



AROUND THE SPIRE

May 2018 - Number 33

**THE PARISH OF SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE
QUEDGELEY and KINGSWAY**

PARISH PROGRAMME for May...

HERE ARE THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

- SUNDAY 6th** **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Parish Eucharist 9.30am
STJ FAMILY SERVICE, 10.30am
with special activities for children & refreshments
- THURSDAY 10th** **ASCENSION DAY**
Holy Eucharist 7.30pm
- SUNDAY 13th** **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Parish Eucharist, 10.30am
with play area for children and refreshments
Holy Baptism 1.00pm
- SUNDAY 20th** **THE FEAST OF PENTECOST**
Parish Eucharist, 10.30am
with play area for children and refreshments
Holy Baptisms 1.00 & 2.00pm
- SUNDAY 27th** **TRINITY SUNDAY**
Parish Eucharist, 10.30am
with play area for children and refreshments
- THURSDAY 31st** **FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI**
Holy Eucharist 7.30pm

*DO COME TO JOIN US AS MUCH AS YOU CAN FOR THIS MOST
WONDERFUL AND MOVING WEEK IN THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR!*

Further details of weekday services and events are to be found in the WEEKLY NEWSLETTER published each Sunday. Copies are always available in the Church.

COPY FOR June MAGAZINE - to Father Hugh please no later than Sunday May 13th.

Electronic or Back Copies can be made available if required. Please email the Editor, hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk, if required.

EDITORIAL – 'BEING A BORN OPTIMIST'

I will remember being told by the Bishop who ordained me half a century ago, that one of the necessary qualities of being a parish priest was to be – A BORN OPTIMIST! Amongst the examples quoted was that a church which was half empty was also half full!

I often think back on that statement and realise that it can be a very important ingredient in parish life as we seek to fulfil the tasks which confront us.



Father Hugh blesses newly hatched chicks at Chestnut Court

Clearly for any true Christian, the opposite of being optimistic will not get us very far! As we seek to follow Christ day by day as disciples in our own time we do need to be positive in our outlook.

NOT JUST FOR THE CLERGY!

Clearly those of us who are ordained need to have a thirst for mission in what we seek to do, but this is also important for all those who are members of the church. This is true in the parish situation whether it is a very large urban situation like this parish of St James in Quedgeley, or a rural area like many parts of the Diocese of Gloucester.

ANSWERING GOD'S CALLS

Quite rightly Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert our giving us an encouraging lead in this, and by the time you read this article we shall have heard Bishop Rachel speaking about this on her visit to our church. Vocation – answering God's call should clearly be a top priority for any Christian congregation and you and I whoever we are have part to play in all this.

YES, BUT HOW?

The possibilities are endless and vary from person to person, but I am convinced that God has a task for each one of us whatever our background or way of life. HOW? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

It is my hope and prayer that I will be enabled in future issues of this magazine to present to you, the reader, some of the answers to these questions, and I do believe that each and every one of us can have a part to play in this.

SO WATCH THIS SPACE!

Wth my love and prayers.

Father Hugh

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### ***A Sponsored Walk***

On Saturday 30th June Jill and I will be taking part in The Cotswold Way Challenge Sponsored Walk in aid of the charity Epilepsy Research UK. We aim to walk the first Quarter, which is 25Km (that's about 16 miles) of the Cotswold Way, beginning in Bath and finishing at Tormarton. If you would like to sponsor us, we would be delighted; you can do so with us directly, or through our "Just Giving" page which is being set up on the internet. We are hoping for fine weather and a following breeze on the day!

*Thanking you in anticipation, Fr Ian & Jill.*

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FROM THE REGISTERS IN MARCH

HOLY BAPTISM:

11th FABIAN CRUZ STEPHENS of Deerhurst Place
KATIE CORNFORTH of Miller's Dyke

"Welcome into the Lord's Family!"

FUNERALS:

23th BETTY USTED (94)
25th PAMELA HOWARD (85)

"Rest Eternal, grant to them O Lord!"

You Visit St James' church regularly...

