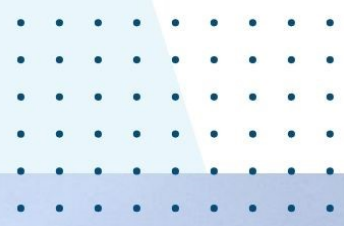


# AROUND THE SPIRE



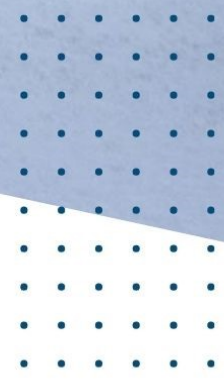
**Saint James' Church *FREE* magazine for  
the parishioners of  
Quedgeley & Kingsway**



◆ **What's on in  
the Parish  
page 2**

◆ **Dark Horse or  
Ass  
page 8**

◆ **Church in the  
Community  
page 12**






# From your Editor - Fr. Hugh Broad

This is the first edition of Around the Spire for 2025, so a very Happy New Year to all our readers! We were delighted by the positive responses received from our readership last year. The magazine was distributed to many organisations in Quedgeley including the Coffee Shop at Tesco. Of course non of this comes cheap and producing additional copies adds to the cost of the magazine. You'll see on the back page an advert from a friendly Estate Agent. Belvoir are kindly helping to sponsor the magazine. If you would like to help with the cost and are keen to advertise your organisation or business please get in touch with us.

Enjoy the read this month - there's plenty to interest everyone!

*Fr. Hugh*

Come and join us at



**Tea@2**

Wednesday 2pm -4pm  
St. James' Church

**BINGO**

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Light refreshments

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11.30 AM ST JAMES QUEDGELEY

Music, Fun, Laughter, Together

Worship across Generations

**Church Notice Board**

**Bounce & Rhyme**

FREE

Wednesday  
11.30am -12noon

Babies and toddlers

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Looking forward to seeing you there!

**SAINT JAMES' CHURCH**

Quedgeley & Kingsway



Morning Prayer  
9.15am daily during term time

Holy Communion  
Wednesday  
10.00am

Holy Communion  
Sunday  
10.00am

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
11.45am —  
STJ's Family Service

Tea/Coffee—served from  
11.30am

**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,  
25-17 School Lane, Quedgeley, GL2 4PJ   richard@prospect-training.org.uk   01452 342 399

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**A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND SONG**

(Based on Last Night of the Proms)

Featuring the local talents of

Gloucester Dementia Choir   Gloucester Brass   Love Sing

Also, soloist  
Rebecca Crowther

Severn Vale School, School Lane Quedgeley GL2 4PR  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 7.00pm ---- (to be seated by 6.45pm)  
Tickets £7.50 available from Help If We Can Members or on the door  
Refreshments available to purchase along with a raffle.  
All proceeds to Help If We Can Charity  
Treat yourself to a night out, put on your glad rags let your hair down and bring your flags to wave, for a bit of Land of Hope and Glory

# Out and about with Revd Mark



## Out and About - nine months gestation!

Something that could get missed in my Out and About column are projects that take time. The very best of things take nine months, just ask Mary! After Easter in 2024 I first popped into Quedgeley Mens Shed to say hello and ask if they could craft for us an outdoor Nativity Scene.



We had a good chat over tea and donuts and we worked out how to do it. With Andrew Wakely's help I found images to use online and we projected them onto old vinyl posters to act as templates. With these Gloucester Men's Shed were able to cut out the life size figures. The photo shows Emily and I collecting them in September, which was a joy. From September onwards Andrew worked hard painting them and putting them into a frame. With timed lighting the new nativity scene in the churchyard has been a joyful and beautiful tradition to Advent and Christmas and there was a chance to share it too as it lends itself well to being towed on a trailer with carols playing, allowing us to share the Christmas story right across Quedgeley. Thank you so much to the Men's Shed and all involved.

---

## What I am praying about...



It might seem odd but right now I am praying that we will all come to see how poor we really are before we are faced with the worst of consequences. Many of us have been shocked at some of the richest people in the world losing so much of what they held most dear. Aren't these wealthy people supposed to be rich enough to ride this out? Even some of the seemingly wealthiest will struggle to recover from the total loss of homes and property in the face of floods, hurricanes and wildfires. Anyone who has less than 100 million in the

bank will at least feel the effect and if you have less than 10 million you may lose everything. For those already poor the loss of everything is utterly devastating but poverty reaches even to the seemingly wealthy when such rich people may also lose everything and be left homeless.

