

Around the Spire

December 2024 - January 2025

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CALM and BRIGHT



Issue 107



Saint James' Church
FREE magazine for
the
parishioners of
Quedgeley & Kingsway



From your Editor—Fr. Hugh Broad



Welcome to the Advent and Christmas edition of 'Around the Spire'. Due to the holiday period this edition covers December and January. We shan't be printing another magazine until February. You'll see the Christmas services are listed in the magazine along with some of the events that are taking place. The Crib Service on Christmas Eve is always popular with young families and if you've a baby or toddler then come along to the Bounce & Rhyme Christmas Special on 18th. Our very Messy event takes place on 21st - more details in the magazine. I'd also like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all those who help finance or /and deliver the magazine each month. We couldn't continue without you. Your help is invaluable.

Finally I'd like to wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas - *Fr. Hugh*



**What's on this December at
Saint James' Church Quedgeley**

ADVENT
9th December, Love2Sing Christmas Concert, 7.30pm, donations on the door
18th December, Bounce and Rhyme Christmas Special, 11.30am
21st December, Messy Christmas - crafts, activities, food and the Christmas Story, 1-3pm
22nd December, Lessons and Carols for all of Quedgeley, 6pm

CHRISTMAS EVE
Crib Service, 3pm
Carol Service with Gloucester Charter Concert Band, 6pm
Midnight Mass, 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Holy Communion for Everyone, 10am

29th December, StJs Worship Across the Generations, celebrating 2024 and looking to 2025, 11.30am

Out and about with Revd Mark



Scafell Pike

You will see from the photos in this article just how much fun we had as two dads, Dan and brothers John and Robert, all eleven years old, climbed Scafell Pike together in November. This was Dan's second big climb for St James' Church, the first was Snowdon two years ago. The sponsorship money and interest in the climb from the worshipping community at St James was something that really spurred us on and taught me an important lesson as to how churches can be a huge encouragement to young people. Dan and I worked out a training program for John and Robert because this was their first big climb. We had trained with two hikes in the Brecons, Skirrid and Pen Y Fan, over summer and Autumn and so we were ready. Dan said



"Getting to the top of Scafell Pike was amazing but getting there together with my two best friends made it even better".



Scafell Pike is renowned for being a hard climb. We did not stop climbing for two and a half hours and all of that was very steep. We were rewarded with a little sunshine and warmth at the top and enjoyed our picnic. Dads included we are very proud to have raised the flag of St James at the highest point of England - a pilgrimage to the heavens for all five of us and one we won't forget. If all the monies come in we will have raised £600 for St James' Church. Thank you for all your support and well done Dan, John and Robert!



Creation Care in the Stable

I have written before about the importance of that very special image we hold in our hearts at Christmas time and that as a Christian I hold in my heart all year round. Although the cross is the most important image for Christians, there is no cross without a birth. Perhaps to some the image can seem a little schmaltzy and certainly I have seen it like that at times. However, even when it can seem schmaltzy to some, it is always compelling. It always draws us in.

In the image the baby Jesus is in the centre. If you have ever visited a family with a new baby then this is inevitably the case. The baby is the centre of the universe for that home, for that family. The new baby makes the whole universe new to them.

There is a family-size 'big bang' event in a birth which changes everything for that family. In the Christmas image of the stable surrounded by parents, shepherds and wise men but very importantly cows, donkeys, chickens and sheep. The scene is set in a humble structure made by human hands but open to the elements and with the starlit heavens above. The image in the stable is like a 'big-bang event' that makes everything new for all the family of Creation. As a Christian this is not just an image, it is a way of expressing how the birth of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace, makes the universe.



This Advent and through to the Epiphany we will have a new simple Nativity Scene in the churchyard in the midst of Creation. I hope that you enjoy it. The new churchyard Nativity Scene was prepared by the Quedgeley Men's Shed and painted by Andrew Wakely. Thank you to all involved!



TIME TO TAKE STOCK!

As this issue of our magazine covers the end of the year, it does seem right to look at where and what we are in terms of what we aim to be and how, if any we need to make changes.

Many of our readers will know that many years ago I had a spell in reporting for a local newspaper where I lived in Shropshire. Through this period I learned quite a lot about how one needed to operate to attract the reader. This was of course a way of presenting the items in a way that members of the local community would be prepared to buy!

Now of course *Around the Spire* is not in the same league; we are not seeking to sell our product although of course it does have to be paid for.

I see as my editorial role to seek to make *A/Sp* to use a shorthand title to make it a publication which the local community look forward to reading, and also as a source of information of what goes on in and around Quedgeley and Kingsway. There is so much going on in this area and we try to be able to express this in the pages which form each issue.

In fact *A/Sp* reaches a far wider readership through the internet and other means. This was reflected by a recent message from North England where a reader of a copy of a recent issue - the comment was that this publication showed that Quedgeley and Kingsway must be a super place to live!

