



Around the Spire

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

Celebrate Christmas at Saint James'

Issue 97

Dec 2023 – Jan 2024



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Welcome to the December & January edition of Around the Spire



A Three Part Drama!

Fr. Hugh Broad

Editor



YOUR EDITOR WELCOMES YOU TO A THREE PART DRAMA!

This edition of Around the Spire covers the three parts of this story from the Bible adapted so that we can make full meaning as it unfolds.

Each part has a distinctive part to play and so I shall try to say something about that part of the story and pose a question for you and a simple prayer.

ADVENT - TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE SEASON.

It goes almost without saying that that this time of year is like no other! The scene of crowded shops, sending of cards and presents, maybe some carol singers and much more. Just a personal word to defend all this - I was brought up in a family of shopkeepers, and I can well remember my father saying that if trade at this time of year was not good, there would be no family holiday the next summer!



But of course it is, for us as Christians a time to play our part in this preparation in the way we find has most meaning - perhaps it would see Advent as a journey like that of those shepherds as they seek their way to Bethlehem. If there is a Nativity Play in church or school it is likely to take place in this season of preparation.

SO A PRAYER:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of Preparing; help us to see these four weeks as our own personal journey to look for the way we need to go to find that little child and his parents in that stable. AMEN.

CHRISTMAS! THE HEART OF IT ALL!

Well, this is what it's all about! Lights, tinsel Christmas tree and decorations, family get-together and so much more.

Behind the scenes much else to get ready - not forgetting for most that Christmas Day lunch!

And what is in that parcel with my name on it? This is all part of what is for most of us a lovely time and nothing at all wrong in this!

BUT -AND HERE IS WHAT WE AS CHRISTIANS NEED TO REMEMBER - ARE WE PUTTING CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS?

What do I mean by that Question?

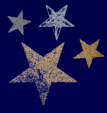
I am sure you will agree that this is also a holy time; for many going to worship in our local church; but also to see if there is any way in which we can help someone worse off than ourselves to be able to enjoy something of this Holy time - things which we often take for granted.

SO A PRAYER.

We thank you good Lord for bringing us safely to this most holy time.

May it really be for us a Christ like time with all that goes with it, and make us mindful of all those who need help and comfort AMEN.





EPIPHANY A TIME FOR SHOWING.

Perhaps we can think what this strange word means for us. The word EPIPHANY means 'showing' - in this context it is the visit of the Three Wise men as they are often called, to witness this remarkable baby Jesus.



However the teaching of the story is clear - that a group of travellers went on this journey to see the child of which they had heard. So as they related the experience it is clear that in this way the Christ child was shown to the waiting world. How much the world needs this experience today - there is a longing for the Good News which this story portrays.

In this way then the teaching for us today is clearly of a search for good news and the Epiphany story is very much along those lines. By being a Christian you and I are on this search ourselves and this whole Christmas story is for so many people a turning point in their lives so it is a real sign of hope and promise.

Perhaps YOU can help someone along this journey?

SO OUR THIRD PRAYER:

Help us, good Lord on our search to find Jesus in our own lives!

***And as we do this may it help us to help others as they go on their own search!
AMEN.***

POSTSCRIPT ON PRAYER - FATHER HUGH

I am most grateful to those readers who responded to my Editorial last month which was under the sub-heading 'Lord teach us to pray'. Here I was at pains to point out that like anyone else I did not find it easy to pray on many occasions, and the present sad tragedy in world affairs was a good example. Yes - but we do need to continue to seek to pray for this and so many issues which confront us personally and on all sides.

Regarding what I stated on this subject last month, here is an example of how we can be helped as we seek to pray.

On the subject of the Middle East situation I was given recently a copy of an address given which I feel fits how we can be helped to pray in all kinds of ways. Here is an extract from that speech.

'The overwhelming numbers of Jews and Muslims and the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians have simple desires; they want to get up in the morning, share a breakfast with their family, send their children to school, welcome them home in the evening for supper and put them to bed. They want to repeat the following day and every day thereafter, and it ought not to be beyond the capacity of propaganda to ascertain and make known the truth; to denounce injustice, not only when it is committed against others; to defend human rights, not only ours but theirs; to insist that peace requires the way of moderation, compromise and reconciliation; and to build bridges of respect and understanding trust and friendship across the chasms that divide humanity. Israel and Palestine need our prayers and our efforts to fulfil the potential of its two peoples and the work starts now!'