Wildfires, floods and hurricanes kill and take wealth indiscriminately and whether it be the floods in Spain, the wildfires in LA, the Hurricanes in Florida or impacts local to Gloucestershire like flooding, land slips, every stronger winds, human made Climate Change is having a huge impact on all of us. These effects were entirely predictable and as a climate scientist I remember attending many workshops some twenty years ago when what is happening now was accurately predicted. The tragedy is that twenty years ago we could have acted to avoid the consequences so many are now suffering. We can still stop things getting worse but we need to know that this is a threat to all of us and one that will cost more and more over time. At the time of writing the destruction in LA alone is estimated at 150 billion US dollars for the 15 days of the fire so this number is rising by an average 10 billion every day the fires continue. The problem is that so many of us have not realised our own poverty. We are voting and making daily choices for the comforts of the day to day things we know without realising the many looming deadly threats posed by climate change. We need to seek those same comforts but risk trying new ways to achieve them - moving to electric alternatives, supporting renewable schemes. The alternative to trying new things with some risk is to accept a comfortable pathway to destruction.

My prayer is for those who have lost everything already. My prayer is that we come to know our own poverty in sinfully breaking our covenant of care for creation with our Creator and creation itself. I pray that we will come to know our poverty of love and care before the very worst poverty and death and destruction gets so very much worse. I pray that we begin to know our own poverty and seek the riches of his Grace. I pray that we are led into the riches of new life and away from the deadly poverty of our sin. AMEN.



# From the Editor's desk

## WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY?

Dictionary definitions of the word COMMUNITY differ.

'A group of people with a like mind' 'Supporters of a passionate activity' and several others. It makes more sense when we can apply it to a particular activity or place. For example a religious community - like the monks of Prinknash Abbey here in Gloucestershire, or the Benedictine monks who had so much activity in what we now know as our Cathedral.

We can apply it with a great meaning if we apply it to this district of Quedgeley as a part of Gloucester.



When we were thinking about a magazine to cover this parish of St James we had in mind one of a wider interest rather than just one which covered church interests, but one which would cover interests and activities for a much wider field. So you will see in the pages that there are an increasing number of what goes on **'AROUND THE SPIRE'** yes we call it because this has been the central focus for what happens around here. From what was a small village largely of farms and a few shops and a modest population half a century ago of probably less than a thousand, to what we have today what can be described as a small town of some thirty thousand and still growing!



One of the challenges of the 'community of St James church' is how to relate (as wide as possible) to the community which now surrounds it and indeed going out further with new housing especially in the Kingsway area.



It is part of the challenge of this church community to be a hive of activity in many directions and not just of church worship although this is at the heart of what we seek to do.



So copies of **AROUND THE SPIRE** can be found in lots of places. We would like to build further on this and still make it available free of charge. The proviso here is that in order to produce such a product of which we believe is a high quality does cost money and we welcome any sponsors which may be forthcoming!

## MEMORIES OF QUEDGELEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This is an ideal place to promote this fascinating book by Caroline Meek, member of St James for many years. In its pages you can read just what Quedgeley was like over the years with some lovely pictures along the way.

Copies of this book can be obtained from Caroline herself, the cost £10.00 per copy - contact by phone - 07928680548 or through me, Fr Hugh - contact as in this magazine. They are also available from Amazon for £12.00!



*Fr. Hugh*

# Rebecca – Brave and Resourceful

By Fr. Gordon



Rebecca, a brave and resourceful young woman, was the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau. She is prominent in four episodes in the early patriarchal history of God's people.

Firstly, it's a beautiful story of a journey, by Isaac, to find a suitable wife. Rebecca was the girl who guided Abraham's servant in his quest to find the right wife for Isaac. The servant, Eliezer, devised a test.

As he stood at the central well in Abraham's birthplace with his men and ten camels laden with goods, he prayed to God 'Let the girl to whom I shall say, 'Please offer your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels' - let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac'.

To his surprise, a beautiful young girl – Rebecca - immediately came out and offered to draw water for him to drink, as well as water to fill the troughs for all his camels. She was a good match for Isaac, and became his much-loved wife.

For a long time Rebecca was barren. Twenty years elapsed before Isaac and Rebecca had children; throughout that time, both prayed fervently for offspring. God eventually answered their prayers; in due course Rebecca bore twins - Esau and Jacob.

The boys had very different temperaments and the conflict between them set a pattern for conflict between later generations and nations.

