

Around the Spire

Quedgeley & Kingsway
MARCH 2020

ISSUE No 55



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Calendar for March

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| SUNDAY 1 st | FIRST OF LENT Parish Eucharist (said) 9.30a.m. S.T.J Family Service 10.30 a.m. With drama, music, crafts, refreshments. |
| SATURDAY 7 th | Stations of the Cross 10.15 PARISH LENT COURSE 11.00 'PRAYER - Refreshments |
| SUNDAY 8 th | SECOND OF LENT Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30 |
| SATURDAY 14 th | Stations of the Cross 10.15 PARISH LENT COURSE 11.00 'HOSPITALITY ' Refreshments |
| SUNDAY 15 th | THIRD OF LENT Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30 |
| SATURDAY 21 st | Stations of the Cross 10.15 PARISH LENT COURSE 11.00 'REFLECTION' Refreshments |
| SUNDAY 22 nd | MOTHERING SUNDAY Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30 <i>SOMETHING FOR THE MUMS ON MOTHERING SUNDAY ??</i> |
| WEDNESDAY 25 th | FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION Holy Eucharist 10.00 & 7.30pm |
| SATURDAY 28 th | Stations of the Cross 10.15 PARISH LENT GROUP 11.00 'RE-CREATION' – Refreshments |
| SUNDAY 29 th | PASSION SUNDAY Parish Sung Eucharist 10.30 |



PLEASE NOTE – Last of the Parish Lent Course— on WORK – Saturday April 4th

REFRESHMENTS & SOCIAL TIME AFTER
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES
**For weekday services and activities please consult our
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
available in church each Sunday**

Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



THE BENEDICTINE WAY PART THREE

Our former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has just this last month produced a new book with the title

‘THE WAY OF ST BENEDICT’

This could hardly be more timely as we explore just this -The Benedictine Way!

I have only read the first few chapters, but already realise just how appropriate this is for us - it is a very readable book as Fr. Rowan seeks to explain just how relevant St Benedict's way of life is for our own times.

As already explained, this is what we hope to explore in this Holy season of Lent. You will see elsewhere in this magazine the order in which we shall deal with the five parts which make up the Benedictine Rule of Life.

Following an Introductory Session by Father John, on the successive Saturday morning in Lent we shall deal with the five points of the Benedictine 'RULE OF LIFE'. Each session will be led by a member of the clergy in this parish; before each session starts there will be the opportunity to lead the priest in 'Stations of the Cross' around the church. The session will have a talk by the leader on that particular part of the Rule. There will then be ample time for questions and contributions by those present. We also hope to be able to join together with a soup and roll snack before we go on our way.

It is my hope and prayer that a good number of our church members will feel moved to take part in this Lenten exercise.

I do believe that this is what God is calling us, as the Christian family at St James to do at this stage in our lives, so please do respond if at all possible.

**SO PLEASE, RIGHT NOW DO THIS;
STOP; THINK; PRAY; BE STILL; – NOW ASK YOURSELF CAN I RESPOND TO HIM IN THIS WAY?**

Now there will be those who read this who respond to point out that Saturday mornings are just not possible for a variety of reasons.

Never fear! If those people let us know, then we will make some provision for you. After all, we are a FAMILY in this Church and all are equally important.

SO THIS COMES TO YOU WITH MY LOVE AND PRAYERS!

Father Hugh
xx

***Rowan Williams book is now readily available should you wish to buy a copy. It is published by Bloomsbury @£12-99.
If you let me know I can obtain it for you at a small discount!***

On the record - with the Rector

Rev'd. Canon Fr. John F Ward



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As I glance out of the window, I notice it is still raining. It seems to have been raining for the best part of a fortnight and still there is no let-up in the weather. Flooding is set to occur again – perhaps not as severe as 2007 but enough for many homes up and down the country to be flooded. The local agencies, volunteers and local churches are doing what they can to help those affected. Some people have remarked ‘We’d be better off living in an Ark’.