So use this inspired piece of writing - read it with care, then read it again - and then pray its wealth of meaning!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS; JOAN WINTERS
 THOMAS ROBERTS (ashes)
 EVELYN SCOTT (ashes)



REST ETERNAL GRANT THEM O LORD

StJ's ADVENT MAKE A PRESENT



**Your chance to MAKE A
PRESENT for a loved one as we
wait for Jesus' birth.**

Sunday 3 December, 10.30 until 11.30am
St James' Church, School Lane, GL2 4PN
Family fun, laughter and worship,
snacks, coffee/tea after



Out and About with Revd. Mark



Sometimes preparing for Christmas at church can feel like quite a burden but that is like any work I suppose. It is easy to forget why we do what we do and to enjoy it. In fact for most of the time planning Christmas events with a wide variety of folk in the congregation and community is a real joy. We work together rehearsing, thinking ahead and imagining the warmth, hope and joy of Christmas together for the common good of our community, looking forward in anticipation of celebrations together.



Whether it is working with the Love2Sing choir, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows or our schools or community groups it is a time to draw on valued relationships in our community. Perhaps my favourite is the list of community representatives that will come together to read for the service of lessons and carols, that great crescendo of readings and carols that both celebrate the Christmas story and remind us of the greatness of the story of God among us. A presence that we still feel in the love and faithfulness of those who serve our community throughout the year.

Creation Care

Perhaps some may want to call me a 'party pooper' for suggesting that we do our best to Care for Creation over Christmas but I think Caring for Creation is just what we are called to do in the Christmas story.

The Service of Lessons and carols that we will celebrate at St James' and that has been made famous by Kings College Cambridge was devised the Bishop of Truro, Bishop Edward White Benson in 1880. Bishop Benson wanted to draw on the whole bible to tell a story about the baby in the manger that was about the salvation of the whole Universe, never mind just planet Earth!



At Christmas time we remember that our God is so faithful to His Creation that his only son was born in Creations midst in a lowly stable, reminding us that God's Creation is good and made sacred by his presence and promise. If God has been so faithful to us, we must be faithful to His Creation, which he has placed in our care. So yes, choose crackers and wrapping paper that can be easily recycled, don't waste too much food and perhaps even enjoy meeting together in one house so that you do not need to heat several.

Let us remember all that He has done for us at Christmas and, in our simple ways, promise to do our best for Him and His Creation from now on.

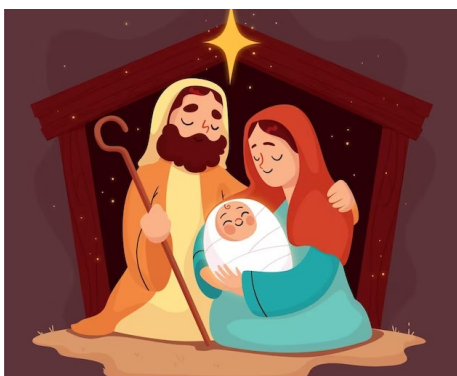
What I am praying about ...

One of the great promises many of us make at Christmas time happens because of the baby. I know many of the privileges of being a father and one of those is to know the period after a baby's birth of the very special peace and tranquillity of the 'babymoon'.

To those who have not experienced it, it is hard to describe. Perhaps it is like the opposite of what is said to happen at the end of our lives when 'all that we have done flashes before our eyes', perhaps the babymoon is when the endless possibilities of new life present themselves over a longer period of a few weeks.

Whatever it is, and despite the crying and sleepless nights, it is uniquely wonderful and it is a lot like the best feelings of Christmas time. A new baby can be a kind of covenant - a devoted promise - to the future. A new beginning, a new hope and a new peace. God knows - and we all know - that our planet needs that new beginning, that new peace.

My prayer is that it will come as we re-enact the coming of the Christ child and that we will make a new covenant with each other, a new devoted promise, to work together for peace. Dear God, may we know your peace once more. AMEN



**You are warmly invited to our
Crib Service**

at 3pm on Christmas Eve

**Always a popular service with the
young and not so young!**



Christmas Appeal 2023



Christmas Appeal 2023

This year Saint James' Church will be supporting The City Mission in Gloucester. Below you'll find a list of items that the City Mission are badly in need of.

If you could donate some of these items it would be very much appreciated.

Please bring your items to St. James' Church. A marked box for items will be placed inside the church near the main door.

The deadline for receiving items is **Sunday 17th December**.

Please donate and bring a smile to someone's face this Christmas

Undies Under the Tree

Each year we give out over 750 pairs of men's and women's underwear to people who are homeless. This year can you help us by buying a pair to put under the tree at Revive Coffee House.

Please donate a NEW pair of boxer shorts in s/m/l or women's briefs in size 8-14

www.gloscitymission.org.uk

Gloucester City Mission

Christmas Appeal 2023

Please donate any of the following this winter;

- Pot Noodles
- Cup a soup
- Cans of Coke
- Bars of Chocolate
- Individual wrapped biscuits
- Tinned Mushrooms
- Chopped tomatoes
- Bolognaise Sauce
- Curry sauce
- Jam
- Mini Christmas Cakes (ALCOHOL FREE)
- Mince Pies (ALCOHOL FREE)
- Sugar
- Coffee (sachets or jars)

Please can donations be given in at Revive Coffee House or taken to 72 Eastgate Street, or contact 01452 529310
Please also see our Undies Under the Tree Appeal

Revive Coffee House
Part of Gloucester City Mission

www.gloscitymission.org.uk
Regd Charity 1115780



"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25 : 37-40"



Three Seasons in two months

Our Christian Calendar



During December and January the worldwide Church celebrates three “Seasons” of the Christian Year: Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany.