BUT how *well* do you know the building?

Did you spot this cross...?

It's in the window in the North Aisle.

So, where might the 'vase' below be found...?? Don't be confused by the reflection!!



...Answer next month!

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## ***Snippets...***

So, if you are burdened and weary, and feeling discouraged a bit, Remember this path leads to heaven. Press onward, for winners don't quit.

*Words by Janet Fleming, Submitted by Lovell Cornwall.*

## ***KNIT AND NATTER NEWS***

Knit and Natter made £55 for church funds selling knitted Easter chicks. A big thank you to those who knitted chicks, sold them or bought them, including those at Chit Chat and Chatterbox.

*Angie Wright*

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A Communion of Silence

Push open the Church door and go in.

It may make a noise but there'll be no one else here at this time of day.

There will be shadows and the smell of flowers and polish.

There may be a guide sheet, perhaps flags hanging down.

You'll see memorials and old words: relict, a faithful servant and now at rest.

But what you'll begin to feel is the silence that only Churches have within them.

An absence of sound that has a quality all its own.

It has thickness and wraps itself around you.

Don't worry, there's nothing to be scared about.

It's only the building remembering the past.

It remembers the different generations who have been here.

Each person who loved it before they passed on.

Passed on but leaving a small spark of their love behind them.

A small spark of love that, like wood and stone, became part of the building.

You are here by yourself but you are not alone.

The Church and it's past are joining you in silent communion.

Raymond Wright

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## ***Snippets...***

...I have an impressive bank of knowledge but I can't remember the password to my account

...The older I get the better I was

...Despite the high cost of living it remains very popular

# Saint James CHATTERBOX

... *time for fun!*

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



## **Parent, Baby and Toddler ‘Drop –in’ St. James Church Quedgeley** **Every Tuesday 9.30am - 11.00am**

What a busy month we had over the Easter period. The children really enjoyed the craft activity making Easter cards and Easter chicks. Our refreshment table was packed with bunny biscuits and bunny cheese sandwiches! The youngsters loved them.

Our ‘doorman’ Lovell Cornwall turned 80 in April so we celebrated his birthday. Lovell has welcomed many parents and their children to Chatterbox over the last few years and I know many former Chatterboxers and their parents were keen to wish Lovell all the very best. A superb cake was made by Deb Llewellyn.

We also welcomed Revd Jenny d’Esterre formerly from Matson who has now come to Saint James’ to assist Father John. I’m sure Jenny will become a familiar face at our future sessions.

Finally, after an Egg and Spoon race down the aisles – everyone a winner, receiving a medal from Father John, the youngsters were all given an Easter egg to take home with them.

Keep up with our events and activities by visiting our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChatterbox/>

# SAINT JAMES' CHURCH AT WORK AND PLAY







# SAINT JAMES CHIT-CHAT

*Relax and meet new friends!*



**EVERY THURSDAY AT SAINT JAMES CHURCH**  
**QUEDGELEY 10.00AM - 12NOON FOR THE NOT**  
**SO YOUNG BUT YOUNG AT HEART!**

Thankfully, the weather turned a little warmer during April and we noticed a few more new faces joining us. Numbers are on the increase. It has been commented that our success is leading us to outgrowing our venue! It would be nice to have additional space but without major refurbishment it just won't be possible.

Last month we celebrated several birthdays but Gordon Price topped the chart at reaching 90 years of age.

Thank you to all our volunteers – Tricia Cook who provides yummy cakes and sandwiches, Pat Hall, and Angela Knight. Also to Father John, Paul Price and Father Hugh for ensuring the church is ready for action on a Thursday morning and to Cllr Richard Cook who helps to tidy away.

Without you Chit Chat would not be the success that it is.

If you would like more information on Chit Chat then please visit our website [www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk)

Give us a ring on 01452 721062 if you'd like more information.

*Jackie*

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## “SITS VAC”

As promised in the March magazine, here are the first such opportunities of serving your Church here in Quedgeley and Kingsway.

