

AROUND THE SPIRE



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



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March 2025

Issue 109

From your Editor - Fr. Hugh Broad



Welcome to this month's *Around the Spire*.

This month the church embarks on its journey through Lent. You'll find Fr. Ian's informative account (page 5) of how the season of Lent has developed throughout the ages and the traditions that still take place to this day. Revd. Mark has been busy visiting FCIA. He's also been preparing to take the local schools art work of the Stations of the Cross to Gloucester Cathedral. They will be displayed in the Cloisters from 4th March until May. So well worth a trip in to Gloucester to see them. Enjoy the read!

Fr. Hugh

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

Church Notice Board

Come and join us at
Tea@2
Wednesday 2pm -4pm
St. James' Church
BINGO Quiz
Light refreshments
£3.00 per person

Gloucester Strings Ukulele
Experience join with Twyver
Ladies Choir for
A SPRING SING-A-LONG
SATURDAY MARCH 1ST
ST. DAVID'S DAY
£5.00 per person
SAINT JAMES' CHURCH FUNDRAISER
SAINT JAMES' CHURCH
SCHOOL LANE
QUEDGELEY
GL2 4PN
7.00PM -9.00PM
Refreshments available during the break

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
LIVING HOPE
Saint James' Quedgeley & Kingsway
Ash Wednesday
5th March
Holy Communion with Ashing
10.00am

FREE ENTRY
SATURDAY 17TH MAY
12NOON TO 4.00PM
HAVE FUN AT YOUR CHURCH SPRING FAIR
SPRING FAIR
SAINT JAMES' CHURCHYARD
SCHOOL LANE QUEDGELEY
STREET FOOD,
RAFFLES, STALLS, LIVE MUSIC
AND ACTIVITIES FOR
EVERYONE

ST. JAMES' CHURCH QUEDGELEY
Mothers' Sunday Services
Sunday 30th March
10.00am
STJ Family Service
11.45am
Everyone Welcome!
Refreshments served from 11.30am.

Out and about with Revd Mark



This time last year the seven Quedgeley Primary Schools joined together to create a series of fifteen stations of the Cross concluding with Easter. Each school approached the project in their own unique and special way and it was a great way to reflect on the Easter story together.

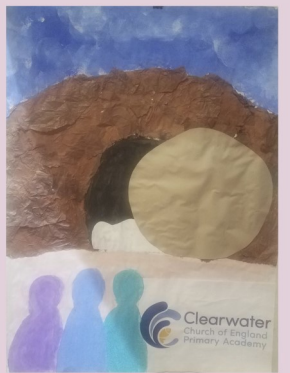
This is a time of great uncertainty for so many of us and at times we all feel it. I wonder if this is why our Quedgeley Stations of the Cross project has been so engaging for schools and worshippers alike. In the Cross we have the ultimate sense of human self-destruction but then the beyond-ultimate hope of new life. We are confronted with death but the resilience of hope and new life wins each and every time. There is absolute hope in this story beyond anything this sometimes crazy world has to throw at us.

This year the project has continued with funding from the Sylvanus Lysons Trust and support from Alpha Printing and Gloucester Cathedral. We have printed the Stations on large vinyl banners to be placed in each school playground for one week during Lent. During that week I will be 'vicar in residence' to take students around the stations and encourage reflection and responses and answer questions.



The Fourteenth Station, Clearwater Church of England Primary Academy: Jesus laid in the tomb

Then Joseph of Arimathaea bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. **Mark 15.46**



If you are not involved with the schools, there are two ways to get involved yourself. A set of the Stations will be installed in the 'Harry Potter Cloisters' in Gloucester Cathedral from 3rd March until 8th May do visit them if you have time. We will use these Stations once more to mark the 'last hour' on Good Friday from 2pm.

The Third Station, Meadowside School: Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power', and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death. **Mark 14.55-64**



The Eleventh Station, Field Court Junior Academy: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' **Luke 23.39-43**



Uniting Gloucester in prayer

2025 is the year for every street in Gloucester to be united in prayer. Pray for Gloucester is an ecumenical, Gloucester city-wide initiative, with a free app to track physical and virtual prayer walks.

The Revd Jo Pestell, Vicar at St Catharine's, formed this initiative to bring churches together in prayer for all of Gloucester. If you aren't keen on using an app, you can use a paper map to track your route and have someone log it for you.

Be part of this mission. Download the app and start prayer walking today at www.pray4gloucester.uk or start your own local prayer walk in your home area.



