

AROUND THE SPIRE



The parish of Saint James the Apostle and

Saint Mary Magdalene.

Quedgeley & Kingsway

April 2019 Number 44

PARISH PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

HERE ARE THE MAIN EVENTS IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

SUNDAY APRIL 7th PASSION SUNDAY

SAID EUCHARIST 9.30a.m.

S.T.J. FAMILY SERVICE for old and young alike at
10.30a.m.

Do come and join us – activities, music, readings etc. An opportunity to meet and greet others with refreshments as well.

SUNDAY APRIL 14th PALM SUNDAY

PROCESSION OF PALMS & PARISH EUCHARIST 10.30a.m.

With distribution of palm crosses.

Activities for children and refreshments.

THURSDAY APRIL 18th MAUNDY THURSDAY

CHRISM EUCHARIST & RENEWAL OF ORDINATION VOWS

Gloucester Cathedral 11.00a.m.

LITURGY OF THE LAST SUPPER & WASHING OF THE FEET
in church 7.30p.m.

Followed by Vigil of Prayer until 9.00p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 19th GOOD FRIDAY

The Day of the Cross

LITURGY OF THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION 2.00p.m.

SUNDAY APRIL 21 EASTER DAY - THE QUEEN OF FESTIVALS

EASTER CEREMONIES and HOLY COMMUNION FOR ALL

10.00a.m.

Activities for children and refreshments

N.B. Please note earlier time!

Do come and join us as much as you are able in the worship of this holiest of weeks!

Further details of these services and other worship and activities please see our **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER** which is published each Sunday – copies always available in church.

Please note – copy for possible inclusion in the MAY edition of this magazine should reach the Editor, Fr. Hugh Broad by SUNDAY 14TH APRIL at the latest. email address: hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

Your Editor - Fr. Hugh Broad



WELCOME TO THE GREATEST DRAMA THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

The rather different cover design this month seeks to illustrate the great drama of Holy Week! The four pictures surround that of our Parish Church of St James in the centre where we celebrate this holiest of weeks in the Christian calendar.

PALM SUNDAY: As we mark Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey with the symbolic procession of palms and the Eucharist

(This service starts at 10.30a.m.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY: The start of Our Lord's Passion as we seek to re-create the Upper Room of the Last Supper and symbolic washing of the feet, Holy Communion and Watch of Prayer

(This service starts at 7.30p.m.)

GOOD FRIDAY: This sacred time speaks for itself as we seek to draw near to the foot of the Cross – that poignant symbol which is the heart of our faith. We recall the event of this day and seal it with Holy Communion.

(This service starts at 2.00p.m.)

EASTER DAY – THE QUEEN OF FESTIVALS!

Again, this really speaks for itself as we seek to share with joy in our hearts what it meant for those first disciples when they witnessed this fantastic news that their beloved Lord had overcome the barrier of death to be with them once more.

(This service starts at 10.00a.m. -please note earlier start)

Do come to be with us on this great journey in the week of all weeks for the Christian Church!

Easter Message from Fr. John



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I don't know about you, but when I pop into the local supermarket I am aghast as to how many chocolate eggs they have on the shelves. Milk chocolate, plain chocolate, coffee flavoured chocolate and even now Marmite!

More to the point they've been selling these eggs since the beginning of February. So how did an egg and the resurrection of our Lord become so entwined? Eggs were an ancient symbol of new life. The pagans believed they announced the onset of spring. For Christians it represents Jesus's resurrection from the empty tomb.

It was Saint Mary Magdalene one of the patron saints of our church who following Christ's resurrection, tradition reports, went to see the Emperor Tiberius in Rome with an egg to demonstrate that Christ had risen from the dead. Mary announced to the Emperor that 'Christ is risen.' The Emperor laughed mockingly at her and told her there was more chance of the egg in her hand turning red than Jesus being raised from the dead. Immediately, the egg turned a bright red. Tiberius believed this was a sign from God and listened to her complaints about Pilate and how he had put an innocent man to death. He then threw Pilate out of Jerusalem.