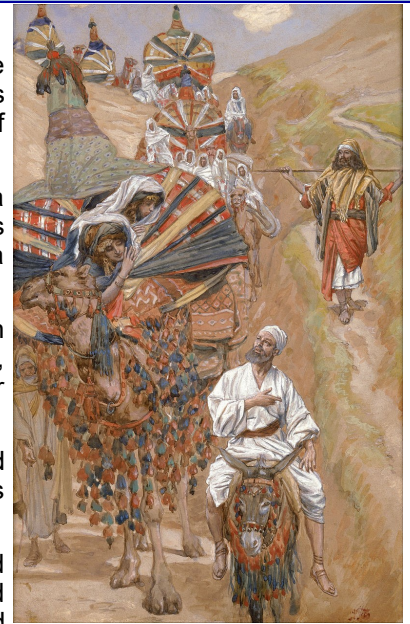
Much later a famine struck the land of Israel and Isaac moved his family to Gerar, which was ruled by Abimelech, king of the Philistines. Like Abraham before him, who called Sarah his "sister" rather than his "wife" so that the Egyptians would not kill him and take his wife, Isaac told the people of Gerar that Rebecca was his sister.

She was not molested, but one day Abimelech looked through the window and saw Isaac making love with her. Abimelech called Isaac and said, 'Surely, this woman is your wife! How could you say, "She is my sister"?' Isaac replied, 'I thought I might be killed because of her.' Abimelech then warned others not to touch Rebecca. Eventually Isaac parted from Abimelech in peace.

Finally, we see an apparent less attractive side of Rebecca's character in her ruse to obtain Isaac's blessing for her favoured son Jacob rather than Esau. Esau, born first, should have inherited the role of tribal leader, but Rebecca judged that Jacob would be better at this task than his older brother. She and Jacob tricked Isaac, old and blind, into giving the leadership to Jacob. Rebecca wanted the tribal leader chosen for his intelligence rather than his popularity.

Rebecca developed from a beautiful, confident young girl into a far-sighted and shrewd woman. She chose the son she believed was more capable of governing the clan.

Rebecca's story reveals an ambitious, loving, deceitful and self-sacrificing woman. A woman playing her part in God's plan for humanity, which is beyond our understanding.



'Rebecca Meets Isaac by the Way'

James Tissot (c1896–1902)

*Gordon*

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# Welcome to 2025

## “The Year of Faith”

*Fr. Ian Robb*



You may well reply: “Isn’t every year a year of faith for Christians?”, and I would reply: “Yes, of course”. But this year has been given this special because of a very special anniversary which will occur in a few months time. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea in 325AD, an historic series of meetings which proclaimed the statement of faith which the worldwide Church uses week by week and which we call the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God...”



The council was summoned by the Roman Emperor Constantine, who was a committed Christian, and who was concerned about a serious division which was growing within the Church. He called for a meeting of bishops, priests and deacons from across the Empire to gather at Nicea in northwest Turkey; 318 bishops attended, together with a number of priests and deacons – including some from Britain. This was the first of what became known as the great Ecumenical Councils of the Church; the meeting began on 20th May and concluded on 25th July. *(No more complaints about the length of our church council meetings please!)*

Constantine opened proceedings with a plea for unity within the Church, reminding everyone of the prayer of Jesus in St John's Gospel : “that they all may be one..” . He then handed over the chairmanship to Bishop Horius of Cordova (Spain) who outlined the threat to the Church's unity which was posed by the followers of Arius, a man of Libyan origin who was at the time a priest in Alexandria in Egypt. (It would seem that Arius was not present at the council but his teaching was supported by the Bishop of Nicomedia.

Arius taught that Jesus the Son was subordinate to the Father and was not therefore fully divine and was created by God the Father before the work of Creation began. He believed that it was impossible for God to suffer and die (as Jesus did); for Arius, this proved that Jesus was not fully divine. By teaching this line of thought Arius was contradicting what the Church had taught from the beginning that God is Three – in – One, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, undivided and equal in power and majesty.

At the Council, this Arian creed was proposed by the aforementioned bishop-supporter, and was instantly rejected. Members were reminded, by delegates from the churches in Palestine, of the lengthy gospel accounts of the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. The Bishop of Caesarea presented a Profession of Faith which was in use by the Church in and around Jerusalem. After the inclusion of the phrase “Jesus the Son is of the same substance as the Father” (in other words, co-equal), this Creed was accepted.

It is recorded that only two of the 318 bishops voted against accepting this statement as being the true definition of the basic and true (“Orthodox”) Christian faith. These two were removed from office and banished.