From the Editor's desk

ANY QUESTIONS? WHAT MAKES US TICK?

All of us, I guess ,very often have questions in our minds!

Something we see on the television - certain lots to ask about here!

It seems to me that there is always one thing or another where we want to ask a question and look for an answer which satisfies our curiosity.

As you read this magazine, hopefully each month there will be items like this.

Most of our valued readers will be well aware that A/Sp to give it a nick name, seeks to be what is not always the case of being a Church magazine but also one which reaches out to the wider community in all kinds of ways and activities. Just for interest I counted up the number of people who were part of the production of the previous February issue and it was over 30. This shows something about the width of the items coming from the life of the Quedgeley and Kingsway area and often beyond.

As I travel around this area I meet lots of people to chat with and quite often it is something from A/Sp which prompts our discussion and is based on something which has been featured in our pages. This is surely good news. We live in an age where looking at a screen can so easily dominate our lives.

So, a valuable contribution can really be to use the printed word as an extension of the way we govern our lives and expand our knowledge in a wide range of issues.

SO HOW ABOUT THIS AS A FEATURE FOR FUTURE ISSUES?

Quite by accident I was asked a question which I feel lots of people might well be interested to see the answer -

Why is it that far more people are right handed than left handed?

The three people who I have asked this, and being left handed I have often wondered the answer myself, have not known either! So come on you experts - do let us know!

There is a real story behind the question I will share with you next time!

SO COME ON FOLKS! This could be both interesting and a great fun as well—let me have your question and let's see if it will become a regular feature.

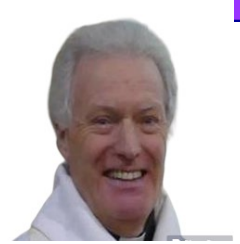
Fr. Hugh



“Times and Seasons” - the Christian Year

**A look at the various seasons of the Church Calendar:
this month we shall enter the season of LENT.**

*“Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.” (A Latin verse from 11th century)*



Just as Jesus' time in the wilderness followed his baptism, Lent originally followed Epiphany, but it soon became attached to Easter with the emphasis on baptism and the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship because of serious faults.

In the early days of the Church's life, candidates for baptism received instruction in Christian faith during Lent, and as penitents prepared themselves – by fasting and penance – to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian family was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance. Thus came into being the characteristic notes of the season: self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and alms-giving. Originally this time of preparation lasted no more than three or four days but the Council of Nicea (which we looked at last month) agreed that Lent should last for forty days, reminding us of the fast of Moses and especially that of Jesus. It is the emphasis on self-denial which has led to the custom of “giving up” things for Lent, but we can see that the original intention was for Christians not to “give up” but rather to take on something extra during this season as a means of preparing for Easter, the great and distinctive Christian festival.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross – the ash is made by burning the previous year's palm crosses. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history; it is now the practice to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays which are always regarded as festival days), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter – the date of which varies from year to year (and which will be discussed in a future article!).



You will note that during Lent the church is kept bare of flowers and decoration; purple (or sackcloth) is the colour for vestments and altar hangings; “Alleluia” and “Gloria” are not used, and our attention focuses on the climax to the earthly ministry of Jesus in Holy Week and Easter.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – originally called Laetare or Refreshment Sunday – was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the feast of the Annunciation always falls in Lent. These breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent. The final two weeks of Lent are also known as Passiontide, and worthy of a separate article.

Our Lent study this year will be based on the Nicene Creed, as mentioned last month, and will be delivered in the sermons on Sunday mornings at 10am and also in an extra item in the weekly newsheet for you to use at home. (If you would like to receive the newsheet by email, just send Fr. Ian your email address - details are in the magazine!)

Fr. Ian

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. 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.



Denise Wang Ordinand from St. Catherine's Gloucester explains the significance of Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday: March 5th 2025

"Remember you are but dust and to dust you shall return!"

When did you first wake up to the fact of your own mortality? For me it was only a few years ago during an illness that I seriously thought about the fact that I'm not going to last for ever! A good wake up call for me back then, but now I've discovered that the church has a way to remember this every year - it's Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 5th.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period of fasting, penance and prayer leading up to Easter, when Christians remember the death, and celebrate the resurrection, of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the only One who was dead and is now alive, gives us hope beyond what we can see. He said "I am the Resurrection and the Life" which is what gives hope and joy when facing our own mortality and need of forgiveness.