Another story is that Mary Magdalene brought a basketful of white boiled eggs to the tomb of Christ on Easter Sunday. When she saw the stone rolled away the eggs in her basket turned colour. Such is tradition that in many of the icons of St. Mary Magdalene, she is seen holding a red egg, as shown in her Icon image in the Lady Chapel at Saint James church. So the egg became a symbol of the resurrection and new life. Remember, when you are sharing your Easter egg this Easter, think not so much about the chocolate you are tucking into, but the fact it is a joyful symbol of Christian hope as we celebrate in the resurrection of our Lord!



Buona Pasqua to you all!- that is Happy Easter!

Fr John

Parish Priest and Rector

Canon of Gloucester Cathedral

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Application forms for the inclusion of names of departed loved ones in our Book of Remembrance are now available in church. Please take a form and return it completed along with the payable Fee to the Rector. Any departed loved ones can be inscribed in the Book of Remembrance – more information or details will be found on the application form or you can have a word with Fr John.

GRATEFUL THANKS, DAVE!

You will note from the cover of this month's magazine that this is issue 44!

I looked back at our very first issue in September 2015 – then just ten pages put together by me in the only way I knew possible, what is usually referred to as 'cut and paste'! Then running off the copies – just 100 it was then as it was a trial, then stapling them together.

What a lot of water has flowed under this particular bridge since then when comparing it with what we now are able to provide each month!

Our magazine now reaches the homes of some 400 people, and judging by the comeback I receive as Editor it is well received and has proved its worth as a means of communication of what we seek to do as the Parish Church of St James here in Quedgeley.

The fact that we have reached this stage, now in our fourth year is due to the fact that I have been privileged to have people to work with to make this possible whose willing co-operation have shared my vision for 'Around the Spire' to be what it is now.

One of the main reasons for this is that I have since very early on had the support of Dave Franklin who has experience and expertise in this field which puts my own efforts to shame.

It is Dave that we are to thank for a series of attractive magazine covers each month; text of articles and photos presented in a real professional way due to his eye for detail and what the finished product should look like.

Dave is a very busy person with a demanding full time job; he is also Captain of our bell ringers and involved ringing in other towers too.

For some time now Dave has been seeking to lighten his load by relinquishing this role with our magazine – and it is clearly a hard position to fill! However, we must now respect Dave's need in this respect, and issue 43 was the last for his input in this way.

SO GRATEFUL THANKS DEAR DAVE!

I for one will always be grateful for what you have taught me in this field, and enabled me to continue to edit what I really enjoy as a part of my retirement ministry in this large and active parish!

Fr Hugh, Editor.

...and more thanks!

As well as the above thanks, there are many others who deserve such an accolade!

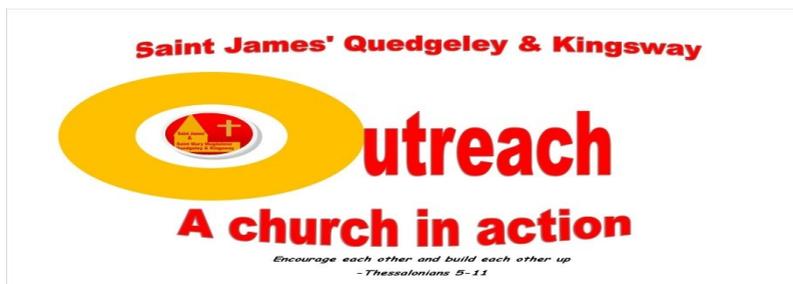
Firstly, our printers Alpha. It is due to them that we have such an outstanding publication for you to enjoy! They really are a super firm to work with and nothing is ever too much trouble.

If you ever need a printer, do consider them, you will not be disappointed! (You can find their details in this magazine).

Also thanks are due to our many contributors from all aspects of our parish life and beyond. Please keep them coming in for they are important. Your Editor reserves the right to decide when and whether they can appear.

Thanks too to those who have volunteered to deliver this magazine in various areas of the parish.

