

Around the Spire

FREE Magazine for the Parishioners

of Quedgeley & Kingsway

March 2023

Issue No 89



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St. James' Church

Quedgeley & Kingsway

Editorial
March 2023
Fr. Hugh Broad



A QUESTION OF BALANCE

Some members of 'Around the Spire' will know that as a part of my past life in the spell of some ten years between leaving school and then starting my studies for the priesthood was a small effort of journalism with a local newspaper. It was very brief but did teach me a lot about how to attract the reader.

balance – to show both sides of the issue at hand.

So why do I use this Editorial in this way? Well, it is because from the very early days we were keen to include items which would capture the imagination of a wide section of the population.

So how to do this – we have to remember that this is a church magazine and therefore should have articles to meet the needs of the Church family in various ways. So the separate issue is the challenge to have something worthwhile to appeal to the wider population.

If you have the last issue of 'Around the Spire' handy you will see what I mean, it does, for want of a better phrase the sacred and the secular. On the sacred side you have my Editorial; a look at some of the saints days for the month; the church Registers; details of the Lent course. More on the secular side there is Rev Mark's 'Out and About; swimming with Gordon; kindness with Pat; news from Quedgeley Town Council and much more.

I think this summary of last month's contents illustrate the balance I have tried to express.

In conclusion we are always looking for more contributors who have a story to tell and share with our band of readers.

FATHER HUGH

Out and About in Kingsway and Quedgeley with Revd. Mark and Dan



Dan has long had an aspiration to climb a mountain. Just after Christmas, we decided to climb Mount Snowdon during the week after Easter and raise money for St James Church. Our Lent discipline has become our training for Dan's great ascent.

Taking the bus, we have so far walked from Stonehouse over the top to Randwick, completed a loop to the east of Dursley over Cam Peak, Cam Long Down and Wey Bury and finally back to Dursley. Dan has also trained with Erica up Robinswood Hill.

Our biggest training hike so far has been via train to Sugar Loaf Mountain, just outside Abergavenny. Perhaps our biggest treat though was climbing above the clouds on the Cotswold Way just above Stonehouse on a very cold January morning. You can see in the photo just how special it was and what a beautiful place



Dan 'out and about' in training for the climb

we all live in here. Well done so far Dan and thank you to all his sponsors so far. To sponsor Dan for the big Snowdon climb, email me at drmarksid@gmail.com

St. **J**ames and St. **M**ary Magdalene Quedgeley & Kingsway

The JaM Sessions

YOUR INVITATION

Every Sunday, 5-6pm @St James Kingsway and Quedgeley, teens or any age. Music, Singing, Food & Fun!



Together we work out what church is for and grow in friendship

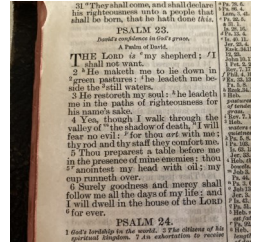
Wednesday Holy Communion at 10.00am at Saint James'

Daily thoughts from Lovell Cornwall

Rita and I have a 'Tear off' calendar with bible verses each day followed by relevant comments from various people. Today's verse Psalm 23 v4, "Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil".

The words that followed were an almost exact experience that I had on the day my mother passed away. I shall precis those words.

It was an amazing experience to sit with my mother during the last day of her life. She knew that she would soon be with the Lord whom she had served for over 70 years. As I sat with her, face to face, she went through the motions of taking communion, and talking straight through me but clearly talking to someone else, Jesus perhaps?, my father?, but I'm sure she knew that leaving her body would see her in the Lord's presence, and as the shadow of death engulfed her she knew no evil. She had no sense of danger, and I felt it a privilege to see her die so well.



Proceeds to church funds for
St. James' Church
Quedgeley & Kingsway

**Coffee Morning
& Stalls**

Saturday 22nd April 10.00am -12noon
Saint James' Church Quedgeley GL2 4PN

Creation Care & Travel Savings

Emily and I recently had to collect something from central Gloucester and Emily decided that she wanted to ride her bike. Thankfully Kingsway and Quedgeley have really excellent bike paths and it was easy to join up a route from our front door to the canal path.



From there it is just over twenty minutes into Gloucester Quays. All told the journey was less than thirty minutes, though we were in no hurry so we stopped for a snack and to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the canal. We locked the bikes up outside TGI Fridays and walked the rest of the way along the quayside.