On Ash Wednesday we have the opportunity to come humbly before God in repentance, remembering that He is "on our side" and came to save us not to condemn us (John 3:17). It's called "Ash" Wednesday because of the practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance during the Holy Communion service. The ashes used are made by burning the palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday and are applied in the shape of a cross. The priest says the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." And so Lent begins as a time to grow closer to God.



Ash Wednesday itself is not a day of fasting, but during Lent some Christians do fast, choose to give up something or take on a new spiritual discipline. It serves as a reminder of the need for spiritual renewal and the journey toward Easter.

At St James every Wednesday at 10am there is a Eucharist service to which all are welcome to come along. On March 5th there will also be Imposition of the Ashes as part of this service. Do come along even if it's your first time to experience this tradition and may this Ash Wednesday mark the beginning of a period of reflection and renewal in our lives bringing us all closer to God. Jesus offers forgiveness, grace and courage to all who follow Him. Let's turn our eyes towards Him today!



Thanks Denise for these thoughts on Ash Wednesday as an important date in the Christian Year.

It has been so good to have Denise with us in the parish for the last few weeks. She has been with us in the parish on placement to see just how we live and worship as a Christian Community in this large area. All this is a part of her training for the Ordained Ministry of the Church of England. There are a rich variety of parishes in the Church, here in this Diocese of Gloucester this is true as elsewhere and it is important for the clergy to be aware of these variances and how they all fit into the wider picture.

Denise is a student at Cuddesdon Theological College although her home is here in Gloucester. We are sure she will take away with her many memories and lessons learned of her time with us. We for our part will watch her progress with interest and assure her of our prayers along the way.

Fr. Hugh

Creation Care - Mother Earth



Romans chapter 8 verses 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

All those who nurture us - and the Creation that nurtures us - are part of our growth into who God calls us to be. This is why many Christians are unafraid to use the term 'Mother Earth' for the home God purposes for us just as we know purpose in caring for our common home. As we are formed in our mother's womb, the habitat of earth is perfect for life with water, food, air and the right temperature are like a womb for all humanity. This is the way our Creator intends. Although our relationships with our own mothers and our roles as mothers are sometimes difficult and never perfect, there is love in the mothering around us. This is as our Creator intends and is part of. In mothering God expresses His love for us.

Mothering Sunday is 30th March this year. It will be very special to come together in Church to remember all that Mothering is to each of us.

What I am praying about...

During Lent last year we worked hard as a church and parish to discern God's calling for us in coming years as a church with both presence and purpose in our parish. The outcome of that imagining, praying and listening is:

We know that God loves Quedgeley (1 John 4.19)

Lets live that love together in the midst of...

...Growing Community

- by partnering with those of good will
- by removing barriers and increasing access to inclusive worship
- by increasing the capacity of the church building

...All Stages of Life

- by worshipping and caring in ways that suit different stages of life
- by engaging with Creation across generations
- by developing an accessible and flexible church building

...God's Creation

- by teaching, preaching and leading on Creation Care in Quedgeley
- by building community engaged with Eco Church
- by adapting the church building towards the 2030 Net Zero commitment of the Church of England

This vision and Mission Action Plan has given the presence and purpose for our life as a Church in the last year. The Next Steps Team continues to consult and do background work to conserve and adapt our beautiful building so it can continue as a vital witness and location for this growing Church in Quedgeley.

Now we are need to find others with the gifts and skills to fundraise the initial phases of this work. My prayer is that if you have gifts and skills to help gather the £30 000 we need to get started you will come forwards and offer your talent. My prayer is that God will reveal a strong team of dedicated folk so that the legacy of our generation will be a church with increased capacity, flexibility, accessibility and sustainability. Pray with me to discern if you can help or that God will reveal to you others who can.

Loving Father, BRING CREATIVE AND GENEROUS TALENT to this task so that your Glory be known in Quedgeley as it has for generations. AMEN.



Jesus' Jester

The Venerable David Sutch TD



A man was walking through a forest pondering life. He walked, pondered, walked and pondered. He felt very close to nature and even to God. He felt so close to God that he felt if he spoke God would listen. So he asked "God, are you listening?"

God replied "Yes, my son, I am here."

The man stopped and pondered some more. He looked towards the sky and said "God, what is a million years to you?"

God replied "Well my son, a second to me is like a million years to you."

So the man continued to walk and ponder..... walk and ponder. Then he looked up to the sky again and said, "God, what is a million pounds to you?"

God replied "My son, my son, a penny to me is like a million pounds to you. It means almost nothing to me. It does not even have value it is so little."