When I think and re read the story of Noah and the Ark I can understand why, but it is fair to say we are not about to see the extinction of human kind in the same way that Noah did ! Yet Noah, through all his doubts and fears, being ridiculed by his neighbours and probably by members of his own family, believed in the word of God. He believed that God would deliver and keep his promise and so it was – Noah and his family survived.

As we embark on our Lent journey there are similarities between Christ and Noah. Christ sought solitude in the wilderness, wrestling with his own thoughts. We can only surmise what was going through his mind. Just like Noah he had doubts - should he continue down the path God, his Father had chosen for him or ditch it all, go back to Nazareth and disappear in the crowd? Or should he continue knowing that he would probably experience a brutal and harrowing death? Could he trust God? Just like Noah it took courage to follow God’s word.

For all of us, following God’s word is sometimes not easy. It can be challenging. Doing the wrong thing or doing nothing at all can often seem easier than doing the correct thing.

As we experience our Lent journey towards Easter I hope you will sense the pain and the conflict that our Lord endured through his final days. As we celebrate the joy of Easter I hope you will take heart that God kept his promise and like Christ we can rest assured that our belief and faith in God will triumph in the end, just like Christ, we too shall enjoy life eternal.

With every blessing

Fr. John

Lent & Easter Quiz



Write your answers to the questions below on a piece of paper along with your name and telephone number. Post in the box provided (on the table in the church).

Final date for entries 31st March.

All entries with correct answers will be entered into a draw. The first three correct entries drawn will be awarded an Easter Egg.

No age limit—everyone welcome to take part !

**TO BE DRAWN EASTER SUNDAY AFTER
SUNDAY SERVICE IN CHURCH!**

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?
3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?
5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?
6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?
7. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
8. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
9. The priests took the money that Judas had returned to them and did what with it?
10. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?
11. A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In Mark 15 we are told the names of Simon's two sons. What were their names?
12. What was the inscription above the cross?
13. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
14. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask a question. Who were these men?
15. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

FROM THE REGISTERS IN JANUARY

HOLY MARRIAGE

JANUARY

25th GRANT PROUD & KATIE HALLETT

“Those whom God has joined together”

FUNERALS

8th NEIL MARTIN WILTSHIRE (83)

15th ELEANOR MAY FLOYD (91)

20th TERENCE JOHN BARNES (81)

20th JUTTA GERTRUDE MACAULAY (90)

“Rest Eternal grant them O Lord”



Saint James' Church Quedgeley

- Do you live in Quedgeley or Kingsway?
- Are you looking to organise a wedding or baptism?
- Have you considered Saint James?

**Come and visit us at the Church office, in church—Wednesday 5.30pm-6.30pm
Saturday 9.00am –10.00am**

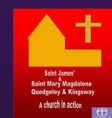


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UK**

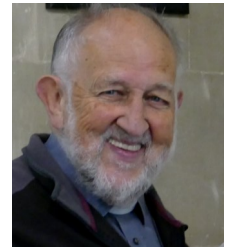
Community Coffee Morning

**St. James' Church
Friday 27th March**

10.00am -12noon



Your Editor Fr. Hugh Broad



SHOEBOX JOY!!

Regular readers of this magazine will recall the item in our January edition entitled OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Through the generosity of many of our parishioners we were able to send a good number of shoeboxes filled with goodies for needy children in 11 countries.

We have now been told that our boxes were part of a staggering total of 56,265 which were sent to Belarus in 2019.

WHERE IS BELARUS?

It is a country in Eastern Europe, east of Poland with a population of 9,527,543 with 16% under the age of 15.

This organisation – samaritans-purse.org.uk sent a team from the UK to see the distribution of some of these boxes in that country.

For example they saw two young boys in an orphanage with impaired vision and the team were there when they opened their shoeboxes and carefully examined each item inside; either by holding them close to their faces or by feeling them. They were so delighted with their new gifts!

The report from Belarus contains this and several other touching stories, and it is a lovely late Christmas present to us here to witness these stories – it makes our effort so worthwhile!

The report includes more stories and some lovely pictures which sadly will not reproduce with our equipment.

By the time you read this, I hope that there will be some copies of this in church for you to read.

I close this item with another part of their report -
It is called GALINA'S STORY.

