



Please recycle me after you've read



# AROUND THE SPIRE

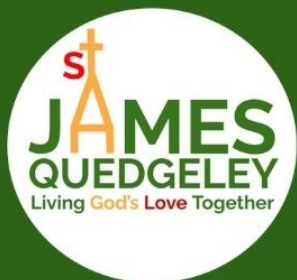


*Together for our community*

May 2026

ISSUE 120

**Saint James' Church  
Quedgeley & Kingsway  
FREE MAGAZINE**



# From the Editor's desk...



## Features ... this month

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This month, we have a wide range of stories and articles to keep you both informed and entertained. Alongside our regular contributions from Revd. Mark and Fr. Ian, we're delighted to welcome Revd. Steve Morris, who is beginning a new series exploring the famous people and places featured in the New Testament.

Victoria returns with helpful tips for gardening in May. We're introducing some new features including *Snappy Snippets*, puzzles and colouring pages for our younger readers to enjoy. Ann returns with a great recipe this month for Toffee Apple Cake.

We're also pleased to include updates from our local Town Council and City Councillors—so do read on to discover what's happening in our community.

Enjoy the read!

## Jackie

Jackie Hall

Deputy Editor

**P.S Also take note that our Spring Fair this year is on Saturday 16th May. Lots of stalls, refreshments and a chance to win £100 CASH in the raffle.**

**FREE**

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH  
QUEDGELEY & KINGSWAY

**SING & PLAY**

Wednesday 11.00am  
-12noon  
Saint James' Church  
School Lane  
Quedgeley GL2 4PN

**FREE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

SAINT JAMES' CHURCH  
QUEDGELEY & KINGSWAY

**SPRING FAYRE**

12 NOON - 4PM

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

STREET FOOD | CRAFT | MUSIC  
REFRESHMENTS & MANY MORE  
STALLS

Saint James' Church Churchyard  
School Lane  
Quedgeley

**SAINT JAMES' CHURCH**  
Quedgeley & Kingsway

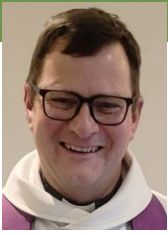
Morning Prayer  
9.15am daily  
during term  
time

Holy Communion  
Wednesday  
10.00am

Holy Communion  
Sunday  
10.00am

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
11.30am —  
STJ's Family Service

Tea/Coffee—served from  
11.30am



*A highlight came the next morning when we visited the Ty Mawr convent of the Society of the Sacred Cross.*

Getting away can be really helpful, especially as a clergy family when it is only out of the parish that I am truly just dad and not 'Revd Mark', at least for a few days.

We do fly abroad and travel afar for holidays but there is something special about staying relatively local and leaving and returning at the pace of the simple bicycle. At least once a year we try and enjoy a bike tour and each year we are more comfortable to add an extra day. In our case we take two tandem bikes, one with electric assist for our panniers and one carrying Biddy our Border Terrier.

This year we left on Easter Monday to wind our way down the lanes to the old Severn motorway bridge where we stayed at the Travelodge. We stop at cafes and playgrounds on the way so that we can stretch and fuel up and so that Biddy can have a run around and chase her frisbee.

After crossing the bridge the next morning we headed along the ridge between the Usk and Wye valleys staying the night at Lion Inn at the ancient settlement of Trelleck, which was once the largest settlement in Wales. The views towards the Black Mountains on one side and the Forest of Dean on the other were breathtaking.

A highlight came the next morning when we visited the Ty Mawr convent of the Society of the Sacred Cross.

## What I am praying about....

I invite you, very simply, to pray the following prayer this month. This prayer has been shared by my sending church, St Stephens Rochester Row, Westminster:

### PRAYER for PEACE

LEAD ME FROM DEATH to LIFE,  
from FALSEHOOD to TRUTH

LEAD ME FROM DESPAIR to HOPE,  
from FEAR to TRUST

LEAD ME FROM HATE to LOVE,  
from WAR to PEACE

LET PEACE FILL OUR HEART,  
OUR WORLD, OUR UNIVERSE.

