

# **Around the Spire**

## **Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway**

**January 2020 Issue number 53**

## FROM THE REGISTERS IN NOVEMBER

### HOLY BAPTISM

9<sup>th</sup> ALFIE SHEARS  
17<sup>th</sup> JACK LEWIS  
MILLER GILLIES  
24<sup>th</sup> LUCAS EDWARD ARTHUR  
FREDDIE GEORGE ASHLEY  
TINA MARIE NWOSU (Adult)  
LEON NWOSU  
LLOYD IK NWOSU  
VALENTINO NWOSU  
AMARA NWOSU

*“Welcome into the Lord's family”*

### HOLY MARRIAGE

9<sup>th</sup> STEWART SHEARS & ANNA WARREN

*“Those whom God has joined together”*

### FUNERALS

5<sup>th</sup> PAUL BURNHAM  
14<sup>th</sup> VERA WATTS (Ashes)  
25<sup>th</sup> IVY ROBERTS (92)  
27<sup>th</sup> BRENDA LEACH (86)  
29<sup>th</sup> JEAN GILBERT (91)

*“Rest Eternal Grant to them O Lord”*

## *Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad*



### **THE BENEDICTINE WAY - part one**

My first experience of the Benedictine way was when I was a parish priest in Hereford. My Bishop, John Eastaugh, asked me to take on an additional role - as Anglican Chaplain of a Roman Catholic boys boarding school. This was based at Belmont Abbey – a Benedictine monastery just outside the city.

In those days ( around 1980's) the school was run by the monks and other members of staff. Although most of the pupils were Roman Catholic, there were a number who were of other Christian traditions and indeed other Faiths. I was pleased to take on this role and relate to Anglicans as well as any others who wanted to come along.

### **WHO WAS ST BENEDICT?**

Born around 480 in Nursia, Italy he became Abbot of Monte Cassino, and was known as the Father of Western Monasticism.

Our own Cathedral here in Gloucester was originally a Benedictine Abbey, and much of this lovely building we have today was a part of that Abbey of monks.



### **THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT.**

This way of living the Christian life helps people to put their lives in an ordered framework, and this approach is as relevant to us today as it was all those centuries ago.

So do watch this space – it may quite possibly help you on your own search for God!

***FR HUGH***

# *On the record - with the Rector*

*Revd. Canon Fr. John F Ward*



*Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

## **A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**

As I write this letter we will all now be aware of the outcome of the “General Election” I hope and pray that it will be a parliament of unity and reconciliation for our country.

Every New Year brings the opportunity of change for the better and hope for the future.

The late King George VI used a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins in one of his Christmas broadcasts during the dark days of World War Two, and I cannot think of more encouraging words for the beginning of 2020.

**I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”  
And he replied:  
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of  
God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known  
way.”**

If we are people of faith, I think it would be a good thing to put our hands into the “hand of God” and even if we are people of no faith, at least be a people of good will.

Surely we owe this to future generations, in our country and the world.

Jesus said “Love one another as I have loved you” (*John 15:12*). This is the message of Christmas and it should be the message of all of us. We can often think that we can do little to change the state of things or the situations we encounter, but it does begin with us, it is not someone else’s responsibility it is ours, it begins with us, with our outlook and our attitude.

Sometimes saying sorry can be a difficult, worrying that and our apology may be rejected, but even if it rejected that does not mean our saying sorry was worthless – indeed the opposite, it becomes a rich blessing for ourselves as well As for others.



I do wish you a happy New Year and that the “Hand of God” will touch you and yours with blessing.

In the Joy of the Holy Family of Bethlehem.

*Fr John*

## **We Followed the Star this Christmas!**



## Times & Seasons: Epiphany

### The Christian Year unfolds – the celebration continues:

How often has someone said to you (on 27<sup>th</sup> December): “Well, that's Christmas over for another year!”, and how often have you said to them: “No it is not; Christmas is only a beginning!” ? Just as Jesus' ministry did not end with his birth, so our celebrations do not end on 26<sup>th</sup> December. In fact, in the Christian Orthodox tradition, the 25<sup>th</sup> December is a relatively quiet day compared with 6<sup>th</sup> January, the day we call The Feast of the Epiphany.

The word “Epiphany” is a Greek word which means “manifestation” or “revealing”, or “showing forth”. A birth which happened in relative obscurity, shared by a small privileged group of people, is now made known to a wider world. God has come into his world to rescue all of his creation, not just a unique part of it.

The Book of Common Prayer has a subtitle for the day: “The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles” - the Saviour is revealed to the whole world, as personified by the Magi, the Wise Men who had been studying the stars and who were waiting for something wonderful and significant to happen.

St Matthew's account (ch 2 v 1-12) speaks simply of ‘wise men from the east’; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The gifts which they offered showed what they believed – that God had come among his people as king (gold), as priest (incense), and human victim (myrrh). In their worship and adoration, they sum up all that the Church teaches about Our Lord. It is only Matthew who records their visit;

he was writing for those who had converted from Judaism to Christianity and was making the point that they were part of a New Israel, a people no longer restricted by the Old Covenant.