Galina is a teacher in an orphanage in Brest, Belarus.

Every Christmas, Operation Christmas Child volunteers would come and visit this orphanage to distribute gift boxes. Galina heard the Christmas message so many times. She saw people playing with the children and loving them.

She says - "I watched them and thought, who are these people and where did they get so much glow and love from? Why do they do this? The boys and girls were always happy to see volunteers and receive a gift box.

I am so thankful to all those who work for this project because our children receive so much love through these gifts – every gift is a real treasure"

Fr. Hugh Broad



PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

AN EXERCISE FOR LENT.

***“RECEIVE THIS BOOK,
AS A SIGN OF THE AUTHORITY
WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THIS DAY
TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
AND TO MINISTER HIS HOLY SACRAMENTS”***

It seems a long time since the Bishop of Hereford, Mark Hodson said those words to me, having just admitted me to the Sacred Priesthood of the Church. Indeed it is a long time ago – September 29th 1968.

So why indulge in this date from the past at this time?

It is for this reason - the sacred scriptures of the Church have always been for me the rock of my faith, day by day in the worship of the Daily Office of the Church in Morning and Evening Prayer which every priest pledges to use each day.

I pass these thoughts on to you, dear reader, whoever you are – churchgoer or not, because I am convinced that these thoughts can apply to you, specially as we observe this Holy Season of Lent together in the family of the Church.

But how can it apply to me? That is a good question!
So let me explain, and show you how and why.

This passage was one of the readings appointed for the Daily Office and has so much to say to us all, do please read, and as they say -mark, learn and inwardly digest!

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven;
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what has been planted
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh,;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

It is my hope and prayer, dear reader, that you may take these words from scripture to heart, and that they may mean as much to you as they do to me!

FR HUGH



WHY GO TO CHURCH?

There's a lovely story about a grown-up son who lives with his mother.

Mother shouts up the stairs one morning 'Get up, its time to get ready for Church'. The sleepy reply came – 'I don't want to go – its boring and I get nothing from it'.

Mother retorts -'You know you have to go – we brought you up to. Besides, because you happen to be the Vicar they might just miss you!

So what does motivate us to go to church on a Sunday morning? After all, there is so much more that we could be doing at the time. We could go with the hundreds of others to the nearby supermarket or garden centre; or a trip to the seaside with the family -or even just stay at home and have a stroll to the nearest pub for a pint (or two).

But in spite of all this we do we go to church on Sunday morning. We do so because in our hearts we know that as Christians we are called to do this – called by our Lord.

Our local church may not be the most scintillating in the world but it is the 'Heart of our Faith' and does have so much to offer if we enter into it with heart and soul.

In the great drama of the Eucharist, we find, in this service so much that is to learn and grow .

If conducted with care and vision it can help us on our spiritual journey. To have opportunity to share in the life of Jesus Christ in the consecrated bread and wine, it is made so special.

It is our practice along with most Anglican churches to welcome all who are Baptised (Christened) of any age to receive Holy Communion, and this does have a real effect on the lives of so many, even if they have not been in the habit of going to church before!

So do come along to St James at 10.30 on a Sunday morning!

Come along with an open mind in the hope of being fulfilled – you will be assured of a warm welcome and in no time at all feel you are among friends.

Father Hugh.

Please note – Articles for APRIL edition should reach the Editor by 8TH MARCH latest. Please send them to The Editor, Fr. Hugh Broad email address: hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk



Kate Moss Headteacher, Bishop Robert and Jo Grills Chair of Governors, with pupils from Clearwater Primary Academy

New school in the making...

The Diocese of Gloucester recently issued this press release:-

'Building works have begun on the long-awaited permanent site for the Clearwater Church of England Primary Academy this week.

The 67 children on roll at Clearwater are currently attending school in a unit on the Olympus Park Business Park in Quedgeley. They are incredibly excited about the plans for their new school building.

Headteacher Kate Moss said: "We're delighted that building work is starting on our new building. The children are very engaged with the local community in the business park and went carol singing to neighbouring businesses and care homes, but of course, we are keen to move onto our permanent site. Having a building of our own will give the families a stronger sense of stability and security. The bespoke facilities will allow us to continue to provide education of the highest standard as our school grows."