**Assistant Treasurers** – Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help. More volunteers welcome...

**BELLRINGERS** – to ring for service, weddings, special occasions, fitness, exercise, fellowship...

**BAPTISMAL ASSISTANTS** – to assist the clergy in contacts with the families of those who seek Holy Baptism...

**SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS** – to offer hospitality after the service...

So these are the first of several such opportunities to help serve your church here. Please contact one of the clergy via the (contact details on the back cover of this magazine if you would like to take this further.

*Fr Hugh*

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St James ‘100 Club’ Monthly Prize Draw

“You have to be in it to win it!”

We have been running our monthly draw since June 2014, and have so far raised nearly £1500 towards the Restoration Fund.

How it works: **50%** is given towards the **Saint James Church restoration project**, **35%** is presented as the **First prize**, and **15%** as the **second prize**. *The actual amounts will vary dependent on the numbers entered for the month”*

Only **£6 each number** per period of six months and **new members are very welcome to join**.

Please see the Rules and complete an application form from the box by church door. We are now collecting money for entries for the June-November 2018 draws. Please give the envelope with your name and the money to Ann or Lesley by 20th May. Thank you.

Forest Gump and the Pearly Gates

At the closed pearly gates, Forest Gump is met by St. Peter, himself, who said “Well Forest, it is certainly good to see you. Heaven is filling up, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short but you have to pass it before you can get into heaven.”

“It is good to be here, St. Peter” replied Forest. “But nobody told me about an entrance exam. I hope that it will not be too hard. Life was a big enough test for me.”

St. Peter continued “No. I know Forest, but the test is only three questions. First, what two days of the week begin with the letter T. Second, how many seconds are there in a year. Third, What is God’s first name?”

Forest leaves to think the questions over. Returning the next day, St. Peter waves him up and says “Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers” Forest replied “Well, the first – which two days in the week begin with the letter T? Shucks that’s easy Today and Tomorrow”

St. Peter's eyes opened wide as he exclaimed “That was not what I am thinking, but you have a point, and I did not specify, so I will give you credit for the first answer.

“How about the second question? How many seconds in a year?” “That’s harder” replied Forest. “but I think and think about it, and I guess the only answer is twelve”.

Astounded St. Peter said “Twelve Forest? How in heaven’s name did you come up with twelve seconds in a year?” Forest replied “Shucks. There’s got to be twelve. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...” St. Peter said “Forest hold it, I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind. But I will have to give you credit for that one too.

“Now let us go on to the final question. Now Can you tell me God’s first name?” “Sure” replied Forest “It’s Andy” “Andy” exclaimed an exasperated St. Peter. “Oh I understand how you came up with the answers to my first two questions. But how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as God’s first name?”

“Shucks, that was the easiest one of all” Forest replied “I learned it from the song ‘Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am his own’”
So St. Peter opened the pearly gates and said: “Come on in Forest.”

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## ***Help if we Can***

May will see 50 members and friends of Help if we Can once again in Belgium to take part in the Menin Gate Ceremony, for quite a few of us this will be the 10th time visiting the Ypres Salient and paying our respects to those who gave their lives for us between 1914-18. May they rest in peace. This year we are sponsoring some cadets to travel with us from the Police, Fire and Army groups.

July is approaching and on the 1st with a street procession starting at 1200 noon, we will be holding the World War 1 Centenary Tournament at Fishers Meadow, this has taken 2 years to plan and we have been so lucky to receive so much support for this Sunday afternoon event which finishes with a Drum Head Service led by our Chaplain the Reverend John Ward and featuring the Cotswold Male Voice Choir and Gloucester Brass. Do come along and watch arena events and see static displays with police horses, paramedic motorcycles, bands, Ambulance Service, Police Dog, Fire Service and lots of others and of course take a part in the Drum Head.

A Car Boot is also happening at Fishers Meadow and this is on Sunday 8th July from noon.

The boat trip on the Thames from Windsor is almost full and this is on Sunday 12th August.

September 13th is our bi-annual visit to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire, the coach is filling.