The Council went on to compile twenty “Canons” - (*church laws – we still have Canon Law today*) – they covered items such as the positions of the churches in Rome and Constantinople (*later to become the centres of the Church in the West [Rome] and East [Constantinople]*); Penitential rites for use with those who had lapsed and wished to return, Holy Communion for Dying, and a rule concerning standing for prayer during Eastertide.

The Council was closed (some would say, adjourned) by Constantine proclaiming the “Nicene Creed”. (He used the pronoun “We” not because he was the Emperor but to emphasise the point he spoke on behalf of all the delegates and all those who would receive the statement from them. A brief statement at the time, it stressed the unity of the Holy Trinity and the belief that Jesus, the Son of God, is both fully human and divine.

Within two years of the meeting of the Council, the Nicene Creed as we know and use it today was in use by the Church.

*During season of Lent this year we will providing opportunities for us to discover more about this great document and discover what it means for us in this “Year of Faith” and beyond.*



... you can leave your donations for the Quedgeley Community Pantry in the donations box at Saint James' Church.



Quedgeley  
**COMMUNITY  
PANTRY**  
QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

# Creation Care as Winter Becomes Spring

## by Revd. Mark



Sometimes this column considers how we can care for creation, sometimes why but the most important question for me is who we are and who we become as we care for creation together. It may feel like Christmas is long over but for Mary and Joseph at that first Christmas it was only really over when they completed the Jewish custom of presenting their new born baby in the Temple in Jerusalem, forty days after he was born. Forty of course connects this Jewish tradition to the forty days of the great flood and the forty years in the wilderness having escaped slavery in Egypt. Simeon and Anna were two elderly folk who seldom, if ever, left the Temple. Simeon has been visited by the Holy Spirit and told that he would meet the Messiah and Anna is described as a prophetess. Both of them are filled with joy at meeting this new life, who they recognise as the saviour of the world, the renewer of all Creation. This is the great economy of scripture, the faithfulness and patience of Simeon and Anna ends in the greatest hope, the renewal of all Creation in Jesus our saviour. Perhaps if you have witnessed the joy of so many grandparents in meeting a new grandchild for the first time you will have your own understanding of how, in the economy of God, Life always wins over death in the end. As Simeon says:

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2.29-32)

When we are faithful and patient we can have hope. Just as Winter becomes Spring we can all be, young and old, a blessing to each other and to our fellow Creation.



The 'Shed' wishes all our many friends and supporters a very happy New Year. In 2025 they will be celebrating their 10th year supporting men across the City of Gloucester. Look out for some of their proposed activities to celebrate this achievement.



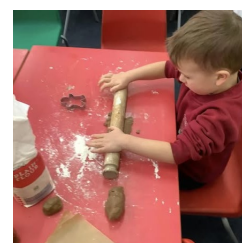
### Clearwater Primary Academy

Clearwater are pleased to let you know that following successful recruitment, they will be increasing their Breakfast and After-school club provision from September 2025.

If your child is allocated a place at Clearwater for Reception 2025 then please do get in contact as soon as you have accepted your place. They are anticipating that they will be able to offer wrap-around care for all children that require it. Please contact them for a booking form.

### Field Court Infant Academy

Reception had a fun filled first week back at school! They enjoyed baking, decorating and tasting yummy gingerbread to celebrate the start of their new topic, learning new sounds, practising our counting and working in teams during a special visit from a rugby coach



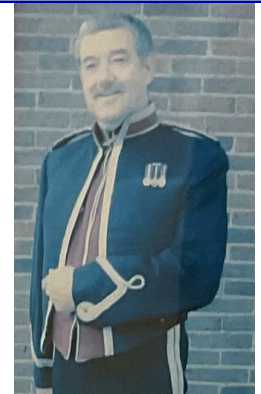


## Dark horse or Ass

Last November we had a study day to explore the Shepherds (St Luke's Gospel) and the Wise Men/Kings (St Matthew's Gospel) and their part in the Christmas Story, and our involvement with them too.

We were invited to choose a chess piece from the dish passing around the group, which we could identify with and place it in relation to the Nativity scene (created by the Revd. Dr. Stan).

I could not choose a bishop, but instead I picked up a dark horse - the black knight - as for twenty years I had been Chaplain to a Yeomanry Signals Squadron, and ended up as the Honorary Colonel of the North Somerset Yeomanry Signals Squadron (Volunteers), and positioned it, as in chess the knight cannot move in a straight line, at a place where by moving it could be at Jesus' s feet or in the midst of the common folk - the shepherds. After all, I carry Jesus to the people, and the people to Jesus in my Ministry.