Fr Hugh, Editor.



Last month Chatterbox held its annual Pancake Race with youngsters running up and down the church aisles.

Not only do they enjoy sticking pictures on to foam pretend 'pancakes', they enjoy the racing. The 'pancakes' are precariously balanced on cardboard pans. Everyone is a winner and they all received a juicy apple to take home.

As I write, we are preparing for the Wedding Fayre due to take place on 24th March. By the time you read this we shall know whether the day was a success ! We've a number of stands, from photographers, hairdresser, bridal wear, cake decorating, flowers, caterers and wedding cars. Quite a selection. Of course Saint James' will be represented as we are hoping to increase the number of weddings taking place here.

The Summer Fayre is planned for 15th June and we are already in the early stages of planning. We have several stall holders already that have confirmed bookings and a number who have requested forms. Raffle tickets have been delivered , so please brace yourselves, to sell these in the forthcoming months.

Jamie's Ark was off to a good start, we had several parents from Chatterbox and a couple of new faces. Revd Jenny d'Esterre led the worship. Thanks to Tricia, Joy, Ann, Jill and Jane for their help. We are hoping that this will become a regular monthly activity for the very young and their parents/carers not only in Quedgeley but also in Kingsway.

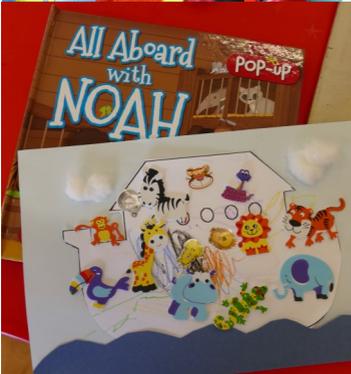
Pancake Day at Chatterbox!



Jamie's Ark



**Jamie's Ark
Kingsway**





“FIVE EVENTS THAT MADE CHRISTIANITY”

by

BISHOP JOHN PRITCHARD

Published by S.P.C.K.

Most of our readers will be well aware of my love of books and I always have at least two on the go. Now that I am retired from full-time Ministry I have more time for such reading, and there have been some excellent books recently.

In this book, Bishop John, former Bishop of Oxford seeks to explore the five central aspects of our faith – Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost – central indeed to what we believe as Christians.

Using various places in the Holy Land that he has visited, he brings out in a vivid way just what it is like to visit these holy places, and relate this to our own pursuit of faith in Jesus Christ.

He also poses several questions at the end of this book for us to consider and explore which help us to look at our own grasp of the Christian Faith, and more importantly how we might apply it in our own situation.

I do commend this book to any who wish to seek how God may be calling them to a greater faith in the life of the Church. If you do wish to do so, I can let you see my copy and order it for you from Church House Bookshop. -Fr. Hugh

A GIFT FOR EASTER SUNDAY

There is a gift for you today
It isn't an egg or anything else made of chocolate
There's no need to worry about spoiling your dinner
Neither will you be able to hang it on a wall,
Display it on your sideboard, or drink it from a glass.
You will not even be able to hold it in your hands
Yet, at the same time this gift can be shared between all of us,
Here in this place and on this planet,
The gift you receive today is love -
A love that demands to be taken out and used as a torch
To light up the dark places of this world
ENJOY YOUR GIFT!

Raymond Wright

FROM THE REGISTERS IN FEBRUARY

FUNERALS & CREMATIONS

FEBRUARY 4 th	JUNE WADLEY (86)
FEBRUARY 25 th	BABY LEO
FEBRUARY 25 th	NIGEL KEAR (87)
FEBRUARY 26 th	SANDRA ALLEN (69)

“ REST ETERNAL GRANT TO THEM O LORD ”

"Times and Seasons": Saints in April

9th: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor

Dietrich was born in 1906 into an academic family. After Ordination into the Lutheran Church he became a lecturer in Spain, the USA, and in 1931 back in Berlin. He opposed the philosophy of Nazism and was a member of a group which broke away from the Nazi-dominated Lutherans in 1934. He was banned from teaching and was continually harassed by the regime, but bravely returned from a lecture tour in USA to Germany in 1939. He was eventually arrested in 1943 but continued writing and his work found its way out of his prison cell. He was murdered by the Nazis in Flossenburg camp in 1945.