Advent - the beginning of the Christian year; a season of expectation and preparation as we get ready to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ into our human race – we call this “Incarnation”, becoming flesh. The season also looks ahead to Christ's final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings which we shall hear in church, or study at home, not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to face the theme of divine judgement: “Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty” (Charles Wesley). The four “Last Things” - Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell – have been Advent themes for many centuries. The characteristic notes of Advent are therefore expectation and penitence – not dissimilar to the season of Lent.



During Advent we shall hear of the important parts played in God's plan of salvation firstly by the Old Testament prophets especially Isaiah – to whom God revealed, some 600 years beforehand – that his Messiah would come to rescue and redeem a broken world. Although John the Baptist was a contemporary of Jesus – you can read about John's early years in St Luke chapter 1 – he was in fact the last of the Old Testament prophets and his message had a particular urgency: the Messiah is about to begin his work; get ready to receive him! The third Sunday in Advent - “Gaudete Sunday” – Rejoice! - gives honour to John the Baptist. The season comes to a climax with the call of God to the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom God has chosen to be the mother of His Son. Mary's response: “I am the Lord's servant; let it be to me as you have said” signifies her faith and her willingness to carry out this special, important task and enable the plan of salvation to unfold.

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth – you will hear that neither of the great Midnight readings, the letter to Hebrews and John's gospel chapter 1, come from the infancy narratives. The aim of our services at Midnight & Christmas morning is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations, to the central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation. Emanuel – God with us, a wonderful miracle, a joyous mystery.

It is, of course, the birth of Jesus the Christ that has provided the occasion for this festival of the incarnation, which the Church has observed since the end of the 3rd century. The Christmas crib and the nativity play can both be traced back to the tableau of Christ's birth that Francis of Assisi arranged when he celebrated Christmas in 1223. Christmas carols are a medieval tradition which has been expanded from the end of the 19th century. The service of Lessons & Carols is an English creation of the late 19th century, made widespread by the choir of King's College Cambridge in the early 20th century.

The days around 25th December are a principal holiday in the secular calendar of Britain, and commercial pressures have led to much of Christmas celebration being displaced in Advent. It has become a greater challenge to celebrate as they deserve to saints of the Christmas season: Stephen, the first Christian martyr; John, who was believed to have lived to a great age in meditation on the Word made flesh; and the Holy Innocents, who draw our attention to the plight of children in a world where the Christchild is ignored. The clear challenge to Christians is to make sure that the Christmas story is heard, and explained, at every opportunity – God with us.

Epiphany - A Greek word which means “Manifestation – a showing-forth”. In the Western Church the 6th January was made an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled Magi (“Astrologers from the East”, Matthew chapter 2 v1-11), understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew does not give us a number; later tradition fixed their number at three and gave them names. It is Matthew's aim that the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared among all nations – and it is therefore apt that we pray for the worldwide mission of the Church in Epiphanytide. In the Eastern Churches the Epiphany is the celebration of Christ's baptism, when the voice from heaven proclaims him as God's beloved Son.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas will continue through the Sundays of Epiphany, featuring the call of the first disciples and the first miracle at the wedding at Cana, and the festal cycle ends with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been revealed to the shepherds at his birth, and to the Magi at the climax of their search, is recognised by Simeon and Anna when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel: “Every first-born male shall be deemed to belong to the Lord” - he is a “Light to lighten the Gentiles” and “the glory of God's people Israel”.

Thus the third season of the year comes to an end, but Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas; the Christ-child has already begun to fulfil his Father's calling.

The Bible readings for Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany will of course be published in our weekly Newsheet. May God grant you excitement in your Advent preparation, joy in the good news of our Saviour's birth, and confirmation in your faith as you follow Him throughout the unfolding year.



Open the Book & The WI



We ended last term with 'The Good Shepherd' The children joined in with our prayer: 'Help us to know that you want to take care of us, no matter where we are or what we are doing'

We started the Autumn Term with 'Tea at Aunties' House' when Jesus visited Mary and Martha and Martha got cross because her sister, Mary, wasn't helping in the kitchen. Jesus invited Martha to stop working and to join them to listen to him too. We prayed for God to help us make time for talking about important things.



During October, we enacted the story of the Unforgiving Servant. Our prayer was: Dear God, we all like to be forgiven when we make mistakes. Please help us to make the world a happier place by forgiving others as God forgives us. Amen.

The St James' Open the Book Team are very much looking forward to presenting more Bible stories in the New Year.

QUEDGELEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

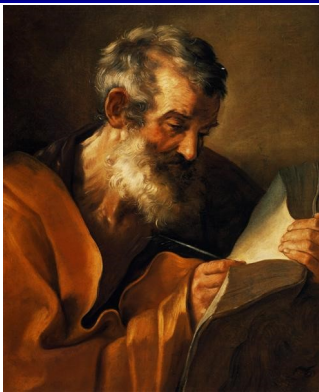
Our December meeting is a social evening with an American Supper, quiz and carol singing which will be a fitting end to another enjoyable year. In 2024 we will hear from speakers who will be covering a wide variety of subjects that include Sid James, Victorian seashores, fraud awareness, gemstones, Science and Christianity and Owls.

If anyone would like to come along to our meetings 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. Further details can be found on our website www.quedgeleywi.co.uk or facebook.com/quedgeleywi.





Who was Mark? By Revd. Gordon Ripley



'St Mark' Guido Reni 1621

Bob Jones University,
Greenville, SC, US

From Advent Sunday we start a new Church year. And, at the Eucharist, this coming year we'll be hearing principally from St Mark's Gospel. Which begs the question – who was Mark and what enabled him to write such a profound book?



The New Testament tells us a good deal about Mark. He was the son of a well-to-do lady of Jerusalem whose name was Mary, and whose house was a rallying-point and meeting place of the Early Church.

So, from the very beginning Mark was brought up in the very centre of the Christian fellowship. Mark was also the nephew of Barnabas, and when Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey they took Mark with them to be their secretary and attendant.

It was a most unfortunate journey for Mark. When they reached Perga Paul proposed to strike inland up to the central plateau of Asia Minor (modern Day Turkey); and for some reason Mark left the expedition and went home. We don't know the reason why. St John Crysostom thought it was because he missed his Mum! Paul simply called him a 'quitter'.

For some years Mark simply vanishes from history. Tradition says that he went to Egypt and founded the Church in Alexandria.

Yet, some twenty years later. When Paul was in prison, the one man Paul wanted with him, at the end, was Mark.

So, where did Mark get his information about the life and work of Jesus? Well, Mark's home was a Christian centre of Jerusalem. So, he must have heard people tell of their personal memories of Jesus.

But, towards the end of the second century there was a man called Papias who was an early Church historian and he tells us that Mark's gospel is actually a record of the preaching material of Peter.

Indeed, Mark was so close to Peter that Peter called him "Mark, my son." What we have in Mark's gospel is what Mark remembered of the preaching material of Peter himself.

The Gospel of Mark is a book of amazing importance. First, it is the earliest of all the gospels. It was written just shortly after Peter died and its date will be about A.D.65; and, second, it embodies nothing less than a record of what Peter preached and taught about Jesus.

We can look forward to spending the coming year with the earliest gospel and it's the gospel in which we hear again the preaching of Peter himself.

The Hymn Quiz: answers to November quiz - Chris Baldwin Organist

Here are the first lines the six hymns or songs the words relate to, along with the numbers of the hymn numbers from our hymnbook, Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New:



Thou flowing water pure and clear make music for thy Lord to hear,
6 All creatures of our God and King

Christ doth call one and all, ye who follow shall not fall,
19 All my hope on God is founded

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame, until your justice burns brightly again,
60 Beauty for brokenness

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
74 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine

Word incarnate, truth revealing, Son of Man on earth
104 Christ triumphant ever reigning

The golden evening brightens in the west, soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest,
177 For all the saints who from their labours rest

Twelve Days of Christmas



Most people know the carol Twelves days of Christmas, but do they know the religious symbolism behind the song?

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree" here true love refers to God, the two turtle doves refer to the Old and New Testaments and three French hens refers to the theological virtues of faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds refer to the four gospels and the five gold rings refer to the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch, which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

Six geese a-laying refers to the six days of creation, seven swans a-swimming to the seven sacraments, eight maids a-milking to the eight beatitudes, nine ladies dancing to the fruits of the Holy Spirit and 10 lords a-leaping is a reference to the 10 Commandments.

Eleven pipers a-piping refers to the 11 apostles and finally, the 12 drummers drumming refers to the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.



A more light hearted version than the original... well it soon will be Christmas!

On the first day of Christmas

*My true love said to me
I've bought a great big turkey
And a proper Christmas Tree.*

On the seventh day of Christmas

*My true love he did wince
When he sat down to dinner
And was offered Turkey mince.*

On the second day of Christmas

*Much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our Turkey
A most delicious bird.*

Day eight, and nerves were frayed.

*The dog ran for shelter.
She'd seen the Turkey pancakes
And the jar of Alka-Seltzer.*

On the third day we entertained

*The people from next door
And the Turkey tasted just as good
As it had the day before.*

On the ninth day the cat left home

*By lunch time Dad was blotto,
He said he had to have a drink
To face Turkey risotto.*

Day Four, relations came to stay.