The children are very excited about their new school. Current reception student Kaira-mai said, "I'm so excited about my new school because it's going to be next to my house and then I can ride my scooter."

Revd. Canon John Ward, whose parish the new school will be situated in welcomed the new build saying 'This is a much needed school. I'm pleased that the building is finally underway and will be watching its progress with interest'

Times & Seasons: Passiontide

By Revd. Fr. Ian Robb

I



The climax of Lent - the victory is about to be won:

No one knows when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ, but all four gospel-accounts make it clear that these two weeks, at the end of Lent, are the most significant in the whole of Jesus' earthly ministry.

This "Pascha" (a word derived indirectly from pesach, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the "Pascha" developed into the structure of Holy Week and Easter as we now know it. When we take part in the whole sequence of services, we share in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

The procession with palms, which was already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, begins outside the church building on a note of joyful celebration as Jesus the king enters Jerusalem to confront those who are opposed to him. The Eucharist of Palm Sunday includes the reading of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated and is told in dramatic form. During the first days of Holy Week, we remember Jesus teaching in the Temple, drawing crowds to him while the opposition gathers in the background. We remember that at this particular festival-time for the Jewish community the city must have been full of pilgrims, gathering for the great celebration of Passover, and no doubt drawn by the words of this welcoming new rabbi.



The title "Maundy" Thursday comes from "mandatum", the Latin word for 'commandment', because of the use of John 13.34 in the introduction to the service: "A new commandment I give unto you...". It contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ's washing of his disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ's loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After our celebration of the Last Supper, the Body & Blood of Christ are conveyed to the Altar of Repose, which is our reminder of the Garden of Gethsemane, and it is there that we keep vigil in response to Our Lord's question: "*Could you not watch with me one hour?*" The church building is plunged into near-darkness and the door slams as Judas the betrayer leaves, following Jesus' instruction: "*That which you must do, do quickly*". After keeping watch, we leave the church in silence.



Thursday passes into Good Friday with its two characteristic episodes, the Veneration of the Cross - a very old tradition, and the keeping of silence within worship. The "*tree of shame*" has become the sign of victory and the gateway to new life, so it is right and proper that on this day of all days we spend time before the cross in reflection, penitence, and intercession. The gospels tell us that the crucifixion of Jesus began at about nine in the morning and came to an end at three in the afternoon, so it is right that our worship should reach its silent climax then. Some churches mark the moment by the tolling of a bell thirty-three times.

While there is not a full celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday, it is customary for the consecrated bread and wine remaining from the Maundy Thursday Eucharist to be given in communion on this day. St Paul reminds us that: *"When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."* The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day; the church building becomes the tomb – I know a church which seals its door with a large boulder which is removed only when the Resurrection has been proclaimed. Holy Saturday is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of recalling the being dead of the Son of God, other than silence and desolation. But within the silence there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

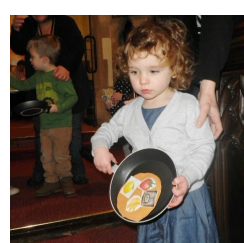
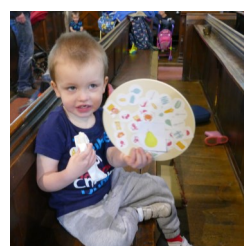


This solemn season preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories. At the same time, the services and ceremonies of Holy Week have in the course of Christian history been the occasion of, or have actively encouraged, hostility towards the Jews. The *"Ioudaioi"* - the Jewish Elders in Jerusalem, mentioned in St John's Gospel - have all too easily been identified with 'the Jews' as a whole, or more specifically those Jews who were neighbours of a Christian church. This places a double responsibility on those who lead the keeping of Holy Week today: to be faithful to the act of collective memory – it was OUR sins which were the cause of His Passion and which led him to Calvary.

It is only in observing all the events of Holy Week, and remembering the great sacrifice of Our Lord, that we can truly share in the joys of Easter.