This of course is great news! But of course we must not rest on our laurels but seek always to present this magazine in the best possible way.

It perhaps worth pointing out that *A/S* is the Parish Magazine for St James Church here in the midst of the community and carries lots of news of the activities which the Church promotes in worship and activities - and of course you are now reading one!

But as well as the Church life there is so much more as you can see in these pages. In fact we seek to strive a balance of what might be termed "THE SACRED AND THE SECULAR"

My Associate Editor, Jackie Hall and I do hope that you will continue to support what we so much enjoy producing!

Father Hugh,

Editor.

Super hero Sunday

STJ's Family Service

24th November

'Superhero Sunday' was a great way to celebrate Christ the King.....and Banana man was in attendance!

STJ's family service is on every Sunday starting at 11.30am. Light refreshments and lots of fun!



We remember...



LOVE 2 SING
Christmas Concert
7.30pm
9th December
Donations on the door
Everyone welcome!

Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

**Christmas Eve
Carol Service 6pm**
With the Gloucester Charter Concert Band

A red Christmas ornament is hanging from a branch of a tree. Below the branch, there are musical notes on a staff.

A message from Ann and Gordon Williams

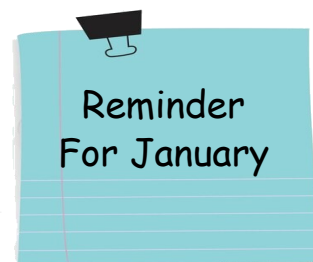
Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral roll is the only official list of Church members. It is vital that this is kept up to date and every six years needs to be renewed.

The time to renew the roll for St James Church is 2025. Therefore from 1st January a new role will be compiled and everybody who wishes to be on the roll will need to reapply.

To be enrolled you have to be 16 years of age or over and you must be baptised and a resident in the Parish of Quedgeley and Kingsway or be a regular worshipper at St James Church.

Forms will be available from Ann and Gordon Williams at Church. The completed forms will need to be returned to them in Church.



CHRISTMAS – A CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL

Well, of course it's a Christian festival, but occasionally you'll hear it said, "You know, Christmas is really a Pagan festival." Maybe someone has said it to you. Perhaps it's meant to wrong-foot us or take us by surprise. Usually, the focus is on the date: people might tell us that 25th December was actually the date of various pagan festivals.

By 400AD the Church had chosen the date of 25th December, most likely so the date would coincide with those pagan festivals around that date, including worship of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture and Mithra, the Persian god of light. That way, it became easier to convince Rome's pagan subjects to accept Christianity as the empire's official religion. (see www.history.com/Christmas) Nobody knows exactly when Jesus was born and the day and date don't really matter.

'Christ-mas Day' means literally 'Christ is here Day.' What do Christians truly celebrate on Christmas Day? Do we worship nature? Well, no! Do we celebrate the sun in the sky giving light? No! We can of course be very grateful to God for nature and the sun, but rather we give thanks to God that Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, that Jesus was born in a stable and the angels declared to the shepherds the Good News that a Saviour was born! (Luke 2. 1 - 20)

Christians are quite happy to celebrate the work of God through nature. Our Harvest Festivals are a good example of that. We also give thanks to God for creating the sun and the moon when we say verses from the Bible (Psalm 8, verses 3 & 4 for example). We don't mind yule logs, holly and decorated trees at Christmas. Why? Because we know that God is to be found in everything. St. Paul wrote, "Be joyful always... give thanks to God in all things. This is God's will." (1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 16 and 18)

If there's holly in my house at Christmas or a tree adorned with lights and decorations it doesn't mean I'm a pagan. No! And on Christmas Day I will celebrate Him Whom Christians truly worship and believe in: JESUS, SON OF GOD, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, BORN IN A STABLE, COME TO BE OUR SAVIOUR. Christmas – truly a Christian Festival.

Steve Morris.

Pagan – from a Latin word meaning 'country dweller'.



Naomi – Sadness Swallowed up by Joy

By Fr. Gordon



NAOMI was the mother in law of Ruth. Her story is most attractively presented in the book of Ruth. She had been driven into exile in the land of Moab by famine and she lost both her husband and two sons.

Her story has a bleak beginning. Three women were in a foreign land without money or protection. The situation appeared to be hopeless and at that point the outlook appeared bitter and Naomi suggested that that should be her name instead of Naomi which means 'pleasant one'



Naomi with her grandson Obed,
Detail from a painting
By Emile Levy, 1859

Naomi's only option was to return to her native village where she owned a little patch of land. She told her two daughters' - in - law to return to their own mothers homes.

Ruth refused to leave her mother - in - law and the two women travelled on to Bethlehem, when they arrived there the townswomen said, 'Is this Naomi?' And she replied, 'Do not call me Naomi ('my joy'); call me Mara ('Bitter'), for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, and God has returned me empty.'" Well, not quite empty. She still had two assets: an agile brain, always worth having, and lovely Ruth standing quietly beside her.