We always say of our biking that it is much more smiles per mile and that was certainly true of our return trip. No bus to wait for, no parking to find and pay for, just a few miles of beautiful, flat canal and some really good Emily-Daddy time too. What if all the people who could gain all that took the opportunity we have living in Kingsway and Quedgeley?

What am I praying for this month?

By Revd. Mark.



What I am praying about...

We usually think about Lent as abstinence from our favourite things, our little treats in life, or perhaps our 'poisons' if we choose to abstain from caffeine or alcohol during Lent. Perhaps in line with this way of thinking, a modern version of this approach has been to take on a positive habit during Lent rather than focus on avoiding a negative one. Some choose a daily jog or other form of exercise. During Lent we remember Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. Perhaps we should ponder what temptation truly means during Lent. Thinking of temptation is extremely counter cultural. How can we achieve 'economic growth' if we do not succumb to temptation and buy the things we do not need, have our homes too warm (if we can afford it), drive when we can walk or bike or spend too much time online and not enough with our families and friends. So my prayer this Lent is:

**'Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. AMEN'**

Coffee Morning & Stalls in aid of Ukraine

Thank you to all who supported us in this worthwhile cause. We raised a total of £880. We understand it will be used to help an orphanage in Ukraine.



Baptism & Confirmation Service

A joyful Baptism and Confirmation service took place in February. Several people renewed their baptismal vows and confirmed their faith. We also welcomed one new member in to the church family through baptism. Thanks go to Bishop Robert who led the service.



“Lights in their Own Generation”

A series celebrating, month by month, some of those who left a special mark on the history of the worldwide Christian Church.

*“Lights” that shine in March by
Fr. Ian Robb*



1st: David, Patron of Wales. David was a monk and a bishop in the 6th century. He was reputed to be a perfect example of the ascetic, spiritual life and highly regarded for his kindness and compassion. He founded the monastery at Menevia, now St David's, and at least a dozen other monasteries. He based his rule of life on that of the Egyptian desert Fathers, with a strong emphasis on hard work, abstinence from alcohol, and a refraining from unnecessary speech. He has been honoured as Patron of Wales since the 12th century.

2nd: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield. Born in Northumbria, he was the youngest of four sons, who all became priests and monks. They were trained at Lindisfarne under the guardianship of St Aidan. Chad was appointed abbot of Lastingham before becoming Bishop of York. He was sent by his archbishop to take care of the huge diocese of Mercia, which covered most of the midlands, and he established his cathedral at Lichfield. He travelled extensively around his diocese before becoming a victim to the plague in 672.

7th: Perpetua, Felicity & their Companions. This group of Christian friends lived in Carthage, in what is now Libya, in the 3rd century. Perpetua was a noblewoman, Felicity her maid, Saturas was the local priest, and two other male companions. They were all part of the local congregation when they were arrested by the Roman authorities and dispatched to the public arena to be mauled by wild animals. They somehow survived and were sentenced to be executed and before the sentence was carried out, they :all made a public profession of their faith. Their story was widely circulated and the story of their martyrdom strengthened their fellow Christians in the face of adversity.

17th: Patrick, Patron of Ireland. Patrick was a Cornishman by birth, who had been taken to Ireland as a slave, aged sixteen. It seems that he escaped to the Continent, where his nominal Christian faith grew, and he was trained as a priest under the guidance of Martin of Tours. In his early forties he returned to Ireland as a bishop, making Armagh his headquarters. He faced some fierce opposition but continued to travel around the island, establishing a number of monastic communities. These foundations proved to be the basis for a system of dioceses linking the Church in Ireland.

19th: Joseph of Nazareth. Matthew's gospel describes Joseph as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. An angelic visitor shared God's will for him to be the husband of Mary, who was to be the mother of the Lord. Luke's gospel tells how Joseph took the new-born child as if he were his own, presenting him to God on the fortieth day after his birth. The adoption of Jesus by Joseph also established Jesus as a descendent of David, in accordance with the prophecy of old.