*Poor Gran was getting old!
We finished off the Christmas pud
And had the Turkey cold.*

On the tenth day the booze had gone

*Except our home-made brew
As if that wasn't bad enough
We lunched on Turkey stew.*

On the fifth day of Christmas

*Outside the snowflakes flurried
But we were nice and warm inside;
We had the Turkey curried.*

On the eleventh day of Christmas

*The Christmas tree was moulting
The mince pies were hard as rocks,
And the Turkey was revolting.*

On the sixth day, I must admit

*The Christmas spirit died.
The Children fought and bickered
And we had the Turkey fried.*

On the twelfth day of Christmas

*A smile came to our lips
The guests had gone, the Turkey too.
We dined on fish and chips*



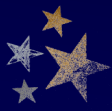
The Venerable David Sutch TD

Jesus' Jester

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

Laughter is the best medicine





StJ's Season of Creation



As we continued to follow the theme "Season of Creation" into November, youngsters learnt about caring for all God's creatures. The craft challenge was making a 'Bat Box' to hang in the garden. Although the challenge proved a little tricky to begin with, you can see from the smiling faces that youngsters were delighted with the result. Youngsters took the bat boxes home to decorate. If you've been attending our StJ services for the last several months and taken part in the activities you may be able to apply for your GREEN Blue Peter badge. Check out the link here for more information: - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-green-badge>



Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am

During term time.

Pop in after the school run

Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

music-chat-laughter-faith

JAM SESSIONS

music-chat-laughter-faith

SUNDAY'S AT 4PM



Community News



Lovell Cornwall standing next to the Spindle Tree

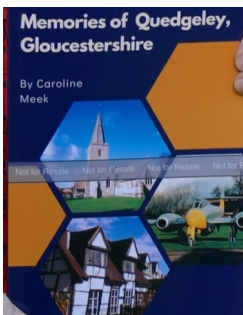
The *Euonymus Alatus*, or the Spindle Tree is thriving in Lovell and Rita Cornwall's garden. The tree is a fine specimen and we managed to take a photo of Lovell standing by it before Storm Ciaran wiped it clean of all its leaves.

Lovell says "There is actually three shrubs there, when I planted them 3 years ago, I knew they would do well as they were going in ground where I'd previously grown runner beans, so I knew there would be plenty of nitrogen in the soil.

An interesting development is that last year I pruned back the left hand one as it was growing into another shrub, *Viburnum Plicatum*, (Kilimanjaro), and although the pruned one is growing well, it has been shaded by the others, and it's leaves are still green. Clearly, the leaves need the sunlight to turn the lovely red colour.

I shall prune the other two shrubs during the winter."

If you are a keen gardener and would like to share with us your successes for inclusion in the parish magazine then please drop a line and photo to our Editor Fr. Hugh Broad at hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk Equally, if you've had difficulties growing plants and think we can help, send us your questions and we'll ask our gardening 'experts' for their advice.



Caroline Meek's book *Memories of Quedgeley* will soon be out for publication. Caroline now in her eighties has lived in Quedgeley all of her life and been a regular member of Saint James' Church. The book contains many facts and photographs of the area that you won't find in Wikipedia or on Google. Caroline gives us a glimpse into the past as we read letters and articles that Caroline has collected from local folk over the years. It's definitely worth reading and will be out on Amazon very soon.



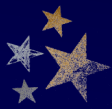
So watch this space!

As usual the Poppy Appeal display 2023 at Tesco was stunning, thanks once again to Theresa Fisher. Theresa said 'A big 'Thank You' to the local schools, nurseries, local groups, the Spring Centre, Tesco Knit and Natter and the Men's Shed for the amazing poppy display in the window at Tesco Quedgeley. Such lovely poppies all decorated by the children and young adults" Part of the display included the poem 'Remembering' by our own Lovell Cornwall from St. James'.



Aid to Ukraine is still continuing. The photo shows donations that have been delivered to displaced families in the Chorkiv area. There are also more donations about to leave in time for Christmas.

At Saint James' we shall be holding another fund raiser to support families in Ukraine on Saturday 3rd February. So please put this date in your diary. More information nearer the time.



Remembering ...



The Remembrance Day services in Quedgeley were well attended. On Saturday 11th a short service was held at Saint James, similarly an Act of Remembrance was held at Tesco stores. Representatives from the Royal British Legion were present. Preparations of cleaning the memorial by the local Town Council were under way well before the 11th.

Children from the local schools also attended the war memorial during the preceding week for their own special services led by Revd. Mark. Theresa and her team from Tesco pulled out all the stops decorating the church railings and post boxes in the local vicinity.

As usual the Poppy Appeal took place in Tesco with members of the Royal British Legion and volunteers manning the stall. On Sunday 12th November a Service of Remembrance took place at the war memorial. Una Steer laid a wreath on behalf of Saint James' Church .