The one thing that would solve Naomi's problem would be to find a wealthy husband for Ruth.

Naomi's late husband had a relative called Boaz who, although he was wealthy was no longer young. A long standing bachelor, he noticed Ruth gathering grain in one of his fields. He told his workers not to pester her and told Ruth to help herself to water from the nearby stream whenever she wanted it. Boaz obviously favoured her.

So far, so good, but Naomi realised that such a confirmed bachelor needed a nudge in the right direction if she was to gain a new son - in - law.

The Harvest Festival was about to be celebrated and Naomi took the initiative and decided that the time for subtlety was past. She gave Ruth some instructions: To wash and perfume herself, and dress in her best clothes. Go to the threshing floor but stay discreetly hidden from Boaz. Wait, until at the end of the evening, Boaz lies down to sleep then lie down beside him and see what happens.

Boaz could not resist Ruth and he reacted just as Naomi had hoped. He immediately offered to marry Ruth, recognising that Ruth had put herself into a compromising position and a marriage proposal was the honourable thing to do. Naomi had made it happen.

Through a mixture of guile and ingenuousness, God was seen to favour both Naomi and Ruth; Ruth became Boaz's wife, and she conceived and gave birth to a son who was nursed by his grand-mother Naomi. The local women named him Obed (meaning 'Encourages'), and Obed became the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.

Gradually it dawned on Naomi that God had provided for her and Ruth in ways she never expected. In her charming story we see Naomi's bitterness turned to joy by the mysterious workings of God's providence.

...Next time we'll have a look at a brave and resourceful woman – Rebecca, the wife of Isaac, whose story can be found in Genesis Chapters 24 to 27 and 42 and 49

Gordon

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Going up to Bethlehem - Fr. Michael

'Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger'
(Eric Milner-White – from the Bidding Prayer used on Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge)



These words resonate strongly with me as they were the first words spoken at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols held in our parish church in Birmingham, where I became a chorister at the age of eight. They are words which set the scene of the Christmas story quite beautifully, encouraging us to turn our hearts and minds to the wonder of God's love and of his coming to dwell among us in the birth of Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem.

As Christmas approaches, we are going to hear a lot about Bethlehem. Just over two years ago, some of us were actually there – gathered in Manger Square as pilgrims, waiting to enter the Church of the Nativity. Sadly, and for obvious reasons, no pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been possible since October 2023 when many Israeli citizens were brutally attacked and killed, with others being taken hostage. The subsequent war against Hamas in Gaza, and more recently against Hezbollah in Lebanon, has caused much misery and destruction and the huge loss of innocent lives, young and old alike. All of us long for peace in that land, and an end to the suffering that war and conflict brings in its wake.

For the 'Quedgeley Five' who made the pilgrimage two years ago, happy memories remain, and, with those memories, hopes are cherished, and prayers are raised for a better future where the people of the Holy Land can live alongside each other in peace and stability. It is a precious land for all who live there and for the wider Christian family too. As we go in heart and mind to Bethlehem this Christmas, so may we give thanks for the miracle of Christ's birth and the wonder and joy that it brings to our lives. As the composer Sir John Rutter put it in his Nativity Carol:

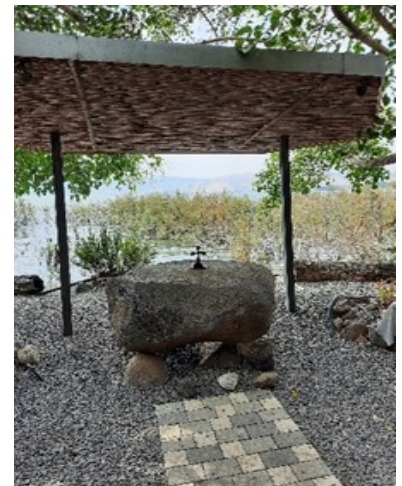
Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent, dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.



'Pilgrim' Nicholas in the River Jordan



Church of the Nativity Bethlehem



Tranquillity by Sea of Galilee



Lights in their own generation

Christian men & women

who helped to build the Church throughout history - Fr. Ian Robb

Here are a few of the saints of the Church we shall be remembering with thanks in the months of December & January:



3rd Dec: Francis Xavier, Apostle of the Indies, 1506 – 1552. A Spanish monk, one of a group of seven who founded the Society of Jesus. His vow to preach the gospel overseas led him to Sri Lanka, Malacca, Malaya, & Japan, where he left behind two thousand converts. He died at sea while en route for China.

6th: Nicholas, 4th century Bishop of Myra (Southern Turkey). His biography tells of his ministry to the hungry, the homeless, and orphaned children. His secret donation to a family rescued their daughters from lives of prostitution. He is the patron saint of children and the original “Santa Claus”.