20th: Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Born in the Scottish lowlands, Cuthbert was a shepherd, which occupation gave him ample time for prayer. Inspired by a vision, he asked to be admitted to the community at Melrose Abbey and it was from there that his missionary work eventually brought him to Lindisfarne, where he became abbot and, in 685, bishop. He continued to travel and teach across his diocese, returning regularly to Lindisfarne where he ended his days, in the company of a few of his monks.

25th: The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary Luke's gospel tells how Mary of Nazareth was called by God to take a vital part in the plan of salvation. This day marks the conception of Christ in her womb and has been celebrated in the worldwide Church since the fourth century. It affirms the perfect humanity and the complete divinity of Jesus and acknowledges Mary as Theotokos – God-bearer, which in Western Christendom became translated as Mother of God.

26th: Harriet Monsell of Clewer Harriet was born in 1811, of Irish parentage. Her husband was a clergyman and after his death she went to work in a penitentiary at Clewer near Windsor. She was professed as a Religious in 1852, eventually becoming the first Superior of the Community.

Cynthia Davies

Those of you who attended Chit Chat will no doubt remember Cynthia Davies. Cynthia passed away a few weeks ago. Cynthia always had a smile for everyone. Living locally, not far from Saint James' Church, Cynthia was a regular at our weekly event. She was always very appreciative and loved the company. She was a passionate knitter and this led her to join Knit and Natter at Tesco. Unfortunately, Cynthia suffered a stroke in her later years and went to live in Chestnut Court. We shall always remember her infectious laugh and her great sense of humour. She will be greatly missed. We send our thoughts and prayers to her family at this sad time.



In memory of Cynthia, Tesco Knit & Natter have produced this fabulous post box topper. It is on display on the post box outside Saint James' Church

Congratulations Fr. Michael

Congratulations to Revd. Canon Michael Garland who has been made Canon Succentor at Gloucester Cathedral. A Canon Succentor is the deputy to the Precentor at the cathedral. Given the Precentor has recently retired we are sure Fr. Michael will be a busy person! We wish him well in his new role.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Christingle Service

A very busy STJ's family service took place at the beginning of February. Everyone was keen to make their Christingles. Our thanks go to all those who helped during the morning and especially to Lu and the hospitality team for the tasty snack at the end of the service.



More photos on page 13

FROM THE REGISTERS – FEBRUARY

Holy Baptism.

6th SAMUEL ROBERT PEARSON

19TH DEON MAVENGERE

Confirmation.

19th DAVID ANTHONY WILLIAMS

JACQUELINE ROSE WILLIAMS

STEPHANIE LOUISE GROVES

EMMA DUFFURN

DEON MAVENGERE

ELAINE MARGARET BEAN

Funerals

9th JANE ELIZABETH KNAPE

ARTHUR GORDON STANLEY KNAPE



We are pleased to announce that following a very successful recruitment campaign, we now have 3 new councillors who recently joined the council and who bring with them a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. We very much welcome them onboard and their details will be added to our Website very shortly so that you can read a little bit about them, what they have to offer to the role and why they have chosen to become a Town Councillor. This means that we are nearly running with a full compliment which enables councillors to take on more tasks and achieve more in the process. We have one vacancy so please do contact us if you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor.

One achievement we are very proud to announce is that of our defibrillators based at Kingsway and Quedgeley Community Centres. These have now been relocated from inside the buildings to outside in designated yellow cabinets, making them accessible to the community 24 hours per day. This is something that your Town Councillors have been discussing for some time, including costs and finding the right contractor to undertake the work.

Defibrillators have been available for some years now, however your Town Councillors recognise that this live saving equipment needs to be accessible to the community at all times. The cabinets provided are unlocked as per the advice received from the Southwest Ambulance Service so in the event of an emergency, there is no time wasted trying to find a code etc, you can just open the door and take out the defibrillator. They are located very near to the front doors of the centres so easy to spot. Remember also that a defibrillator is self-explanatory. It will tell you what to do. All we ask is that you keep your eyes and ears open. Unfortunately, Quedgeley and Kingsway Community Centres suffer from a degree of vandalism and these important pieces of equipment need to be protected by all of us so that in the case of any emergency, we can rely on them being there.

