

A night photograph of a stone church tower. The tower is the central focus, featuring a clock face on its side. To the right, a Gothic-style window with a diamond-patterned leaded glass is illuminated from within. A street lamp in the foreground casts a warm glow. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the textures of the stone and the architectural details.

AROUND THE SPIRE

**Saint James'
&
Saint Mary Magdalene**

February 2020 Issue No. 54

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 2nd

FEAST OF CANDLEMAS

Parish Eucharist (said) 9.30am

S.T.J. Family Service 10.30am

with music, drama, story-telling, craft,
refreshments

SUNDAY 9th

THIRD BEFORE LENT

Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30a.m.

SUNDAY 16th

SECOND BEFORE LENT

Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30a.m.

Holy Baptism 1.00p.m.

SUNDAY 23rd

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30a.m.

WEDNESDAY 26th

ASH WEDNESDAY Start of Lent

Holy Eucharist 10.00a.m. & 7.30p.m.

with blessing and imposition of ashes

Please note - All who are Baptised are most welcome to receive
Holy Communion at all our Eucharist services.

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS:

TUESDAYS - 9.30a.m.

CHATTERBOX for pre-school children with their parents or carers.

THURSDAYS - 10.00a.m.

CHIT - CHAT for the young at heart.

MONTHLY SERVICES - at Chestnut Court, The Lawns, Queen Anne Court, and for Christian Healing.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS

Please note – Articles for MARCH edition should reach the Editor by 16TH FEBRUARY latest. Please send them to The Editor, Fr. Hugh Broad email address: hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk



Di and Pete Allen who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently



Going for Gold



Yes - Peter and Diana, usually known as Pete and Di have been staunch members of the Church of St James here in Quedgeley for a long time. So Going for Gold is an apt description for this lovely and precious part of our church membership, as they celebrate fifty years of married life.

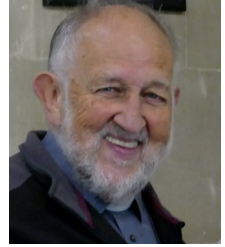
So it was a very happy occasion when they came together with family, friends and church members, to renew their promises of fifty years ago, thankful for all the years, for good times, and also occasionally not so good, but truly a golden occasion in every way.

At the conclusion of their Service of Thanksgiving, we all joined in singing a very appropriate hymn - here is the

first verse -

***We pledge to one another,
Before the Lord above
Entire and whole and perfect
The union of our love
A love that will be patient,
A love that will be wise
That will not twist with envy
Nor lose itself in lies;
A love that will not falter
A love to hold us fast,
And bind us to each other
As long as life shall last.***

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



THE BENEDICTINE WAY -- part two.

I wonder if you ever feel that you could be a better Christian? I guess that all of us do ask ourselves this question from time to time, could I do better as a Christian,

I know that I do - yes - a priest like anyone else has these feelings!

I feel sure that this also applied to those great Christians of the past, like Saint Benedict who is the inspiration of the framework I am trying to present to you in this project.

THE RULE OF SAINT BENEDICT.

This is an approach of what I am seeking to put before you in this series of articles.

Look at it this way - you and I all have this precious gift of TIME!

Do we make the best of this and seek to use it in a way which is constructive both for ourselves and those around us.?

If we are to do so, and I am sure that this is what God wants from us, then we do need a balance in the way we lead our lives, both for our selves as well a those around us



So here we go, in the steps of the great Saint Benedict, using the five point formula which you can see in the diagram below



Now you don't need to be a monk .to realise the importance and relevance of these five points which I would like to explore with you in the forthcoming issues of our magazine.

As an introduction to this process you might like to use the Prayer of Saint Benedict which is used daily in Westminster Abbey -itself a Benedictine foundation like our own Gloucester Cathedral.