So, perhaps, instead of a dark horse, I should call it a donkey (ass) as the donkey in the Christmas story, carried Mary and the unborn Jesus to Bethlehem, and Mary and the baby Jesus into exile in Egypt, and later would carry Jesus into Jerusalem.

We all can carry Jesus in our lives as we carry others in prayer to Him.

Thank you all who made the pre-advent day very worthwhile.



### The Church Electoral Roll

This is our only official list of Church Members—every parish has one and every six years the roll has to be renewed. 2025 is the year for our renewal, so from 1st January a new roll has to be compiled and everyone who wishes to be enrolled must reapply.

To be eligible you must be 16 years of age or over, you must be baptised and either a resident in the Parish of Quedgeley and Kingsway or a regular worshipper at St. James' Church Quedgeley.

Ann & Gordon Williams have taken on the task of compiling our Electoral Roll and they will have a form available in church for you to complete and return to them. The forms will then be kept securely.

It is important that we have an up to date and accurate record of our members, so please do not hesitate to complete the form. Closing date for renewals is 14th April 2025.

It's been a great start to the year! Donations to Ukraine...lots of knitted blankets, gloves, hats and baby clothes twiddle muffs to the local care home and donations to the Mayor's party. Happy New Year from all the gang at Knit and Natter group.





### **Quedgeley Women's Institute**

It was a cold evening, reflected by the fact that there were under 30 members who had ventured out. The refreshments for our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Supper will be provided by caterers and some members will be wearing clothes of the 1920's. Speakers to look forward to this year include the RNLI, Fraud Awareness and Volunteering at an Elephant Sanctuary.

Our speaker Barry Faulkner grew up in a family of career criminals but he didn't join them and his life went in an entirely different direction, going from script writing to writing about crime, both fact and fiction with his DCS Palmer books. He had stories to tell of the criminal gangs and the robberies and murders they carried out but as his family were involved in one of the crime gangs when he was a child, he had personal knowledge of some of the things they got up to. Gangs were running brothels, gambling and strip clubs as well as violent murders and robberies and Barry covered many well-known criminals including the Kray Twins and the Richardsons and their robberies but told some amusing anecdotes as well. He brought a selection of his crime books and some DCS Palmer fiction for members to buy if they wanted to know more.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall. If anyone is interested in coming along to one of our meetings they will be made very welcome.

### **Severnvale Women's Institute**

December was our Christmas Party. Following the business side of the meeting we held our Secret Santa Raffle, every member brings a wrapped gift which are allocated to members via a raffle ticket. We then had our Christmas themed quiz which was great fun, then our buffet lunch which was paid for and provided by the Committee. During 2024 we had a good variety of Speakers entertain us with a range of interesting talks on subjects such as A Solo Sailor's Adventures, Hedgehog Rescue, Elephant Valley Project in Cambodia and the Life of Peter Scott to name just a few. We also had day trips out to St Fagins near Cardiff and A Horse Drawn Barge experience at Tiverton. Our WI meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, (apart from August) from 10:00 to 12:00 at Quedgeley Community Centre on School Lane. We also hold a Craft Club on the second Tuesday of the month at the same place, which is open to non-members. If you would like to join in the fun at our craft sessions, then please ring Jilly on 07368222065 or email [jillyhw.290355@gmail.com](mailto:jillyhw.290355@gmail.com) to let us know of your intentions to join us. We need to know numbers of attendees as the Craft Teacher prepares the relevant amount of craft material packs per attendee. Anyone interested in coming to either the WI meeting or the Craft Club would be more than welcome.

---

## **February Half Term Family Activities at Gloucester Cathedral**

### **Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 February, Cathedral**

Discover the heritage, culture and crafts of the wonderful county of Gloucestershire this Half Term at family activity days.

**Race through the cloisters** with relay challenges inspired by Gloucestershire's traditions—cheese rolling, woolsack carrying, and even hobby horse racing!

**Get creative** in the carrells by colouring scenes of Gloucestershire's iconic landscapes and landmarks.

**Discover hands-on heritage in the Chapter House**, with activities highlighting Gloucestershire's traditions.

**Please note there is no booking required to take part in their family activities. Donations to the Cathedral are welcome.**

These activities form part of the Cathedral's programme of events for [A Celebration of Gloucestershire](#).