At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.



Welcome to a double edition of Quedgeley Town Council news for December and January.

First of all we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported this year's annual Firework's Display. We are aware that it's not everyone's 'thing' however this year more people than ever came along. The weather was perfect, the fireworks were amazing and the feedback we've received since just inspires us to continue with these events for the community.

We don't want to just thank those that came along however, we would also like to extend our thanks to the entire community. Some of you would not have attended but may have been impacted by parking etc, thank you for your patience. This is by far our largest event of the year and it's always uplifting to see the community come together. We don't put this event on for profit, we don't advertise with a view to enticing people countywide, we put this event on for our local community so that Quedgeley can say they have their own Firework's Display. We encourage as many people as possible to walk, we keep the prices down and it's run by volunteers.

We were overwhelmed by how many people bought tickets on the night, we strongly urge those of you who intend to come along next year to buy your tickets in advance. It's cheaper and quicker to gain entry on the night. As always, there will be a debrief on what we could do better and we welcome any feedback from those of you who attended.

of you who intend to come along next year to buy your tickets in advance. It's cheaper and quicker to gain entry on the night. As always, there will be a debrief on what we could do better and we welcome any feedback from those of you who attended.



Following on with the event's theme, once again we are putting on a Xmas event at the Kingsway Sports Pavilion (opposite ASDA) on Sunday 10th December 2023 from 10.00am. This is a free event and gives you an opportunity to come along with the children where you can enjoy a nice warm drink and they can enjoy arts and crafts, meet Father Christmas and more importantly eat chocolate! Last year this proved to be extremely popular. No tickets are required, you can just turn up on the day. The event will run for approximately 2 hours. So please save the date and make sure you wear your Xmas jumpers!



As you can see the council is very busy at the moment, providing events for the community and keeping council business running. The budget is in the process of being set for the next financial year and this is the time that the council start to think about new initiatives, projects etc. We have also just reapplied for our Quality Gold Status under the Local Council Award Scheme which we will find out about in the New Year. We still have 2 vacancies on the council so if you think being a Town Councillor would be interesting then please contact the clerk on office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk for further information.



A reminder of the opening and closing times for the Town Council over the Christmas



Period:

- Friday 22nd December 2023 – office closes at 12 noon
- Monday 25th December – Friday 29th December – office closed
- Monday 1st January 2024 – office closed
- Tuesday 2nd January 2024 – office reopens at 9.30am.

The Town Council Office is situated in the same retail park as Matalan so if you are out and about Xmas shopping, 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 \(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk\)](http://Quedgeley Town Council (quedgeley-tc.gov.uk)).



We would like to conclude by thanking everyone who continues to support this Town Council and to those who over the year have made it their mission to learn more about us and how we can support you. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





Festive Honey Cake



Our Tea@2 team are always trying out new and exciting recipes. They are all well received by our Tea@2 crowd. Many of our Tea@2 regulars ask for the recipe. Here is Pat's recipe for one of our firm favourites 'Honey Cake'

Tea@2 is held every Wednesday in the church from 2pm. From 13th December we are taking a break for Christmas and back on Wednesday 10th January 2024



3 eggs

200 grams sugar

125ml light vegetable oil

250 grams dark liquid honey

2 tablespoons rum or brandy

125ml warm strong black coffee

2 teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Grated zest 1 orange

300 grams plain flour

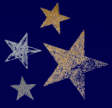
1. Beat the eggs with the sugar until pale and creamy. Then beat in the oil, honey, brandy and coffee.
2. In a separate bowl mix the baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, orange zest with the flour.
3. Add gradually to the egg and honey mixture, beating vigorously to a smooth batter.
4. Line a 24 cm tin and pour in the batter. Or divide between 2 24cmx13cm loaf tins.
5. Bake the large cake in a preheated oven over 350F/180c/gas4 for 1 hour and a ¼ or longer until firm and brown on top. And the smaller ones for 1 hour.
6. For information, I always make the 2 loaf tin cakes as they freeze very well. In my oven which is a bit on the hot side I bake them for 50 minutes. If you don't want to use brandy or rum, orange juice would also do very well. I check on the cakes after about 30 minutes and cover them with foil, very gently.
7. Serve it buttered as you would a tea bread



Your Editorial Team wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year



Our next edition of the Parish Magazine will be in February 2024. If you would like to contribute to the magazine please send details to our Editor Fr. Hugh Broad hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk by 20th January 2024.



Things to do...



Christmas Quiz 2023

1. Who created Rudolph the Red nose Reindeer?
2. Who is the Patron Saint of Children?
3. Which famous Christmas poem was written by Clement Clarke Moore?
4. By what title was the song 'Jingle Bells' originally released?
5. Balsam, Douglas, Fraser and Noble are all types of what?
6. Which male artist released 'Step into Christmas' in 1973?
7. Which of the gifts presented to Jesus by the Magi was commonly used as an anointing oil?
8. What is the name of the boy in the 1982 film 'The Snowman'?
9. Which song repeats the catchy lyrics 'pa rum pum pum pum'?
10. What was traditionally placed inside an Xmas pudding?