Moving onto a lighter subject, at the time of writing this, the weather feels just a little bit spring like, milder than we've become used to recently and some very welcome sunshine. As a result of this, Easter Eggs are now on the shelves and we are busy planning for our Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Easter Monday at the Quedgeley Nature Reserve, in Curtis Hayward Drive. We will reserve the finer details for our insert, next month, however, suffice to say this very popular event will follow a similar format to previous years, although we think we might have a face painter this time. Please keep a look out in our office window for our Easter Poster as this will give you all the details you need.

The budget has now been set for the new financial year. It has been a difficult task this year due to the inflation costs, however as always, the town council remains mindful of everyone's financial constraints and whilst a small increase has been set which is inevitable in this current economic climate, this has been kept to a minimum whilst trying to provide maximum customer service to all our residents.

All it leaves us to say is that as we move into March, we look forward to seeing the community out and about enjoying facilities, parks, allotments etc, all of which is either managed, maintained or monitored by your Town Council. Please do not hesitate to visit the staff at the Town Council Office, based in the Matalan Retail Park should you have any concerns or enquiries.



Calling Quedgeley & Kingsway



Your Magazine Needs You!

We are aiming for our May edition to be something special to mark the Coronation of King Charles III . We would like you to tell us your memories of Coronation Day 1953. If you've any photos of the event that would be even better! You'll need to send your article with photos (if possible) to Fr. Hugh, or Jackie Hall before 10th April. Our email addresses are on the back page of this magazine.

We'd love to hear from you!



Books for Lent



By the time you read this, the season of Lent will be under way!

There has been a good response for the books I recommended last month – ‘SLEEPERS AWAKE’ by 8 people and ‘REFLECTIONS’ BY 12.

Did you miss the boat? I can still order copies for you, they will take 7-10 days to arrive.

Here is another suggestion – ‘TIME TO PRAY’ –more and more Christians are finding the value of a regular daily pattern of prayer – sometimes called ‘The Daily Office’. This is part of a discipline for clergy, but is also of great value to other church members.

There are shortened forms in ‘Reflections for Lent’ but ‘Time to Pray’ presents the whole idea in a most attractive way which are a real help as the members of our Prayer Cell have discovered.

As with the other books I can obtain this for you – it costs about a fiver!

JUST LET ME KNOW!

FR HUGH

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 19th March this year. Services at church are as usual at 10.30am.



A SMILE

*A smile costs nothing and yet purchases a lot
It enriches he who receives it
Without making he who gives it any the poorer
It only lasts an instant
But the memory it leaves sometimes lasts forever.
No one is rich enough to be able to do without one;
No one is so poor he does not merit one.
It creates happiness in the home.
It is a tangible sign of friendship.
A smile makes he who is tired feel rested.
Gives new heart to those who are down,
It cannot be bought, nor loaned, nor stolen
For it is a thing which has value
Only the moment it is given.
And if, from time to time, you should meet someone
Who no longer knows how to smile,
Be generous – give him yours,
For no one quite needs a smile as much
As he who cannot give one to others.*



AND A FURTHER THOUGHT ---

*Every time you smile –
A brick is added to your home in heaven!*

***Don't forget on March 26th we SPRING
FORWARD as clocks go forward one hour!***

Don't be late for church.



StJ's Family fun, laughter and
worship, snacks,
coffee/tea
afterwards



1st Sunday in every
month 10.30am

Breaking News !

Summer Fayre will be held on
Saturday 10th June in the
church yard! Tell your friends
and family. Watch this space!

**An Evening with
Graham Kendrick**

PART OF GLOUCESTER CITY MISSION'S 20TH
ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

FRIDAY 14TH APRIL 2023

ST CATHARINE'S CHURCH, LONDON
ROAD, GLOUCESTER GL2 0RR

TICKETS £18 - AVAILABLE AT
WWW.GLOSCITYMISSION.ORG.UK

G loucester
C ity
M ission
2003-2023
20th Anniversary

FREE! Come to play and explore with
Saint James'

For a

**Messy
Easter**

Tuesday 4th April
Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

1pm - 3pm

FUN **SNACK provided!**

Tea@2 Every
Wednesday at 1.30pm—
3.30pm (winter times)

Refreshments, Quiz and
Bingo. Note change of time
during winter months. Come
and join us. Everyone
welcome. From 29th March
starting time is at 2pm and
we finish at 4pm.

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finishing • packing • storage • distribution

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on the first carbon neutral
press in the country

ask us for the logo
to add to your print



Who's Who in the Parish Church

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