# Next Steps - Update



At the start of this project, it was said that the intention was to keep everybody informed and up to date about what's happening with the re-ordering project. In every issue of the Spire since, there has been an update. We have been consistent in the message inviting you to ask questions if you have them, and that remains our request.

To recap the major points so far as we start the new year:-

Discussions have taken place with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to gain their help in preparing the project which has been forthcoming in good measure.

Surveys have been undertaken on accessibility, asbestos, repairs to the windows, and the eco effectiveness of our use of energy for heat, light etc.

Professional advice is continuing on establishing the historical and liturgical significance of the building, its contents and furnishings, including the pews and floor. This is an ongoing process, the results of which will be included in the official 'Statement of Significance' for the DAC. There is ongoing consultation with community groups.

In relation to funding and finance, we have looked at the way the grant process works particularly in relation to the national lottery, and are focussing our attention on the areas most likely to be fruitful for our requirements. Success, it seems from the experience of other churches, sometimes comes at the second or third attempts and we shall keep that in mind as we move forward. Research and initial strategy decisions about funding pathways are at the next stage of development.

A first draft Architect's Brief is being prepared for presentation to your PCC for their comment and or approval. This, when agreed, will form the basis of our request for them to provide options which meet our criteria. The Church family along with others will then be invited to comment and a final decision is made by the PCC on the way forward.

The next steps for the early days of the new year will include a study of the Victorian floor tiles and a continuing review of the new funding arrangements.

So as before, and as always we invite you to make contact with Mark or myself or any other of the Next Steps group if you have any questions.

Andrew Wakely—Chair Next Steps Group

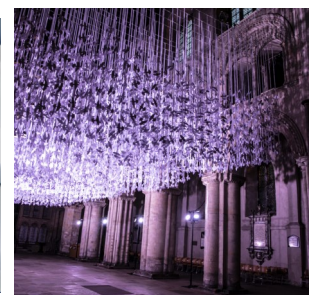
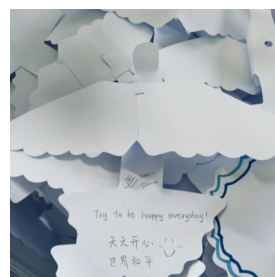


## Lent 2025 – Living Hope

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is Living Hope. An initial overview of the campaign is now online at [www.cofe.io/LivingHope](http://www.cofe.io/LivingHope). Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world. This year, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is on 5 March.



**Peace doves at Tewkesbury Abbey** Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 1 to 27 February Experience the Peace Doves and Imagine Peace. Installations by Peter Walker, where thousands of paper doves are decorated with messages of love and peace by local communities and schools to create a display of art. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/peace-doves-at-tewkesburyabbey>



# Poems for Winter

## Steve Morris



### Winter

Winter enveloped us like a fog  
till we walked with head down,  
as if in prayer. Our vision dimmed  
to the next task, to getting through the day;  
each day, each small task.

Our dreams were vivid:  
of Spring lambs and Sunshine,  
of Laughter and Picnics.

Winter enveloped us like a fog  
till we walked with head down,  
saying our daily mantra...  
"It will not last. Spring comes."

*Micheal Searle*

*Michael Searle was a deaf friend of mine. He wrote many poems which were published in his book, 'Doodles', a collection of poems dedicated to his late wife, Katie.*

### The Sun Breaks Through

Take comfort from the rhythm of the seasons;  
it's winter, but the Spring will come again.  
As soon as we have turned the Christmas Corner  
come little signs that Winter's on the wane.

You notice that the twilights linger longer.  
And so, in life; when trouble comes to you  
it never lasts. The dark cloud passes over.  
Things change. Your spirits rise.  
The sun breaks through.

*Patience Strong*

### A Winter Prayer

Be with us through the winter, Lord,  
and fill us with Your love and light.  
Be there with guidance through the day,  
with warmth and comfort through the night.

Draw closer when we're lonely, Lord,  
and fill the emptiness within.  
Please send a sweet serenity  
to help the healing peace begin.

Be near us in our troubled times  
until all doubt and fear departs.  
Be with us through the winter, Lord,  
and keep the summer in our hearts.  
*Iris Hesselden*

Help if we Can has started in earnest to arrange the following events, there will be more through the year. Could you please promote these via your school, work place, friends and neighbours Thanks.

VE DAY 2025 is on Thursday 8th May at the Quedgeley War Memorial. Assemble for 1045am. This will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Everyone welcome.

WINTER QUIZ NIGHT. At The Thatch in Bristol Road, Quedgeley. Teams of 4 £6. Book in with your team name. Food, Raffle and of course excellent Bar. Tables limited.