7th: Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 339 – 397AD. After a career as Governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was persuaded to seek ordination and was soon elected Bishop of Milan. His preaching and teaching upheld the orthodox Christian faith in Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. He frequently opposed the imperial powers when they tried to interfere in matters of Church and faith.

8th: The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A feast-day celebrated on this day in both the eastern and western Church. It acknowledges the preparation by God of his people to receive their Saviour and Lord, and shows that mortal flesh can indeed bring Christ to the world.

13th: Lucy of Syracuse, Martyr in Sicily, 4th cent. Lucy was a young Christian, living at a time when the Roman authorities were attempting to re establish idol-worship. She gave away her property while caring for poor and needy people. She was betrayed by her angry betrothed, and executed for her faith in 304AD. “Lucy” means “light” and her feast-day links her for ever with the one true light that came to enlighten the world.

17th: Eglantine Jebb, Social Reformer, 1876 – 1928. A teacher until ill health forced her resignation, who then turned to charitable works. In 1913 she went to Macedonia to help refugees in the Balkan wars. In 1919 she and her sister founded the Save the Children Fund, which is now a world-wide organisation. She fought for the rights of children to be recognised – the League of Nations passed her “Children’s charter” in 1924.

26th: Stephen, Deacon, First Christian Martyr. One of the seven deacons appointed to care for widows in Jerusalem (Acts ch. 6). St Luke gives a vivid description of Stephen, drawing direct parallels with Jesus. The manner of his death is the essence of the Christian life. 27th: John, Apostle & Evangelist. We honour the one who proclaims Jesus as the “Word made Flesh”, the disciple “whom Jesus loved”. A witness to the crucifixion, alongside the mother of Jesus, and a discoverer of the empty tomb on Easter morning. His testimony is the basis of the gospel which bears his name and the inspiration of the letters of John and the Revelation.

28th: The Holy Innocents. St Matthew records how the vengeance of Herod was wreaked on the children of Bethlehem as he sought to do away with the Christ-child. These were God’s innocent ones – perhaps a prophecy of the suffering of Him who was to suffer on our behalf.

29th: Thomas Becket, Archbishop. 1118- 1170. Thomas was Chancellor to King Henry II; they worked harmoniously together until the king nominated Thomas as Archbishop. Friction arose as Thomas defended the rights of the Church, ending with him fleeing to France. A reconciliation brought him back to England in 1170, but the nobility opposed him; the personal ambitions of both king and archbishop led to words of anger at court and four knights journeyed to Canterbury where they murdered Thomas in his cathedral.

2nd Jan: Basil, Bishop of Caesarea & Gregory, Bishop of Constantinople. Two friends bonded together by their desire to promote and defend the divinity of Christ as proclaimed in the Nicene Creed – against strong opposition from a group who denied that Christ was wholly divine. They spoke together at the Council of Constantinople in 381AD, convincing the gathering – which included bishops from England – to uphold that wording of the Nicene Creed.

10th: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury. Appointed by Charles I in 1633, with the aim of countering the proposed reforms of the Puritan movement. Laud believed that the majesty of God should be reflected in the liturgy and worship of the Church and he set about ensuring that the clergy put his words into action. Sadly, the Puritan majority in Parliament impeached him in 1640; he was imprisoned in the Tower of London and beheaded in 1645, the king being powerless to come to his assistance.

11th: Mary Slessor, 1848 – 1915. Missionary to West Africa. A millworker in Dundee, Mary was enthralled by stories of missions in Africa. In 1875 she was accepted as a teacher for a mission in Nigeria. She became fluent in the local language and her physical stamina and lack of pretension endeared her to those to whom she ministered. She adopted unwanted children and helped to organise trade and to settle disputes among the local tribes.

13th: Kentigern, Bishop in Strathclyde & Cumbria. Also known as “Mungo”, he is reputed to have been the grandson of a prince in southern Scotland and educated at a monastery in Culross. He became a missionary to the Britons living in Strathclyde and was elected their bishop. He died in 603AD and his tomb is on St Mungo's cathedral in Glasgow.

17th: Charles Gore, 1835 – 1932. Bishop & Founder of the Community of the Resurrection. As a scholar and later bishop, he helped reconcile the Church to aspects of Biblical criticism and scientific discovery. In the 1890's he was the founder and first leader of the Community of the Resurrection, now based at Mirfield in Yorkshire. From 1902, he was successively bishop of Worcester, Birmingham, and Oxford.

21st: Agnes, Child-martyr at Rome, 304AD. Aged only thirteen, she refused an arranged marriage because of her total dedication to Christ, stating that she preferred death of the body to the death of her consecrated virginity. The emperor Diocletian was insistent that his orders for the persecution of the Christian Church should be carried out; the martyrdom of Agnes placed her at the forefront of veneration from the moment that persecution ended.