The man looked down, pondered a bit and then looked up to the sky and said "God, can I have a million pounds?"

God replied "In a second."

Quedgeley Women's Institute



February 2025 is very special for our WI because it is our 100th Birthday and we celebrated it in 1920's style with fabulous table decorations, a great selection of buffet food and many of our members dressed in the styles of the 1920's.

Caroline Meek gave a short history of Quedgeley WI and with a photographer to record everyone enjoying themselves we will have even more information to go into the archive that goes back many years, some of which was on display.

It is our WI's turn to host the Group Party this year and there will also be a 1920's theme so more celebrating to be done when the time comes.

Next month we will be hearing from Chris Edwards from the RNLI and the competition will be A Seaside Souvenir. In March we will be hearing about Fraud Awareness and Advice which will be very helpful to everyone. With Resolutions and a Social Evening in May and a talk about the Life and Times of an Adult Tutor in June there is still plenty to look forward to.

If anyone would like to come along, either as a visitor or new member, they will be made very welcome. We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall and more information can be found on our website www.quedgeleywi.co.uk or on facebook.com/quedgeleywi.

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finishing • packing • storage • distribution



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to add to your print



The Church's Healing Ministry

By Fr. Gordon



Over recent years we have been seeing that the healing ministry within the Church of England is increasingly becoming part of normal everyday life, expressed in many ways: both publicly and privately.

John Bell, in his hymn, 'We cannot measure how you heal' wrote

"Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul, to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole."

It is just about two years ago that Mark asked me if I would put together a small team of lay people and train them to become 'Healing Prayer Ministers'. With the considerable help of my Clergy Colleagues, it was something I was delighted to do, and during the Eucharist at Pentecost 2023 the ministry of Healing Prayer with the Laying on of Hands commenced and has been offered, during the Eucharist, monthly on every second Sunday since.

Jesus heals; Jesus meets people at their point of need, as we see throughout the gospels. In The Book of Acts, we see his friends continuing to fulfill that commission, by bringing people and the world into new and abundant life in his name. As Christians we are to continue this, by offering people a safe space to heal, in love and prayer.

Healing, we might say, is what the Church's mission is all about. Healing is at the heart of Jesus' ministry, it's for us and it's for our communities. Healing is about becoming whole, in body, mind and spirit. Healing is about new life, it's not just about 'more of the same.'

The practice and commitment to the healing ministry of Jesus is as important today as it always was, because the world and its people need to experience, as well as to hear, that God loves them. The Gospels use the term 'healing' both for physical healing and for the broader salvation that Jesus brings... Healing, reconciliation and restoration are integral to the good news of Jesus Christ."

The New Testament shows us that Jesus' healing of the sick and casting out demons were vivid demonstrations of the coming of the kingdom; and, after his resurrection our Lord Jesus commissioned his apostles to preach that gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that men and women might turn to him and taste the first fruits of the kingdom in their own lives.

Through the ages the Church has responded by caring for the sick and troubled in many different ways - through pastoral care, prayer, the sacraments, spiritual gifts, practical friendship, and so on.

So, what are the most common forms of healing ministry today?

First of all, Public and private prayers of intercession. Secondly, the laying on of hands. And thirdly, Anointing.

The Healing Ministry is full of hope, it is exciting, it is visionary, it is prophetic and it is dynamic. We'll take a look at these areas next time.

Gordon

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, 12/17 School Lane, Quedgeley, GL2 4PQ | richard@prospect-training.org.uk | 01452 542 590

FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER PRESENT...

QUIZ NIGHT

LICENCED BAR AND RAFFLE

£5 PER PERSON
TEAMS OF 4 MAX.
Attendees must be 16 or over

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7.30PM START

ELMORE VILLAGE HALL, GL2 3NT

WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/CLEARWATERPRIMARYPTA

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1206191

Next Steps March Update



Next Steps update.

Well at last there is good news on the porch; the Faculty has been approved and work can start as soon as it is sensible. The contractor advises that the work on the oak door surround and also rendering on the ceiling will be better done when temperatures are a bit higher, so we will be expecting to start in late March when we shall hopefully be a little warmer.



Continuing the theme of warmth, but now inside the building, we are advised that the lagging work which is starting very soon, will improve the effectiveness of the radiators and help things generally. Still on the subject of heating, a meeting is now scheduled with Diocese heating guru to discuss not just on the present, but the future as well of course to ensure that the re-ordering provision is not just effective and efficient, but also meets the Diocese eco based carbon reduction targets.