More information on any of these and to book a seat for the coach trips contact 01452 725343, office open between 6.00pm-8.00pm Monday to Friday. All welcome

*Steve Smith - Chairman 2016-18*

# ***“Times and Seasons”:* The Christian Year**

## **Ascension & Pentecost:**

Ascension Day is one of the major feasts of the Christian year; it is kept on the fortieth day after Easter and it marks the solemn close of the Lord's earthly ministry and the end of the series of appearances which he made to the disciples after His resurrection. St Luke describes what took place in the second volume of his work, the Acts of the Apostles, and notes how the eleven wondered if this is to be the time that the “Kingdom will be restored to Israel”. There are also implicit references to the Ascension in the letters to the Ephesians, to the Hebrews, to Timothy, and in the first letter of Peter.

The significance of the Ascension consists in the fact that Christ's human nature was taken into heaven, from where he now exercises all power in heaven and on earth. Lifted from the earth, he is now no longer confined or constricted, and we can truly claim Jesus as Lord of All, equal in majesty and divinity with the Father.

His Ascension into heaven seals his victory over evil, suffering, and death. While this great event signals the end of one ministry, it is also the beginning of another – that of the infant Church. Jesus' last instruction to the disciples was to “stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” - then they were to go out and carry on the work he had begun.

Ten days later they were indeed all together; the Jewish community around was observing the feast of Pentecost – the Feast of Weeks, which marked the completion of the grain harvest, fifty days (the Greek word is “Pentecost”) after the offering of the barley sheaf on the feast of unleavened bread, commemorating the giving of the Law on Sinai. No doubt the small Christian community in Jerusalem would have celebrating the feast – remembering the Lord's insistence that the Law would not be changed or removed, and that it formed the basis of all his teachings to them.

While they were engaged in the feast, St Luke, again in the Acts, describes how the Holy Spirit of God was bestowed upon each of them, confirming them in their new role as Apostles and empowering them for their new work in Jesus' name. The Christian feast of Pentecost not only celebrates God the Holy Spirit but also is rightly kept as the birthday of the Christian Church and the completion of the Easter season. At some point during the fourth century it became a major feast day in its own right and was the

second preferred date, after the Easter Vigil, for the administration of Holy Baptism. (Many of us will remember the Sunday by another title – Whitsunday – a name acquired from the ceremony of clothing in white robes those who had just been baptised; “White Sunday” eventually becoming “Whitsunday” and the custom of “Whit walks” recalled the procession from the church to the place of baptism and back.) It is entirely appropriate that Baptism is linked to the feast of Pentecost because all of Christ's disciples are born again of water and the Spirit. It is also important to keep the link between Ascension and Pentecost. The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit.

In the beginning of the Church life, only adults were baptised, and only then after a period of instruction – usually given during the weeks of Lent. The sacrament of baptism was then administered together with the laying-on of hands and anointing with holy oil (the sacrament we now know as “Confirmation”), and the newly-baptised would then be welcomed into the existing congregation and share in the Eucharist for the first time. It is easy to understand how new Christians, who also happened to be parents, wanted to share this wonderful experience with their children, and also to protect them in a time when infant-mortality rates were very high, so the practice of Infant Baptism came into being with parents and godparents making the solemn vows on behalf of the child. (It is worth noting that in the Orthodox tradition babies are also confirmed and communicated at their baptism, reassuring everyone that they are indeed full members of the Church, the Body of Christ on Earth. In our Anglican tradition, we celebrate Confirmation as an occasion for the re-making of Baptismal vows by those not old enough to speak for themselves, making firm what has already been promised.

The Feast of the Ascension this year falls on 10th May and Pentecost on 20th May.

We look forward to your celebrating with us in St James! We also look forward to our celebration of Confirmation in September. (If you have not been confirmed, it is still not too late to come forward; there is always room for one more! Have a quiet word with Fr John.)

*To be continued... Fr. Ian*

# Who's Who in the Parish

## ***Rector of St James***

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## ***EXTENDED CHURCH OFFICE, in the vestry***

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

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