Peace, Peace, Peace.

AMEN

We loved visiting the chapels in the convent grounds and we were warmly hosted in the sun by the sisters who shared a glass of homemade elderflower cordial with us. Emily and Erica shared Eucharist with the sisters while Dan, Biddy and I explored the grounds. From Ty Mawr we headed downhill to Monmouth (pictured).

After a night at the Riverside Hotel (who kindly did a clothes wash for us), we headed on forest trails all the way to Ross-on-Wye via Symonds Yat. Ross was a lovely place to explore after the most scenic day of a very scenic ride.

From Ross we stopped one more night at Lea in the ancient Lea House, which now serves as a B&B. We felt very special to be allowed to spend time in such beautiful accommodation and the village shop served us very well with local meats and baked goods.

Our last day was through the forest at Micheldean and then via Flaxley, Tibberton and Highnam home. The last stretch from Gloucester Quays to Quedgeley along the canal was as special as anything we had been through and we were reminded of what a lovely place we live in.



We are aiming to deliver newsletters to your door on a seasonal basis. However, this depends on whether we can recruit enough



deliverers. Apart from helping to spread the word, just think of the health benefits from all those extra steps! If you can help deliver in your area give us a ring on 07853217954 or email us at [stjamesquedgeleyandkingsway@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesquedgeleyandkingsway@gmail.com)

# Times and Seasons the Christian Year

Fr. Ian Robb



*A look at the various seasons of the Church Calendar: the month of May brings us to the feasts of PENTECOST & TRINITY SUNDAY.*

On the night before his arrest, Jesus gave the disciples a promise: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Comforter, the Spirit of Truth..." and on the day we now call Ascension Day he gave them this instruction: "Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.."

During a period of forty days, they had become aware that Jesus was indeed alive, victorious over death, and no longer limited by the human condition. The time had come to return to the Godhead; naturally, they were sad at the thought of life without him and wondered how they could continue his work. "I will not leave you bereft.." was his reassurance; it must have very difficult for them to wait and see what would happen, while all the time wondering if they too would be arrested.

Fifty days after Passover, on the day of Pentecost (from the Greek word "pentekoste" - fiftieth) when the first corn-harvest was being celebrated, the events described by St Luke in the Acts of the Apostles took place. The twelve disciples (Matthias had by this time been elected to their number) and their companions – including Mary the mother of Jesus – were aware of a new awareness within and among them. The fear had gone, the doubts had been lifted, the coldness of bereavement had been replaced by the warmth of life and love. Recounting the events, they struggled to describe them, comparing them to the great natural forces of wind and fire – the basic elements of creation itself.

They knew then that the promise Jesus had given them had come true. He was still among them, but in a new and even more powerful way. They were still in the city, but now the time had come to move on. The ability to "speak in other tongues" was a sign that they were to reach out to other peoples and nations and that they were to be channels for God's saving love to flow around the world. They were no longer disciples – people who sat at the Master's feet, learning from him. The Spirit of God had confirmed them in their faith and was preparing them to be Apostles – those who are "sent out" - Greek, apo-stello – to send out – to work for God. The feast of Pentecost is therefore the birth-day of the Church Universal, when the Spirit of God came to empower that small group to go out and perform the mission entrusted to them by the risen Christ himself. Having been baptised in water, they were now immersed in the Holy Spirit and reborn into a new calling.

The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new Body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit. It follows that when we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, we are not just remembering a famous event in the Church's history. The Holy Spirit of God is as active in the Church today as he was in the days of those first Christians. Whenever Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination are celebrated, there the Spirit is at work. Whenever a penitent is forgiven, whenever a sick or dying person is anointed, whenever Christian marriage is celebrated, there the Spirit is at work. And when bread and wine are consecrated by a priest, we may be sure that the spiritual presence of Christ is given to us.