As regards the main re-ordering project, initial investigation on the pews relating to their history. is being done by a team of three gentlemen each specialists in their own area, and their results are fascinating. Further work to establish their age by a technique called 'ring dating' is being scheduled as soon as we can gain approval for it from the DAC. We shall then have a better idea of the age of the Nave, the closest for which thus far in the History books is 'before 1875' First findings from the evidence on saw cuts on 8 of the pews suggest that they may date from before 1540. It is well worth noting that these highly qualified specialists are giving their services to us, including the ring dating tests and research; they are all simply fascinated by the project and want to help. We are being richly blessed.

The next exciting find was under the carpets which are becoming tatty and decomposing underneath. Not only do we have beautiful Victorian tiles in the gangway areas which will be restored to their former glory, but also we have discovered some fabulously colourful albeit newer tiles forming mosaic patterns hidden under the carpets in the High altar area; more wonderful heritage to preserve for future generations. Sadly we also found that the transept in front of the first row of pews is a huge area of concrete which has apparently been laid over the Victorian tiles. This means more work to separate them in the renovation, but advice suggests that this is all possible. Finally on the heritage side of things, we have found a gravestone which is very old indeed and may have come inside the building when the north aisle was built in the late 1800s. It is located in the front pew of the rear section of pews north side. Most of us may have moved across it and never noticed!



Next Steps cont'd

An information sheet on both the floor and the pews is available for review and if anyone would like a copy I shall be pleased to provide one in hard copy or email.

As regards financing, work continues on the initial funding grant application from National Lottery heritage funds, but this takes a long while. Its a question of patience as the wheels turn, but turning they most certainly are. These particular grants provide funding, among other things, for the many surveys and specialists we need in developing the full proposals, and go a long way to ensure that the entire project is on the right, secure lines for a successful conclusion.

As always, please make contact with me if you would like to talk about anything regarding Next Steps.



Quedgeley Town Council



As we move into March, now is the time that we start to really prepare for our first event, the annual Easter Egg Hunt. As always it will be held at the Nature Reserve off Curtis Hayward Drive on Easter Monday. Gates open at 10.00am and the event continues until all the Easter packs have been handed out so it really is first come first serve. With Easter late this year, it gives us time to advertise this event again during April, however we like to give parents plenty of time to save this date as it is such a popular event.

On a more serious note we can confirm that the budget for 2025/26 has now been set and with only a small increase of £0.98pence per average council tax payer for the whole year, we are confident that we have a really robust budget that not only enables us to maintain all the usual services such as playparks/the cemetery/allotments/buildings/community pantry and much much more, it also enables us to take on new projects such as additional equipment for Druids Oak Playpark, improvements to Bristol Road Rec, new doors for Waterwells Sports Centre and a comprehensive painting plan for our community centres.



We recently celebrated 25 years of service by Councillor Julian Powell. A certificate was presented at Full Council by the current Chair, Cllr Steve Wilcox in the presence of the council and staff. We would like to once again say a big thank you to Cllr Powell who has diligently served his community all these years and we are looking forward to celebrating some more long service awards in the near future.

At the time of writing Cllr Ranford is still to attend a parliamentary reception on the 25th February to see if she is the worthy winner of Councillor of the Year. We will be in a position to let you know in the next edition of Around the Spire, however fingers crossed for Vicky.

Unfortunately, despite our preferred use for the premises left by Quedgeley Social Club was for a Community Hub there has been insufficient support for this and Council is seeking alternative tenants, we hope to be in a position to give more positive news on this front next month.

Quedgeley Town Council cont'd

We have
been
blessed!



Bookings for our centres remain extremely 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.

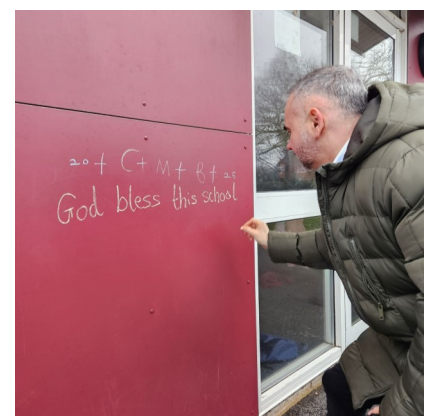
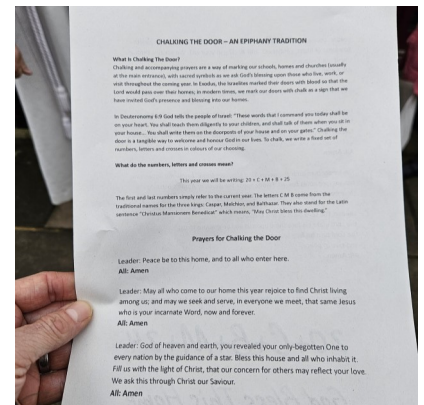


And finally, we still have 3 vacancies on the council so if you would like to be part of a proactive team that serves your community then please get in contact with the Town Council Office on 01452 721552.