25th: The Conversion of Paul. Saul the Pharisee was violently opposed to the “New Way”. Acts ch's 7 – 9 record his compliance to the murder of Stephen and then his ultimate conversion. His letters confirm that it took some time for Saul to become Paul the Apostle, the preacher to both Jew and Gentile – a whole life's journey. Acts ch. 28 states that after two years in Rome, under house-arrest, no-one had appeared before the Emperor to testify against him; under Roman Law, the case had fallen by default and Paul should have been declared innocent of all charges against him.

30th: Charles Stuart, 1600 – 1649. King of England. Charles came to the throne in 1625 and came up against an antagonistic Parliament and a religious puritanism. He frequently dismissed sittings of Parliament and tried to enforce high-church Anglican practice on all, throughout England and Scotland. Opposition resulted in civil war & in the king's imprisonment, trial, and execution in 1649. Some may see him as a victim of his own pride; his faith and willingness to suffer and die for what he believed in are not in doubt.



What I am praying about.... By Revd. Mark

It can be hard to think ahead when I write these short articles for this special, beautiful and colourful publication. This prayer has to account for two months which cover our annual period of anticipation, celebration and new beginnings over Advent, Christmas and New Year. How to approach prayer during a period with huge excitement for some but a sadness for others if this is the first Christmas since the death of a loved one. So, my prayer is that the rhythms and highs, lows of this season remain bathed in the light of the Christ Child. New life in these dark months.



Lord Jesus, come to us, rest with us, live among us all and help us sense your love this Advent, Christmas and New Year. AMEN

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
 A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

FREE
Bounce & Rhyme
Wednesday 11.30am – 12noon
 Babies and toddlers
 Saint James' Church
 School Lane
 Quedgeley
 GL2 4PN
 Looking forward to seeing you there!

Christmas is coming by Lovell Cornwall

**Christmas is coming, and our goose is far from fat,
As we killed him back last Easter for a treat.
We cooked him several ways and he lasted us for days,
And all that we had left was bones and feet.**

**Christmas is coming, so I bought a Santa hat,
But the little bell caused havoc on the bus,
As the ringing it was making, meant the driver kept on braking,
And the other passengers kicked up quite a fuss.**

**Christmas is coming, and I must stop being silly,
For Christmas brings excitement through the land,
The shelves in shops are bulging, and many'll be indulging
In so much food it's hard to understand.**

**Christmas is coming, and the children write to Santa,
Just hoping that those presents he will bring,
But there's another reason, for it's such a joyous season,
When we will think about a new-born King.**

**Christmas is coming, and that means that at St. James,
Carols will ring around those ancient walls,
And psalms and words are prayed of Mary's child being laid
Among the hay in wooden cattle stalls.**

**Christmas is coming, and on that Christmas Day,
Christians round the world will praise the morn,
And re-live the age-old story, and worship Him in glory,
For that's the day our Saviour Christ was born.**



FREE

Bounce & Rhyme

Christmas Special
Babies and Toddlers
Wednesday 18th December
11.30 - 12noon

Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

FREE! We are back by popular demand!

Saint James' For a CRAFT

Messy Christmas

Saturday 21st December
1pm - 3pm

Saint James' Church
School Lane
Quedgeley
GL2 4PN

FUN **SNACK provided!**

If you have dietary intolerances please bring your own snack as we cannot cater for all requirements - Thank You



THANK YOU to everybody from [Saint James' Church Quedgeley & Kingsway](#) who so generously donates to the pantry. Week on week you never let us down, and we'd like you to know that it is truly appreciated.



Do you need to have a clear out before Christmas? Or are you looking for some Christmas gifts? If so, come along to the Quedgeley Community Pantry car boot sale on Sunday 1st December from 8am to 1pm. The car boot sale will be held at the home of the Community Pantry at Kingsway Sports Pavilion (opposite Asda), Newhaven Road, Kingsway, GL2 2SN. We will also be providing refreshments inside. Cars £5.00 Vans £7.00 Indoor £4.00

A warm welcome awaits you!
at

Tea@2

Wednesday
2.00pm- 4.00pm

Tea/Coffee **Bingo**
Home made cake **Quiz**
Assortment of refreshments

£3.00 per person

Tea@2's last session is on Wednesday 4th December. We shall be reopening on Wednesday 8th January. We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



The Ride & Stride event that took place in September raised over £700. Thank you and well done to all those who took part and to those who sponsored them! Special thanks to Paul Bridges who organised this event.

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Successfully completed Half Marathon

Nick Wareham, a member of our STJs congregation, went running. On Sunday 28th of October he successfully completed the Stroud Half Marathon in 1hr 36 mins and raised £800 into the bargain!

Nicks efforts were in support of the Men's mental health group 'Man up' which provides men with free weekly support with mental issues and an opportunity to socialise with others so that men can 'open up and find themselves in a better place'. That 'safe place' is available for all men 18 or over. A woman's group 'Woman up' is also available. Meetings are on Tuesday evenings from 1900.