Fr. Ian

Chatterbox Pancake Day Race



Since Chatterbox began almost 7 years ago we have always run a Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday. Youngsters are encouraged to race up and down the aisles. Our 'pancakes' produced by the youngsters have taken on many forms over the years. Some have been decorated—very artistically—even Picasso would have been proud of them! Some have taken on strange faces, but ALL the pancakes are entered in the race. Last year we gave out medals—everyone a winner!



SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE with SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

Quedgeley & Kingsway

LENT COURSE – 2020

ASH WEDNESDAY – 26th February

The Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

This year's Parish Lent Course takes the theme of
"Finding God through..."

The Holy Eucharist - 29th February – Fr John

Prayer - 7th March – Fr Hugh

Hospitality - 14th March – Fr Michael

Reflection – 21st March - Fr Ian

Re-Creation - 28th March – Fr Gordon

Work – 4th April - Revd. Jenny

The course will begin at **11.00am** and finish about **12.30pm** in church
with a nice mug of
Soup and Fresh Bread from the **7th March** to help us on our way.
Please make this Lent Course part of your Lent discipline. – Fr John.



Summer Fair

Saturday 13th June

1.30pm - 4.00pm

Saint James' Church

**Quedgeley
GL2 4PN**

In Quedgeley Community Centre if raining



**Stalls Refreshments Music
Raffle**



Summer Raffle

Tickets £1.00 each

1st Prize £100 CASH

Tickets available from
April onwards!



Summer Fayre 2019



STJ'S FAMILY WORSHIP & PRAISE



Does anyone remember the first STJ's?



STJ's Candelmas 2020



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



REFRESHMENTS . NEWSPAPERS. MUSIC. BOARD GAMES

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Saint James CHATTERBOX

... time for fun!

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk



Parent, Baby and Toddler 'Drop-in' St. James Church
Quedgeley Every Tuesday 9.30am -11.00am

**Healthy
Snacks**

**Lots of
Toys**



**Messy
glue**

**Refreshments
available**

Who's Who in the Parish

Rector & Parish Priest The Revd Canon Fr. John F. Ward

01452 720411

Mobile 07967 636094 email-jfmw23@gmail.com

| Assistant Priests | Land line | Mobile | Email address |
|------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Revd. Canon Hugh Broad | 01452 541078 | 07928 455674 | hugh .broad@yahoo.co.uk |
| Revd, Ian Robb | 01452 676059 | 07962 469250 | la_jdr@lineone.net |
| Revd Jenny D'Esterre | 01453 890384 | 07540 322 744 | revdjenny@gmail.com |
| Revd. Gordon Ripley | 01452 883399 |  | gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com |
| Revd. Canon Michael Garland | 01452 720872 |  | michaelgarland368@btinternet.com |
| Revd Ann Morris |  |  | rev.ann@btinternet.com |
| Churchwardens | | | |
| Mr Ian Pearce | 01452 725178 | 07867 502469 | lanlu123@hotmail.com |
| Mr Paul Price | 01452 537464 | 07595 264559 | thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk |
| PCC Secretary- Mrs Lu Pearce | 01452 725178 | 07867 502469 | lanlu123@hotmail.com |
| PCC Treasurer– Mrs Lesley |  | 07780 503378 | lesleyfranklin@aol.com |
| Chatterbox/Chit Chat -Jackie | 01452 721062 | 07853217954 | jacqueline.lhall@btinternet.com |
| Knit & Natter—Angie Wright |  | 078447462416 | angiewright@btinternet.com |
| Organist /Musicians – | 01452 534105 | 07811589867 | bonebaldwin@hotmail.co.uk |
| Chris Baldwin | | | |
| Baptism Ministry Team- | 01452 722223 |  | valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk |
| Flower Arrangers—Val Harris | 01452 722223 |  | valerieharris@hotmail.co.uk |
| Bell ringers– Dave Franklin | | 07899907125 | dfepc-qsjbells@yahoo.com |
| Open the Book—Liz Keenan | 01452 722320 | | mrs.e.ekeen@btinternet.com |
| Altar Servers—Angela Hughes | 01452 722825 | 07984265977 | angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk |

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