Steve Smith <[bulldog.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:bulldog.smith@btinternet.com)> or 01452 725343



Proudly presents.

## A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND SONG

(Based on Last Night of the Proms)

Featuring the local talents of



Also, soloist

Rebecca Crowther

Severn Vale School, School Lane Quedgeley GL2 4PR

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 7.00pm ---- (to be seated by 6.45pm)

Tickets £7.50 available from Help If We Can Members or on the door

Refreshments available to purchase along with a raffle.

All proceeds to Help If We Can Charity

Treat yourself to a night out, put on your glad rags let your hair down and

bring your flags to wave, for a bit of Land of Hope and Glory

Steve Smith <[bulldog.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:bulldog.smith@btinternet.com)>

or 01452 725343

# Church in the Community - December 2024

A life-size nativity scene, crafted by the Gloucester Men's Shed and displayed on a trailer, spread festive cheer to the local residents of Quedgeley.



Mark Siddall, Priest in Charge at St James, Quedgeley and unofficial Chaplain to the Gloucester Men's Shed, said: "I thought the area around the church would lend itself really well to a life-size nativity scene. The Men's Shed brought this vision to life, crafting the figures from plywood, which were then carefully painted by St James' churchwarden, Andrew Wakely."

The nativity float, which was transported around Quedgeley and accompanied by recorded carol music, visited older areas and newly built estates in Quedgeley.

"It's been a really great way of sharing the Christmas story with the whole community," Mark explained. "Some new estates are too large for traditional carollers to visit everyone, and the new estates often don't have the tradition of carollers coming round."

"Also, for people who are bed bound, and who get knocks on their door after dark, it can be a bit scary, so having carols played on the float outside allowed people to come to the door if they were able or chose to. Others watched from their window."

## Messy Christmas

Another Messy event took place just before Christmas. There was an opportunity to make paper crowns, Christmas wreaths, Christmas cards and Christmas angels. Plus there were all sorts of games and puzzles to test your wits. Our thanks go to everyone concerned and especially to the catering team for their lovely festive refreshments.



## Christmas at Chestnut Court

Residents at Chestnut Court enjoyed the Christmas Carol and Communion service. Revd. Mark a frequent visitor to Chestnut Court combined the monthly Communion service with carols. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.



## Kingsway Men's Shed

The Kingsway Men's Shed also entered into the Christmas spirit. A few mince pies and carol sheets brought to them by Revd. Mark encouraged them to sing their hearts out!



## Field Court Infant Academy

Year 2 had a magical Christmas Crib and Carol Service down at St James' Church. It was delightful hearing the story of Jesus' birth and singing the accompanying carols. A huge thank you to all of the parents who were in attendance and to Rev Mark and the church volunteers also.

## Clearwater Primary Academy

Clearwater School visited Tesco's at Quedgeley where they spent some time collecting for the Food Bank. They did a brilliant job and they managed to collect lots of donations.



# Quedgeley Town Council



We start by saying welcome to 2025. As always we start the new year as busy as ever with various projects underway and your councillors working hard in the background. January to March is always a time to recover from all what comes with Christmas. Our Christmas Event takes months to organise and it's somewhat therapeutic in the new year to have a clear out, tidy the office, complete risk assessments and generally take stock for the forthcoming year.



This is the time of year that we set the budget for the new financial year and with that comes many discussions on what needs to be done in the forthcoming year to improve the community in which we live. We do try to keep any increase in the precept as low as possible and justify any increase at the same time. At the time of writing this, our budget has not yet been finalised, however we do aim to further improve the Druids Oak Playpark, Bristol Road Rec, as well as a comprehensive maintenance plan for our community centres. We are excited about the forthcoming year with lots of aspirations and projects in the pipeline put forward by both this council and from feedback from the community and whilst we enjoy all other aspects of council work, such as community events etc, none of this would happen without careful budgeting.



A big congratulations to Councillor Victoria Ranford who has been nominated by NALC for Councillor of the Year for all of her hard work in setting up the Community Pantry. The winners will be announced at a parliamentary reception hosted by the House of Lords on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. So, we wish Vicky all the very best and whatever the outcome Vicky is a winner in our eyes for all the successful work she has achieved on behalf of the community. Well done vicky, we are all very proud of you. The community pantry remains very popular and continues to be run from the Kingsway Sports pavilion. There is a facebook page for the pantry which is named Quedgeley Community Pantry and up to date details can be found on that facebook page.

