah ch11 v 1 where we read: 'A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.'

The hymn's third verse reminds us that the Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus carries with him the marks of his Passion:

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified.
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

The final verse is a great and fitting tribute to the loving work of redemption brought about by Jesus for the sake of us all. It is a triumphant shout for Ascensiontide

Crown him the Lord of years,
 the Potentate of time,
 creator of the rolling spheres,
 ineffably sublime:
 all hail, Redeemer, hail!
 for thou hast died for me;
 thy praise shall never, never fail
 throughout eternity.

Fr. Michael

View on line and join in the hymn by clicking [here](#)

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Answers to April's
 Crossword

R	E	C	O	M	I	M	S	E	R	A	M	P	T	A	X	E	I	M	P	E	R	T	I	N	E	N	T
C	X	R	W	O	T	C	R	O	O	N	V	A	N														
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I	M	P	E	R	T	I	N	E	N	T																	

Platinum Jubilee
 Saint James' Quodley & Kingsway
Summer Fayre
 Saturday 4th June
 Saint James' Church
 GL2 4PN
 12 noon - 4.30pm

Tricia's Plant Stall



Stalls - Refreshments - Raffle - Tombola
 Bouncy Castle

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

BINGO
Quiz
 Light refreshments

£2.00 per person

Holiday Activities and Home Food Cookery Kits

Once again we have been distributing bags full of holiday activities and home cookery kits to families in Quedgeley.

The scheme is operated through Gloucestershire County Council. In some areas of Gloucester play and holiday activities actually take place in the centre of distribution. Unfortunately, due to lack of space at Saint James' we do not have the room. In the summer those activities took place outside. However, due to our unpredictable climate the activities now come in a sack! Bags containing ingredients for Gnocchi, Tomato, Mozzarella bake, Vegetable Thai Curry and Apple Crumble were given out too. Many thanks to Tricia & Andrew for volunteering to help.

Thanks to everyone to has given to the Gloucester Foodbank. Your generous donations have been delivered to Gt. Western Road.



**“What is that called?” and
“What is it for?”
By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb**



This month we focus on the worship we offer: To the glory of God, to deepen our own relationship with Him, to strengthen our fellowship with one another.

Our central act of worship is the **Eucharist** on Sundays. The word “eucharist” means “Thanksgiving” and takes us back to the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the rite by “giving thanks” over bread and wine with the reassurance that he would be with his Church for ever. “*Do this...*” “*Remember I am with you always*” - were two of his final commands to his friends.

The Eucharist is one of the seven sacraments of the Church and the one which we encounter most often. The Book of Common Prayer tells us that a Sacrament is “*An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given to us; a sign ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive him...*”.

From its very beginning the Church has placed the Eucharist at the centre of its worshipping life; it is the time when the living Christ draws closest to us and we to him.

When we were made members of the Christian family, we submitted to the Sacrament of **Baptism** – a Sacrament which makes an abiding mark on us which can never be repeated. In baptism we are born again into the family of Christ, something which can happen only once. The same is true of **Confirmation**; when the bishop has laid hands on us and prayed the Holy Spirit into us, a life-changing moment has taken place. Likewise with the Sacrament of **Ordination**; those whom God calls to a particular ministry in His Church – that of Bishop, Priest, or Deacon – he then marks with his gift of the Spirit (again, through the laying-on of hands and the anointing with holy oil) that a lifetime change has taken place.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are all familiar to us – these services take place in church regularly and we take an active part in them – either as a communicant at the Eucharist, a parent or grandparent, or godparent at a Baptism, or as a candidate or a sponsor at a Confirmation. Those of us who are ordained, or who have attended a service of ordination, can testify as to what a moving occasion that service is – as we watch friends or relatives dedicate their lives to Christ's service.

There are other Sacraments which may not always take place in church, or with a large group of people on attendance, but which are equally important. The Sacrament of **Marriage** bestows on husband and wife God's eternal blessing through his Holy Spirit and commits them to a new life together in the local community as well as within the family of God and strengthens them for all that lies ahead in their years together.