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 or you can visit our website on [Quedgeley Town Council \(quedgeley-tc.gov.uk\)](http://Quedgeley Town Council (quedgeley-tc.gov.uk)).



Rev. Mark blessed FCIA last month. Mr Osborne and the Worship Team joined him in visiting doorways and thresholds to rooms regularly used by the whole school. An Epiphany blessing that involved naming the Three Wise Men was said. After blessing the chalk in a service held at church each member of the team then wrote the initials of the wise men, the year and the sign of the cross. Mr Osborne and Rev. Mark then wrote 'God Bless This School' at each position.



Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day



Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday started when Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all meat and animal products during the time of Lent around AD60. Today it is a tradition to make pancakes on that day. Some people spread golden syrup over their pancakes whilst others prefer a squeeze of lemon. If you've never made pancakes before there is a recipe below, taken from Mary Berry's Complete Cook book or you can find it on the web at this link. <https://www.shnuggle.com/blogs/news/mary->



Pancake Recipe

Ingredients

125g plain flour

1 egg and 1 yolk

300ml milk

Method

1. Sift 125g plain flour into a bowl and make a well in the middle.
2. Whisk together one egg, one yolk and a little milk taken from the 300ml, in a separate bowl.
3. Pour into the well. Whisk with a little of the flour.
4. Gradually whisk in half of the remaining milk, drawing in the rest of the flour with a little at a time, to make a smooth batter.
5. Stir in the remaining milk. Cover and leave to stand for about 30 minutes.
6. Heat the frying pan and brush with a little oil.
7. Ladle two or three tablespoons of batter into the pan and tilt the pan so that the batter spreads out evenly over the bottom.
8. Cook the pancake over a medium-high heat for 45-60 seconds until small holes appear on the surface, the underside is lightly browned and the edge has started to curl. Loosen the pancake and turn it over by tossing or flipping it with a palette knife. Cook the other side for about 30 seconds until golden. Slide the pancake out of the pan.
9. Heat and lightly grease the pan again before making the next pancake. Serve the pancakes as they are made, or stack them on a plate and reheat before serving. (If the pancakes are hot when you stack them they will not stick together; there is no need to interleave them with greaseproof paper.)
10. Any uneaten pancakes will keep in a stack for 24 hours or can be frozen.

Around our Community



A note from Theresa at Tesco ... 'I am so so so excited to share that our knit and natter group are taking part in the Lions At Large Trial and we are the only knitting group to have our own lion! Please visit the website for more information. It's going to be so exciting so watch this space! To see what design we come up with Roar everyone! Let's raise lots of money to help build a new building for cancer patients' <https://lionsatlarge.co.uk/>




Saint James' along with Theresa from Tesco and the Q Club will be holding their Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan on Thursday 25th September 2025 in the church from 10.00am –12noon. More details later.



Happy Lunar New Year! In Reception they have been performing dragon dances, sharing books and trying delicious food. A special thanks to Mrs Chan for teaching them about this special time of year and helping them to celebrate!



Some of the pupils from Clearwater Primary visited SS Great Britain on their class trip. They were delighted to welcome local artist Helene Barrott back to school to unveil the wonderful artwork which children in Year 2 produced with her called 'In the Jungle'. And finally pupils had an incredible time at 'Young Voices'



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.

Steve Smith <bulldog.smith@btinternet.com> or 01452 725343

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.

Who's Who in the Parish Church

Priest –in– Charge	Land Line	Mobile	Email address
Revd. Mark Siddall	01452 722916		drmarksid@gmail.com
Assistant Priests			
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	iobb925@gmail.com
Revd. G. Ripley	01452 883399		gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com
Revd. Canon M. Garland	01452 720872	07974066929	michaelgarland368@btinternet.com
Revd. Ann Morris			rev.ann@btinternet.com
The Venerable David Sutch	01452 552926	07948370054	vendavid196@gmail.com
Revd. David Humphries	01452 529582		fr.didds@virginmedia.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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***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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