Each of the four gospels has its own understanding of Christ's Epiphany / Revelation to the world. Note how St Mark begins: "Here begins the good news of Jesus Christ..." and he continues, not with the account of the birth of Jesus, but with the celebration of his baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. Those standing by, the disciples of John the Baptist – among whom were Andrew and Peter – thus received the first prompting from God that their Saviour had arrived.

For St John the Evangelist, the Epiphany moment is contained in the first miracle carried out at Cana in Galilee – the production of generous quantities of a "superior vintage", where Jesus 'first manifested his glory' and his disciples



So the season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the whole festival reaches a climax on 2<sup>nd</sup> February with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), which is St Luke's version of Epiphany. The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. Mary's first-born is now forty days old and in accordance with custom, he has to be brought to the Temple to be given back to God.



I am sure that the beautiful irony of the situation was not lost on Mary and Joseph; here is the Son of God being presented to God, only to given back to them so that he can fulfil all that the heavenly Father has planned for him. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the festival ends on a sombre note: Simeon tells Mary "A sword will pierce your own soul too." She, and all those who later turn to Jesus, are made aware the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and those final words from Simeon move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest."  
(Christopher Wordsworth)  
*Fr. Ian*

***Please note – Articles for FEBRUARY edition should reach the Editor by 19th January latest. Please send them to The Editor, Fr. Hugh Broad email address: [hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk)***

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

#### A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION - DO YOU HAVE ONE?

HOW ABOUT THIS -

"I resolve to think of others less fortunate than myself - and not just to think, but to act"



## IVY ROBERTS



### “A TRUE CHRISTIAN”

From time to time we come across a person through whom the title of A CHRISTIAN is seen in all its essence.

Ivy was one such person who lived out her faith in so many ways. A keen member of the church here in the parish of St James, Ivy was, until her increasing disability a regular and popular part of our congregation, a member of our Electoral Roll and helper in so many ways.

Even when mobility forced her to give up her much-loved bungalow, she continued to live the faith – as a resident at Chestnut Court she still maintained her faith. She always looked forward to our monthly Eucharist services and other occasions when I visited her.

This was to last right until the end of her life when I was able to give her the Sacrament, and later shortly before she died, the last rites of Holy Anointing when she clearly realised what this meant to her.

So yes, Ivy was able to live her life of faith right to the end, helped by the presence of her closest relatives and dedicated care of the staff of the home.

So yes – it is through the life of Ivy and others like her that the Christian church is what it is to so many people.

SO DEAR IVY  
REST IN PEACE – AND RISE IN GLORY!

**Fr Hugh. Editor.**

# Christmas Fayre 2019





# Christmas Fayre 2019

The Christmas Fair raised £2,425.61. Thank you to everyone who took part, either by volunteering or supporting us on the day.

It is always nice to receive positive comments. One outside trader, who has never been with us before remarked,

*"I just wanted to say thank you for looking after us so well with the tea and chocolate, much appreciated. It was a lovely atmosphere at the event and well attended so I hope you are pleased and raised lots."*

*Kind regards J C*

## *Lovell's Food for thought!*

A little story I read recently, with reference to Lamentations Chapter 3 v 25,

*The Lord is good to them that wait on him, to the soul that seeks him.*

An elderly man was dying with heart failure and gasping for breath, when his wife said, "My dear, I don't know why the Lord's allowing you to suffer like this". Struggling, he faintly replied, "He's not finished with me yet; He's still taking off the rough edges, and preparing me for glory".

Wait on Him. He'll come for you when He's ready.





*Di Allen and Father Hugh with wrapped boxes for the 'Shoe box' appeal. The boxes were blessed during a Sunday morning service*

Operation Christmas Child is a project of the Samaritans Purse. The project is based on the simple idea of a gift-filled shoebox for needy children overseas which gives them the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. Shoeboxes for 2019 were sent to needy children to 11 countries across Europe, Central Asia the middle East and Africa.

Thank you so much for taking part in Operation Christmas Child for 2019.

St James' Church Shoebox appeal is part of a UK Wide appeal that meant hundreds of thousands of children received gifts for Christmas which they loved and will never forget.

Di Allen

## **From a church notice board...**

The sermon this morning:

"Jesus Walks on the Water."

The sermon tonight:

"Searching for Jesus."

At the evening service tonight,  
the sermon topic will be

"What Is Hell?"

– come early and listen to our  
choir practice.

Weight Watchers will meet

at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

Please use large double door at the  
side entrance.

## **... and finally**

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Granny, look what I've found" he called out. "What have you got there dear?" his Grandma asked. With astonishment in his voice the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

# Saint James' Chit -Chat

Relax and meet new friends!

**Thursday Morning  
10.00am -12noon**

**Saint James' Church  
School Lane  
Quedgeley  
GL2 4PN**

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## Saint James CHATTERBOX

...time for fun!



[www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk)

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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**

**Kingsway Community Centre**

**Saturday 11.00am –12noon**

**[www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk)**

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