Answers below!

Answers 1.Robert L May 2.Saint Nicholas 3.Twas the night before Christmas 4.One Horse Open Sleigh 5.Christmas/Fir trees 6.Elton John 7.Myrrh 8.James 9.Little Drummer Boy 10.A coin

For our Younger Readers

Colour in the picture of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus





Events and Services at Saint James'



Love 2 Sing
COMMUNITY CHOIR

Christmas Concert

ST JAMES' CHURCH
QUEDGELEY

Monday December 11th
7.00 -9.00pm

Free Entry
Refreshments Available

**Retiring collection for
Cancer Research & Church
Funds**



Christmas Events and Services
Messy Christmas - Saturday 9th December 1pm -3pm
Lessons and Carols- Sunday 17th December 6pm
Christmas Eve - Crib Service 3pm
**Christmas Eve Carol Service with Gloucester Charter
Concert Band- 6.30pm**
Midnight Mass 11.30pm
**Christmas Day—Celebration Communion for All Ages
10.30am**

Services at Saint James' Church Quedgeley

You are warmly invited to...

Morning Prayer - 9.15am daily during term time

Holy Communion - Wednesday 10.00am

Holy Communion - Sunday 10.30AM except for the first Sunday in the month when said Communion is at 9.15am.

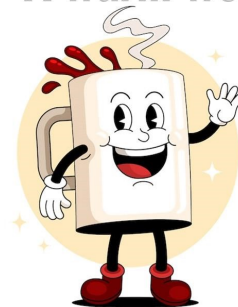
STJ'S Family Service - First Sunday in the month 10.30am

JAM - Every Sunday at 4pm – 5pm



A warm welcome awaits you!

at



Tea@2

Wednesday

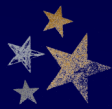
2.00pm- 4.00pm

Tea/Coffee **Bingo**
Home made cake **Quiz**

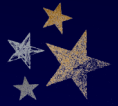
Assortment of refreshments

£3.00 per person

We break up for our Christmas holiday on Wednesday 13th December. We are back on Wednesday 10th January 2024
We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year!



Events in December



alpha colour printers

design • pre-print • litho digital large format
finishing • packing • storage • distribution



follow us on facebook.com/AlphaColourPrinters @Alpha_Colour

print green with us
on the first carbon neutral press in the country

ask us for the logo to add to your print

CO₂ neutral
Product printed on a Carbon Neutral Press
www.hendberg.com/CO2_210504

Our Choir will be singing Carols at Tesco's on 14th December at 4.30pm. Please pop along and support them at this event. All proceeds from the collection will go towards the up keep of Saint James' Church



Carols on the Hour at Gloucester Cathedral

Saturday 9 December, 11am-3.30pm

It's back for another year! Our Cathedral musicians and friends will be performing bite-sized bursts of festive praise, on the hour, every hour.

- 11am - Cathedral Junior Choir
- 12noon - Cathedral Middle Choir
- 1pm - Cathedral Youth Choir
- 2pm - Cathedral Girl Choristers
- 3pm - Caring Chorus

Each service lasts just 30 minutes and is the perfect way to begin the most wondrous time of the year. Suitable for all the family.

All are welcome, with no booking required. This event is free of charge, but we are grateful for donations to the Cathedral.



Arts and Crafts at Gloucester Cathedral

Saturday 16 December, 10.30am-3.30pm

Join us in the Chapter House for a fun-filled day of Victorian inspired arts and crafts, learning more about the Christmas Story as you do so. Expect plenty of well-known carols and a good helping of festive cheer!

This activity day is suitable for visitors of all ages. All are welcome with no booking required, but we are grateful for donations to the Cathedral.



FREE! We are back for our 2nd year running!

Saint James'

For a

Messy Christmas

Saturday 9th December
Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

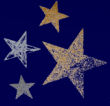
FUN **SNACK provided!**

9 December 2023 - 6 January 2024

Gloucester Cathedral

From 9th December, the Cathedral building will be adorned with stunning decorations. Expect giant trees in the Nave and the Quire, as well as the return of the 'Knitivity' featuring lovable figures created by local community groups. The iconic Cloisters will also be decorated from top to bottom, with each area following a new theme for 2023.

Come and see this remarkable spectacle any time within usual Cathedral opening hours for the ultimate festive day out. Entry to the Cathedral is by voluntary donation.



Church Snippets ...



How safe do you feel in your church ?