PRAYER OF SAINT BENEDICT

*O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
and a life to proclaim you:
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.*

FR HUGH

On the record - with the Rector

Rev. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,



Saint Bride (Bridget) of Kildare

On my recent trip to Ireland I was able to pray at the shrine of Saint Bride or Bridget of Kildare, ***“the Mary of the Gael”*** there is not much left of the abbey she founded and once occupied. Although just a large dent in the ground, it is covered with holy, family pictures, rosaries, crosses, candles and such items that the faithful have brought on their own pilgrimage or visit.

According to tradition, Brigid/Bride was born in the year 451 AD. Earliest accounts of her life, say that Bridget herself was born into slavery. Legends of her early holiness include her vomiting when a druid tried to force feed her. Due to his impurity a white cow with red ears appeared to sustain her instead.

As she grew older, Brigid performed miracles, including healing and feeding the poor. According to one tale, as a child, she once gave away her mother's entire store of butter. The butter was then replenished in answer to Brigid's prayers. Her habit of charity led her to donate food, money and belongings to anyone who asked.

It is said that Brigid was "veiled" as a nun and according to tradition, around 480 she founded a monastery at Kildare. She became its first Abbess. Saint Bride/Brigid's oratory at Kildare became a centre of religion veneration and learning, and developed into a cathedral city. ***"All this is the work of angelic, and not human skill"***. Bride was not afraid of putting kings and chieftains in their place if needs be. She is often represented with a Straw Woven Cross or a Holy Fire ***"now safe from the fire of passion and the fire of hell hereafter"***.

St Brigid is said to have been given the Last Rites by St.Ninnidh and that she died at Kildare on 1 February 525.

A lot of Saint Bride's life is of course lost in myth and legend, but you cannot escape the feeling of her presence or the sanctity of her life when you visit the site in Kildare today. It is the place where she carried out her Christian ministry.

Saint Bride ranks as the second patron saint of Ireland after Saint Patrick and her feast day is on 1st February which can sometimes clash with Candlemas.

Holy Saint Bride of Kildare pray for us.

With every blessing

Fr JOHN

The Reverend Canon Fr John F. Ward
Rector of Quedgeley and Kingsway
Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.



MIKE WILTSHIRE - ONE OF THE BEST!

Those of us who were privileged to know Mike in recent years will recall a man of great character and personality.

We look back on his life as a part of the Saint James family and remember his warm smile and great chats - we will also remember his mischievous side and how he had us all laughing.

But Mike was too, a very spiritual person I recall a conversation we once had about prayer and he told me about his great love for the life of Saint James church, and how he had found it after some searching around.

I got to know him on a personal level and I know he would not mind me saying that he was always trying to be a better Christian! Well, I did try to assure him that his search in this respect had not been in vain!

When we recall the life of someone who we have got to know quite well I do feel we can learn something from that person.

If we can, in our own lives try to emulate what we most admire about that person, it will help us too to be closer to God.

Mike was one such person, and how this can help us to remember him with great gratitude!

MAY HE REST IN PEACE - AND RISE IN GLORY!

Father Hugh

Carol Singing in Tesco's



Times & Seasons: Lent

The Christian Year unfolds – the colour changes:

How quickly the year rolls by! In order to fit the celebration of Our Lord's earthly life into a single calendar year, we must move on and look ahead to a change of season. Wednesday 26th February this year will be “Ash Wednesday”, the beginning of Lent. (Lent is an Anglo-Saxon word which means “longer days”, and it aptly describes what is happening in the living world around us.) Originally Lent was just the weeks after Epiphany, just as Jesus' time in the wilderness was the time after his Baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for Baptism and also for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship by reason of their lifestyle or because they had spoken falsely about the faith. This little history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, fasting, study, almsgiving, and preparation for Easter.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in the Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves through fasting and prayer to be readmitted into Communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan, and also of the time the ancient Israelites spent in the desert being prepared by Moses for their return to the Promised land.

“Why is the first day of Lent called 'Ash Wednesday'?” Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and the Old Testament records many occasions of their use; from the middle ages it became the Christian custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.