Bookings for our centres are becoming very busy so if you have a party coming up this year and want a venue then please consider either Quedgeley or Kingsway Community Centres which are great for children birthday parties or Waterwells Sports Centre for football parties. They are all very popular so booking in advance is highly recommended.

The Quedgeley Social Club premises remains empty at this present time, however the council are meeting regularly to establish a way forward and we are confident that a new tenant will be found soon.

A small request from the office staff. Dog bags are available at a subsidised rate from the council and the staff ask that when collecting dog bags, no dogs come into the office. There are some hooks outside of the office especially for securing your dogs and this is a polite reminder to dog owners.

And finally, we still have 2 vacancies on the council so if you would like to be part of a proactive team that serves your community then please get in contact with the Town Council Office on 01452 721552.

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](mailto: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)).



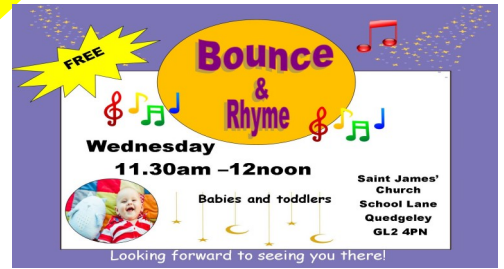
# News just in...

Have you a news story?  
Would you like to  
share it with us?

Contact our Editorial Team:

[hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk)

[jackiehall1854@gmail.com](mailto:jackiehall1854@gmail.com)



Lots of fun and activities for babies and toddlers every Wednesday in Saint James' Church from 11.30am – 12noon. If you have a baby or toddler do pop in and join the fun.

**Confirmation 2025** This will take place on Sunday 22nd June. We shall also be offering Baptism by full immersion on that day – so if you, or anyone you know, have not been baptised or confirmed, now is the time to get in touch with the Revd Mark.

## Jobs around the Church

### We need your help!

All offers of help gratefully received.

Refreshments available!

8th February: 10am – 12noon



**STOP PRESS** 1st Feb: 10am – 12noon: New Year Coffee Morning & Sale. If you have items suitable for sale or raffle prizes, Lu P. & Jackie B. (contact details in this mag) will be pleased to receive them. Thank you.



## Pause for Prayer

Every morning at 9.15am

During term time.

Pop in after the school run

Join Revd. Mark in Morning Prayer

# Who's Who in the Parish Church

| <b>Priest –in– Charge</b>           | <b>Land Line</b>    | <b>Mobile</b> | <b>Email address</b>             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Rev. Mark Siddall</b>            | <b>01452 722916</b> |               | <b>drmarksid@gmail.com</b>       |
| <b>Assistant Priests</b>            |                     |               |                                  |
| 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            |
| Rev. David Humphries                | 01452 529582        |               | fr.dids@virginmedia.com          |
| <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>                |                     |               |                                  |
| Mrs Jackie Broad                    | 01452 541078        | 07928862976   | 60jackie60broad@gmail.com        |
| Mr Andrew Wakely                    | 01452 722528        | 07879883091   | andrewmwakely@gmail.com          |
| <b>PCC Secretary</b>                |                     |               |                                  |
| Mrs Lu Pearce                       | 01452 725178        | 07922115062   | androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk     |
| <b>Safeguarding Officer</b>         |                     |               |                                  |
| Liz Keenan                          | 01452 722320        |               | mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com      |
| <b>PCC Treasurer -</b>              |                     |               |                                  |
| Mr Ian Pearce                       | 01452 725178        | 07867502469   | ianlu123@hotmail.com             |
| <b>Tea@2</b>                        |                     |               |                                  |
| Mrs Jackie Hall                     | 01452 721062        | 07853217954   | jackiehall1854@gmail.com         |
| <b>Organist</b> —Chris Baldwin      |                     | 07811589867   | cpbaldwin359@gmail.com           |
| <b>Bell Ringers</b> —Anne Heron     |                     | 07365 831182  | anneheron@gmail.com              |
| <b>Open the book</b> —Liz Keenan    | 01452 722320        |               | mrs.e.keenan@btinternet.com      |
| <b>Altar Servers</b> —Angela Hughes |                     | 07984265977   | angelajeanhughes@hotmail.co.uk   |

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

[www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley](https://www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley)

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

# Selling and Letting Property

## Discounts for Quedgeley residents\*



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\*Terms and conditions apply. Speak to a member of staff for more detail. If your property is already on the market with another agent, then the terms and conditions of those instructions must be considered in order to avoid liability of two commissions. Reviews total correct at time of printing 25.11.24 from Google.