10th: William Law, priest

Born at Kings Cliffe in Northants in 1686, William Law was educated at Emmanuel College Cambridge and after ordination as a deacon became a Fellow of the college. When George I came to the throne in 1714, William declined to take the Oath of Allegiance and became one of the "Non-Jurors" who believed that the deposed monarch James II and his heirs should occupy the throne. He was ordained priest in 1728 and in the same year published "A Serious Call to a Devout & Holy Life", which much influenced such people as Samuel Johnson and John & Charles Wesley. In his book he stresses the moral virtues, a personal prayer life, and asceticism. He returned to Kings Cliffe in 1740 where he led a life of devotion, simplicity, and care for the poor. He died there in 1761.

16th: Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess

Born in 1842, Isabella, the sister of William Morris, was a nurse at Guy's Hospital in London and in 1886 was asked by Bishop Thorold of Rochester to pioneer the work of Deaconesses in his diocese. Together they planned for an Order of Deaconesses and set up a training house in Clapham, later called Gilmore House in her memory. During her years of service she trained head deaconesses for seven other dioceses, leading Dr Randall Davidson to predict that much of the origin and root of the revival of the Deaconess Order would be traceable to her work. She died in 1923.

19th: Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury

Alphege began his ministry as a monk at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, later moving to Somerset, with the intention of living the life of a hermit. Archbishop Dunstan saw his potential and installed him as Abbot of Glastonbury and in 984, Bishop of Winchester. In 1005 he was made Archbishop of Canterbury, where his austere life and lavish almsgiving made him a revered and much-loved man. Following the Danish invasion in 1011, Alphege was taken prisoner and a demand

for a ransom of £3000 was made. Alphege refused to pay it and forbade anyone else from so doing, knowing that it would impoverish ordinary people even more. He was brutally murdered by his captors at Greenwich on this day in 1012.

23rd: George, Patron Saint of England

George may well have been a Roman soldier living in Palestine in the early 4th century. As a Christian, he was martyred at Lydda in 304 on the orders of Emperor Diocletian, and became known as the "Great Martyr". There were churches in England dedicated to him before the Norman conquest. The story of his dragon-slaying comes from his being mistaken in various icons for St Michael (who is usually portrayed in armour), or even for Perseus slaying the sea-monster – a myth associated with the port of Lydda. George replaced Edward the Confessor as patron of England following the crusades, when returning soldiers brought back with them a devotion to St George. Edward III made St George patron of the Order of the Garter, which seems to have confirmed his position.

25th: Mark the Evangelist

John Mark was a Jew, and according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, was a cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul & Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Cyprus, later returning there with Barnabas, and going eventually to Rome with Peter and Paul. The Gospel which bears his name is now regarded as the first to be published and was most likely written in Rome round the year 65AD. It was probably based on the eye-witness record of St Peter and on Mark's own memories; it has a sharpness and immediacy about it and does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption. It is highly likely that Mark was executed on the command of Nero, along with Peter and Paul.

27th: Christina Rossetti, poet

Christina was born in 1830 and was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, of which her brother Dante was a prominent member. Her own fame rests upon her poetry, which dealt mainly with religious subjects and also the sadness of unrequited or disappointed love. She was the author of the carol "In the bleak midwinter"; her poem "Remember Me" gives an insight into her faith and is well worth reading. She died on this day in 1894.

To be continued.....Fr. Ian

Ash Wednesday

With Field Court Infant Academy



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Relax and meet new friends!

**Thursday Morning
10.00am -12noon**



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Easter Services at Saint James'

Good Friday - 2.00pm

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion and Easter celebration

10.00am

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

Kingsway Community Centre

Saturday 11.00am –12noon

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk



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Printed by :Alpha Colour Printers Ltd., GL2 2AA, 01452 887000