Well done Nick.



Next Steps Update



Hopefully there will be a little more to report on at the end of the Spire's 'bumper issue' period in February. However there is still much going on in the background. The next Steps group met as scheduled on October 23rd and decided that we would need at least two more extra meetings in order to get the detail into the Architect's brief in good time. The first of those 'detail' meetings was on 6th November, and we are seeking two more dates early in the new year. Hopefully then, we shall still be able to report to the PCC on January as originally planned. In the legal area of faculties, we have obtained some specialist expertise to advise us on the historic significance of the structure, furniture and fittings inside the Church. This will enable us to add into the statement of Significance, a full and detailed account of our fabulous historic heritage, as it deserves. A meeting on November 21st (after the press deadline for this 'Spire' issue), will start us on that process. We now also have to hand the results of an accessibility survey.

I was going to say 'we plod on' but it is far more business-like and moving far faster than plodding! The work continues.

As always, I am here to discuss points and answer questions if I can. Please just make contact.

Andrew Wakely

Quedgeley Women's Institute



The Village Hall was buzzing for our AGM, the barter stall was full and so was the table of items for the auction, but first we went through the usual business. The AGM went smoothly and Pat Watts, who had been our President for 20 years was re-elected by a unanimous vote. We drank wine and nibbles during the auction which was very enjoyable and raised £135 for WI funds.

Our December meeting will be a Social Evening with a talk on Pantomime along with mulled wine and an American Supper. We will also be having a box for the Quedgeley Food Bank when hopefully there will be plenty of Christmassy foods donated by members.

Next year will be very special as it is our 100th anniversary and like every other year we will be having interesting speakers on subjects that include the RNLI, Fraud Awareness, Charlie Chaplin and volunteering at an elephant sanctuary.

This year we have had seven new members which brings our numbers up to 65 but we are always ready to welcome anyone who wants to come along as a visitor or become a new member. We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall so why not come along to one of our meetings. More information can be found on our website www.quedgeleywi.co.uk or facebook.com/quedgeleywi



This time from my Father's collection – perhaps it runs in the family?

A LITTLE STORY

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

The Lord's Prayer – Home Counties Version

*Our Father which are in Hendon,
Holloway Bethnal Green,
Thy Kingston come,
Thy Wimbledon in Erith as it is in Epping,
Give us this Bray our Maidenhead,
And forgive us our by-passes
As we forgive those who by-pass against us.
And lead us not into Thames Ditton
But deliver us from Ealing,
For thine is the Kingston, the Purley and the Crawley
From Iver to Iver, Crouch End.*

From John Julian Norwich's "A Christmas Cracker 1993"

Warm Rooms Scheme

Prospect Training Services and The Q Club are pleased to partner with Quedgeley Community Trust to offer a warm and welcoming space for anyone who may need it.

From Tuesday 12th November, we are also offering a discount on hot drinks to the public.

Coffee £1 Hot chocolate £1 Tea 50p

Monday	9.00am - 11.45am
Tuesday	9.00am - 1.45pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 1.45pm
Saturday	9.00am - 12.30pm

Quedgeley Community Centre,
15-17 School Lane, Quedgeley, GL2 4PJ | richardb@prospect-training.org.uk | 01452 542 590

**ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
QUEDGELEY**

Christmas Appeal

**Supporting Quedgeley Community
Pantry**

Please donate a Christmas item
Mince pies, Puddings, Selection boxes, Biscuits
anything Christmassy . Non perishables only

Appeal open until 15th
December

Let's spread the Love this Christmas

Mrs. Bridges Festive Flapjacks

Ann Bridges Flapjacks are always a hit at our Tea @2 sessions on a Wednesday. Ann uses a Rachel Allen recipe but like all good cooks adds her own twist on the ingredients.

Here's a chance to try your hand over the Christmas period and munch into those yummy flapjacks with your favourite cuppa. We are sure you'll find them as delicious as we do!



Recipe for Festive Flapjacks

350g butter

2 generous tbsp. of golden syrup

175g muscovado or soft light brown sugar

1tsp vanilla extract

75g plain flour

375g oats



- ◆ Preheat the oven to 180C (350F) Gas Mark 4
- ◆ Place the butter golden syrup, sugar and vanilla extract in a large saucepan. Bring up to a simmer and stir, allowing the butter to melt. When the mixture is smooth, take off the heat and add in the flour and the oats. Stir to mix and spread into a Swiss roll tin measuring 25x38cm (10x15in).
- ◆ Bake in the oven (not too close to the top or it will burn) for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Cut into squares or fingers while still warm. Remove from the tin carefully while they are still slightly warm and allow to cool on a wire rack.