The diocese of Gloucester wishes to encourage parishes to participate in a survey run by the INEQE safeguarding group. The survey seeks to ensure that dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected. As many church officers, members of the congregation, and the outside community as possible are invited to take part in the survey. To access and select the survey relevant to you, please visit <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2023/ineqe-safeguarding-audit/>

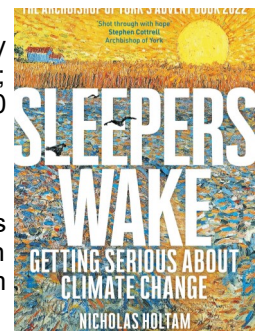
Please do participate in this survey and let us know what you think. Your views matter to us and will help to develop the next steps in Safeguarding within our churches more effectively.

The closing date is Tues 5th Dec.

ADVENT IS NEARLY UPON US! We are all painfully aware of the dangers posed by Climate Change and Global Warming. Recent flash floods; warmest year in UK on record; incredible difference in temperature between Southern Spain (+30 degrees) and Iceland (-30 degrees)

all signs which just cannot be ignored.

Father Hugh makes no apologies for mentioning the Advent book - Sleepers Wake - this gives us a Christian approach to this whole issue. 15 copies are in the hands of church members, and he can obtain a copy for you at far less than the original cost -please let him know!

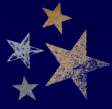


Tea @2—the place to be on a Wednesday afternoon!

Are you looking for a place to meet new friends? Enjoy a laugh and a chat? Then join us at Tea@2

Tea@2 meet every Wednesday in the church from 2pm to 4pm. The numbers vary from week to week but generally we have around 25 –30 people. Refreshments are served including homemade cake, copious cups of tea and coffee. There is a chance to have a chat before everyone takes part in the weekly quiz. Bingo seems to be the highlight of the afternoon with a chance to win a prize. This year we celebrated the King’s coronation with a party and during December we shall be holding our usual Christmas party for all our regulars. We’ll then be taking a short Christmas break and back in the New Year.





Book Review



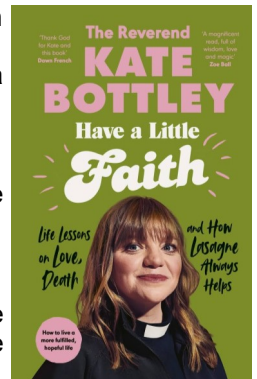
"HAVE A LITTLE FAITH" - REVD KATE BOTTLEY

Fr. Hugh reviews Revd. Kate Bottley latest book 'Have a little faith'. Kate a Yorkshire lass by birth was ordained as a priest in 2009. She is well known for her appearances on 'Songs of Praise' but has broadened her horizons by featuring in other TV celebrity shows e.g 'Gogglebox' and 'Celebrity Masterchef.' She is a keen journalist having written for 'The Guardian' 'Independent' 'The Times Educational Supplement' and many other well known publications. She is a regular contributor to Radio 2's 'Pause for Thought' Kate is married and has two children. She lives in Retford Nottinghamshire.

This is a delightful book in so many ways! Here Kate is able to talk about her life as a parish priest alongside that as a television personality in shows such as Gogglebox; Love Island; Naked Attraction; Pause for Thought. She describes herself in many ways - as well as being a vicar; a rugby player; beer drinker; Mum; wife; and so much else!

Here in these pages you will see so much of Kate and what makes her tick. Amongst those who commend this book are Archbishop Rowan Williams, Dawn French, Su Pollard and others.

Do read this book - it will make you laugh and see a real person with so many sides - she swears quite a bit, but speaks with much sincerity about so many aspects of life - some of the chapters - love, success, strength, conflict and much more besides.



If you are looking for a Christmas present for someone this might well be the answer!

A PRAYER OF GREAT MEANING FOR THESE TIMES:

*Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying, calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer AMEN.*

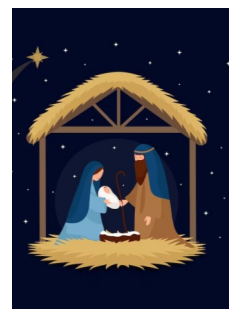


Christmas Day

A warm welcome awaits you at our

Celebration Communion for

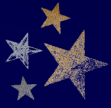
All Ages 10.30am



Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve

11.30pm



Who's Who in the Parish Church



Priest –in– Charge	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Rev. Mark Siddall	01452 722916		drmarksid@gmail.com
Assistant Priests			
Rev. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Rev. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	irobb925@gmail.com
Rev. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Rev. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872	07974066929	michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Rev. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
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CHURCHWARDENS			
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Mr Andrew Wakely	01452 722528	07879883091	andrewmwakely@gmail.com
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Safeguarding Officer			
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PCC Treasurer -			
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Tea@2			
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Flower Arrangers			
Mrs Val Harris	01452 498018		valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk
Bell Ringers—Anne Heron		07360008632	anneheron@gmail.com
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Altar Servers—Angela Hughes		07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk

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