The calculation of the “forty days” has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week, so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. But note: Sundays are not included – because every Sunday is an anniversary of Easter and a celebration of the Lord's resurrection. To underline the solemnity of the season, the colour of all vestments changes to purple (or sometimes sackcloth), churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration, the “Gloria in excelsis” is not said or sung, and the joyful cry of “alleluia!” is not used to introduce the proclamation of the gospel, and hymns which include the word are avoided. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (“Laetare” or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these two breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. (This particular name seems to have come from the practice of employers allowing their workers to visit their homes and their “mother church” on this day; they went “a-mothering”.)



As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere darkens. You may also have seen that in some churches all crosses, statues, and icons are covered with veils during the last two weeks of the season which are called “Passiontide”. During this time the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave this season within a season its name. The same is true of the sixth Sunday in Lent when we commemorate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem and the crowd's greeting of him with the waving of palm branches.

While the set liturgy that we use in church provides lots of material for our prayers, there are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week as we remind ourselves that it was our sins, and the sins of all humanity, which led our Lord to the cross. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are among the best known of such exercises.

The Stations of the Cross are permanently in place in St James' church and everyone is welcome at any time to spend time meditating on them, and all of our clergy have access to suggestions for suitable Lenten reading-material. Fr Hugh is our local valuable contact with Church House Bookshop in London and their catalogue is available online. Please watch our for details of our own Lent study and prayer sessions, and I wish everyone a good and fruitful Lent.

Fr. Ian

FROM THE REGISTERS IN DECEMBER

HOLY BAPTISM

December 8th - ROMAN AGAYO MICHAEL BIGGS

LILY TERESA DOREEN PAXTON

December 15th - ELEANOR EDITH BROWNING

“Welcome into the Lord's family”

BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

December 14th PETER AND DIANA ALLEN

FUNERALS

December 18th EILEEN NOBLE (93)

December 22nd PAUL BURNHAM (ashes)

“Rest Eternal Grant to them O Lord”

Are you afraid?

We all know that death is inevitable, but does that worry you, and fill you with dread, or look forward to it with anticipation? These following words by E.H Hamilton may be of interest.

Afraid? Of what?

To enter into Heaven's rest,
And still to serve the Master blessed,
From service good, to service best----
Afraid-----of that?

Submitted by Lovell Cornwall



Who cares for the carers? Longfield Hospice Care is Quedgeley and Kingsway's local community hospice, caring for adults in Gloucestershire with a life-limiting diagnosis eg cancer, neurological conditions, COPD, Heart Failure. **Longfield also supports their families and carers. Whilst caring for someone with a life-limiting illness** involves the same tasks as for all carers, (eg shopping, help with appointments, personal care) the demands be-come increasingly challenging when the person's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs become more complex as their condition deteriorates. Families will also have to think about ongoing care and planning for the future, whilst dealing with their own feelings of loss and change. **Does this affect you or someone you know?** If it does please get in touch with Longfield to find out more about our Family and Carers Support, which includes **FREE access to counselling and complementary/relaxation therapies and a range of practical support eg: Benefits guidance; Nutrition advice and Positive Caring for End of Life.** Visit www.longfield.org.uk or telephone: 01453 886868 today.



SAINT JAMES CHIT-CHAT

Relax and meet new friends !



- Homemade cake
- Sandwiches
- Selection of beverages

'DROP IN'

Every Thursday

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH

Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat - meet new friends!

10.00am - 12noon



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Saint James CHATTERBOX

... time for fun!



www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

Parent, Baby and Toddler 'Drop-in' St. James Church
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**Healthy
Snacks**



**Lots of
Toys**



**Messy
glue**



**Refreshments
available**

Who's Who in the Parish



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Extended Church Office, in the vestry -No appointment necessary!

...for the Calling of Banns of Marriage; Holy Baptisms: Marriages etc.

WEDNESDAY 5.30 –6.30pm SATURDAY 9.00—10.00am

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

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