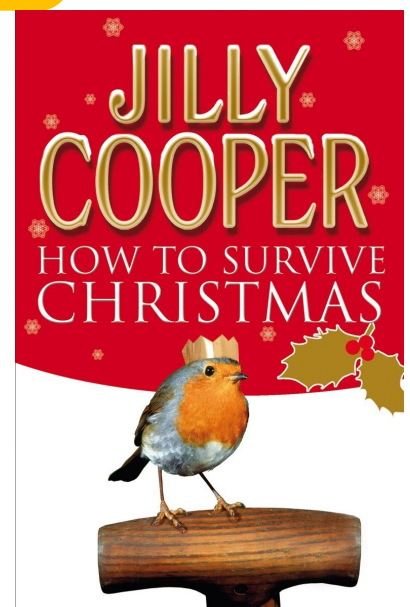
Ann's tips : - You can add e.g pumpkin and sesame seeds, also raisins taste good. Use half porridge oats normal and half jumbo mixed together

How to survive Christmas

If you are looking for something to read before the festive season kicks in, then Jilly Cooper's, '*How to survive Christmas*' may be just the thing.

Jilly takes us on a countdown to Christmas from asking, 'Where are you going to spend Christmas?' to present wrapping, card writing, Christmas at work, schools, dealing with dogs, Christmas trees and much more. The book ends with events on Twelfth night, with the words 'It's only 353 days until next Christmas'.

The book written during the 1980s seems just as apt to day as it did then. Jilly decided to write the book in the hope of simplifying Christmas which she thought would at least help herself, as she confesses to being '*a lousy cook, a rotten planner and the worst wrapper of presents in recorded history*'. The book is witty, down to earth and easy reading and sure to bring a smile to your face. Given it is still being published after all these years, should give you an indication as to its popularity.



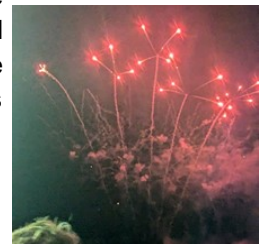
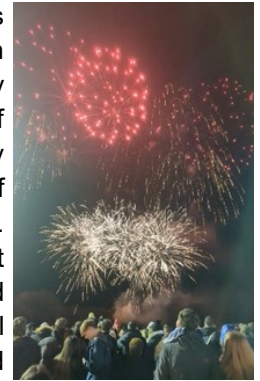
Quedgeley Town Council



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD



We start this issue by saying a big big thank you to everyone who came along to our Fireworks event in November. It must have been our biggest one ever and this year we partnered up with Apex Events who ran this event on our behalf. As always Danters were also there and they provided an excellent fun fair and refreshments. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of positive comments this year, including a special thanks for the Armistice segment which really proved to be quite moving for all. We did receive a very small amount of concerns, 4 to be exact and all of these have been dealt with privately. We were also made aware of an anonymous post to the press about some bad language that slipped through on the music that accompanied the fireworks. Our Firework provider, Apex Events provided a full response on how this happened and issued a public apology as we did also. It is always very demotivating when these things happen because we all work so hard, however it just shapes us moving forward and we will be more aware next year. We've put some photos on our Facebook account however here are just a few of how the night unfolded. All in all a huge success and the most important part is that it brings the community together which is what this council is all about.



This time of year is always

very busy for the council with events and we also saw our War Memorial become the focus of attention on Armistice Day where we held our annual Armistice Day Service. We were thrilled to see so many school children attend and decorate the War Memorial which really did stand there in all its glory. It really was a lovely service and we would like to thank Help if We Can for organising it on our behalf.



So what's next? Our Christmas Event comes next and will be held on Sunday 8th December 2024 at the Kingsway Sports Pavilion starting from 10.00am. Santa will be in the building giving out pressies, there will be craft activities, a trail and most importantly chocolate! There will also be hot chocolate and other goodies for the adults as well as a cupcake and toy stall so an event not to be missed!



Another date to look out for is Sunday 1st December from 8am – 1pm as The Community Pantry are doing a car boot sale.

The car boot sale will be held at the home of the Community Pantry at Kingsway Sports Pavilion (opposite Asda), Newhaven Road, Kingsway, GL2 2SN.

Prices below:

Cars: £5 Vans: £7. Further information can be obtained from Cllr Vicky Ranford by emailing her on Victoria.ranford@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk

Now onto the more serious side of the council and what is happening behind the scenes. All of our councillors are busy updating their skills by undertaking relevant training for their role, the community pantry continues to thrive and now is the time that the budget for the new financial year starts to be put together. We have also been involved, together with Gloucester City Council, with a plan to commemorate The Canary Girls and we have been running a poll on our Facebook Account to gauge peoples views on where the best place might be.

Plans are moving forward with the empty Social Club premises. We are aware that this is taking time, however it is important to get this right first time.

And, after all of this, the council will then break for the Christmas Period with the office closing on Christmas Eve at 12 noon and reopening on the 2nd January at 9.30am.

This is the last issue before the New Year so we hope the lead up to Christmas doesn't get too busy for you all and we wish you all a very merry christmas and a happy new year.