The inability of human beings to choose right from wrong often leads us into sin and the need to seek forgiveness, not only from each other, but also from God. Although all our worship contains prayers for forgiveness, sometimes they may not be enough for our own personal situation. In that case, we can request from our priest the Sacrament of **Penance** (sometimes called “Reconciliation”), where privately and confidentially we offer a particular sin or pattern of behaviour to God and receive His forgiveness. The priest who receives our confession is under obligation never to divulge what has been shared, but simply to act as the means through which God's forgiveness – Absolution – is conveyed.

When illness strikes, or when death seems close, we need the reassurance of God's eternal love and presence. The Sacrament on **Unction** – the anointing with Holy Oil by a priest – is the sign of the promise of Jesus Christ that he is with us at all times; in life, in death, and beyond. It is one of the privileges of priestly ministry to be able to offer this Sacrament to anyone who asks, at any time.

Shirley Wilce 1953—2022



In Memory of Shirley

*Shirley ran our poetry group
With kindness, tact and grace
She welcomed all to our meetings
With a smile on her face*

*She made everyone feel included
Listening to our poems with thoughtful care
She ensured we could all relax
Created harmony we could all share*

*Her poems reflected her faith
Which was simple, strong and pure
She felt God's hand on her shoulder
Which made her feel secure*

*At 'The Lawns' she worked her magic
She really was the best
All chuckled at her reading of 'Ernie
The Fastest Milkman in the West'*

*She loved nature and gardens
And the simple joys of life
Though heartbroken at the loss of Clive
She was his adoring wife*

*Her later years weren't easy
With her health so poor
Yet she still tried to smile
Despite all she had to endure*

*We will miss you Shirley
Miss the smile upon your face
Knowing you has enriched our lives
You have left an empty space*

Angie Wright March 2022

Palm Sunday Procession



Quedgeley Town Council

Telephone - 01452 721552

The main topic at the moment for Quedgeley Town Council is Events. We have recently held our Easter Egg Hunt which was very well received with over 200 families taking part. Thank you to everyone who



came along and for all the lovely comments we have received since the event.

We have also hosted Danter's Fun Fair on our Kingsway Sports Pavilion Ground which again proved to be very popular with the local residents.

Our next event is the Queens Platinum Jubilee Parade which is due to take place on Sunday 5th June 2022. Starting at 11.00am, the aim is to parade down School Lane Quedgeley, moving into Fisher's Meadow where a family fun day will await. Attractions will include a Dog Show, refreshments, displays and much more. We are hoping for good weather and we hope that the whole community will come out to support the event and enjoy those facilities provided. We will also be assisted by Help if we can on the day.

As you can see Quedgeley Town Council is a busy and very productive council and it's not all about events, we also look after the playparks, cemetery, allotments, community centres etc.

We currently have some vacancies which we are looking to fill so if you would like to be part of a great team, feel like you are making a difference to your community and have some time to spare then please contact The Clerk on 01452 721552. This is a voluntary role and you will play your part as a Town Councillor for your community.

As always, the Town Council office remains open and busy to visitors on a daily basis. Please do not hesitate to call in, whether it is for dog bags, advice or concerns, the office is open from 9.30am – 2.30pm Mondays to Fridays and can be located in the same retail park as Matalan and Boots.

Two trees have been planted in the church yard of Saint James' to mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. They form part of the Platinum Jubilee Woodland scheme whereby 4,000 new saplings are made available through collaboration between the City Council, the Woodland Trust and the Royal Forestry Commission. The project aims to create a legacy to benefit future generations and highlight the value of trees and woodlands to slow the impact of climate change, clean the air we breathe, create wildlife habitats and improve our health and wellbeing. Fr. Hugh who instigated the project at Saint James' says "*Trees not only benefit the climate but have a positive affect on peoples mental health. We hope people will enjoy watching these trees change and grow throughout the seasons*"



FROM THE REGISTERS

WELCOMED INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH HOLY BAPTISM

April 9th KEELEY LORRAINE EMMA MOULD
 TOMMY STEPHEN SHAUN TENNANT
April 10th SHELLEY ALICIA AKERS-WHITE

JOINED TOGETHER WITH GOD'S BLESSING

March 26th ANDREW TOOGOOD & BRIGETTE JONES

LOSS OF LOVED ONES

March 24th HAZEL WALKER 65

March 30th BRIAN WILSON PAPPS 92

April 7th PAUL ANTHONY MERCER 65

April 25th NIGEL ERIC BIRD 57

April 26th JEAN CLEAVER 82

Who's Who in the Parish Church

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