Council meetings will continue throughout December and January as normal and the office staff continue to support you daily with your concerns and enquiries.

The Town Council Office is situated in the same retail park as Matalan so please do pop in and meet your friendly town council staff. Our normal opening times are Mondays – Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm. We are also available on email, Office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk or you can visit our website on [Quedgeley Town Council \(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk\)](http://Quedgeley Town Council (quedgeley-tc.gov.uk)).



It's been a busy few months for Theresa and the ladies at Knit and Natter. In October, 'Around the Spire' editorial team met up with them for coffee in Tesco. The magazine is now available in the Coffee Shop at Tesco for everyone to read over their morning cuppa!

During October they raised money for Breast Cancer, supported Aid for Ukraine and the Longfield Hospice. November saw them busy as ever, knitting post box toppers and decorating the buildings of Chestnut Court and Tesco stores with displays of poppies.

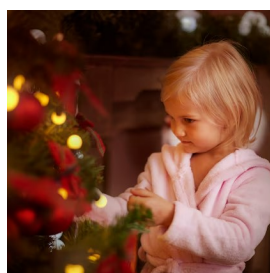


From **Friday 6 December to 5th January**, Gloucester Cathedral will be beautifully decorated for Advent and Christmas. Majestic trees will stand tall in the Nave and Quire, with the Cloisters looking wonderfully festive. You may even discover a few hidden delights along the way. *Come and see this remarkable spectacle any time within usual Cathedral opening hours for the ultimate festive day out. Entry to the Cathedral is by voluntary donation.*

Opening times can vary depending on special services and events - you can check for this by filtering events listed by 'Closure'.

Saturday 14 December, 10am-4pm

Gloucester Cathedral



Discover the origins of Father Christmas and meet St Nicholas himself. Each child will receive an age appropriate book gift. Families will also have the chance to take part in Christmas crafts and a scratch Nativity.

No booking required, free of charge.

These activities are suitable for all ages and there is no booking required. Simply turn up any time between 10am and 4pm and enjoy!



Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am

During term time.

Pop in after the school run

Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer





Help if we Can Winter Quiz Night is at The Thatch in Bristol Road Quedgeley on Saturday 15th February, first question at 7.00pm. Enter your team name to enter (helpifwecan@hotmail.com) as soon as you like as there are a restricted number of tables. £6 per table of 4. Food, raffle and of course a bar.

A Night of Music and Song (based on BBC TV Last Night of the Proms) is at Severn Vale School in Quedgeley (by kind permission) on Friday 21st February starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are bookable <helpifwecan@hotmail.com> at £7.50pp, Other events take place through the year.

Annual visit to the Western Front over the weekend of May 16-18 2025 .. nearly full.

We are always grateful for new supporters to help with our many fund raisers through the year. We are non political, non religious, etc. Please contact us at the above email address or call 01452 725343.



Poppy Appeal and Remembrance at Tesco



It was 'all go' in November for Theresa and her team of helpers. Volunteers gave up their time to help with the Poppy Appeal. Local schools and organisations helped to decorate the windows of Tesco's with poppy displays.

The Knit and Natter team excelled all expectations by selling knitted poppies and other poppy related items and raising a staggering £770 for the Poppy Appeal.

Once again well done to Theresa and her team 🙌



For our Younger Readers



Tell your family about our big event on December 21st and join us for a **Messy Christmas**. They'll be lots to do and we'll have lots of fun! You'll find a picture below of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in Bethlehem ready for you to colour in!



Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest –in– Charge	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Rev. Mark Siddall	01452 722916		drmarksid@gmail.com
Assistant Priests			
Rev. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Rev. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	irobb925@gmail.com
Rev. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Rev. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872	07974066929	michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Rev. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
The Venerable David Sutch	01452 552926	07948370054	vendavid196@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDENS			
Mrs Jackie Broad	01452 541078	07928862976	60jackie60broad@gmail.com
Mr Andrew Wakely	01452 722528	07879883091	andrewmwakely@gmail.com
PCC Secretary			
Mrs Lu Pearce	01452 725178	07922115062	androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk
Safeguarding Officer			
Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
PCC Treasurer -			
Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.com
Tea@2			
Mrs Jackie Hall	01452 721062	07853217954	jackiehall1854@gmail.com
Organist—Chris Baldwin		07811589867	cpbaldwin359@gmail.com
Bell Ringers—Anne Heron		07365 831182	anneheron@gmail.com
Open the book—Liz Keenan	01452 722320		mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com
Altar Servers—Angela Hughes		07984265977	angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley

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**A very Happy Christmas to all our readers - from Everyone at
Saint James' Quedgeley**

***Living and loving God, we pray that all of Quedgeley will live ever
closer to your loving presence and purpose today and always.***

AMEN

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Discounts for Quedgeley residents*

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 gloucester@belvoir.co.uk



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