This year, 50 days (Pentecost) after Easter (Passover) falls on 24th May; we hope that you will "stay in the city" - St James Quedgeley – and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on each one of us, that we may be given strength for God's service.

Since 1334 the Sunday after Pentecost has been kept as Trinity Sunday. In a sense, every feast must be a festival of the Trinity, because the whole Trinity is at work in every moment of creation, redemption, and sanctification; but Trinity Sunday provides a particular occasion to reflect on the revelation of God as Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Falling as it does half-way through the Christian Year, and having celebrated all the major festivals, it seems right that on this day we should give thanks for God Himself and all His love and care for us

Something to think about:

"When you're thirsty and no one will fill your cup for you  
and your well-dressed friends don't want you on their street  
when you're so far down, the gutter looks like "up" to you  
I will still be kneeling at your feet." (Bob Lind, 1966)

# Easter 2026

There was plenty happening at St James' Church over the Easter period. The week began with the Palm Sunday service at 10.00am. *Messy Easter* took place on the Tuesday of Easter week, offering a range of activities and crafts for young people to enjoy. On Thursday Revd. Mark could be found polishing shoes in Tesco (see page 9)

On Sunday, for the early risers everyone met at 5.30am at Robinswood Hill to herald in Easter morning. The Easter communion service was held at 10.00am followed by a special service at 11:30am for Team STJ's. Despite the dry but very cold and chilly weather, many people attended.



# People and Places in the Bible



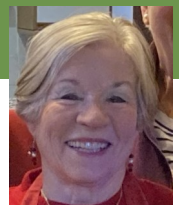
Each week in our church services we have readings from the Bible. Those who attend our services regularly will know that we usually have one reading from the Old Testament, followed by one from the New Testament. We then sing a hymn and this is followed by a reading from one of the Gospels.

We might have a reading for example from Paul's letter to the Colossians or the Corinthians. Do you ever wonder who the Colossians were or where Corinth might be? There's other people and places mentioned in the New Testament; the Thessalonians, the Philippians and the Ephesians to name just a few. The New Testament also includes some letters written by Peter, and John writes some as well. But which John might this be and who might he be writing to? And one of the Gospels seems to have been written for just one person to read, yet it has become one of the most widely read and most loved letters of all.

Starting in our next 'Around The Spire' we'll go through the New Testament and look at these various people and places that Peter, Paul – and other authors – wrote to. We'll take it one letter at a time; nothing too deep, just a brief glimpse at who these people were and why they were favoured with a letter. It should be interesting.

Steve.

# Baking with Ann



*Scrumptious Toffee Apple Cake that gets a big thumbs-up from our Tea@2 crowd and never fails to bring smiles all around. Delicious on its own, or treat yourself to generous lashings of whipped cream—yum yum!*

<b>Toffee Apple Cake</b>	175g self raising flour	50g flaked almonds
175g unsalted butter softened	1 tsp mixed spice	1 tbsp demerara sugar
175g light muscovado sugar	3 Granny Smiths apples	
3 large eggs beaten	peeled, cored and sliced	

You will need—20cm spring –form cake tin greased and base lined with greaseproof paper

Preheat oven to 180c 160c fan, gas 4. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add the eggs until combined. Sift together the flour and mixed spice and fold into the butter mixture.

Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface. Cover with two-thirds of the apple slices then pour the rest over the mixture and level the surface. Arrange the rest of the apple slices on top and sprinkle over the flaked almonds and demerara sugar.

Bake on the shelf of the oven for 30minutes –45minutes ( depends upon the oven setting—could take slightly longer so keep your eye on it) until risen, golden brown and firm to touch.

Allow to cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin.

Serve on its own or treat your self to some whipped cream. Enjoy with your favourite cuppa!



# Field Court C of E Infant Academy



Reception and Year 1 had a wonderful time during our special Design and Technology day! The children began by designing their very own castles, thinking carefully about what features they might need to protect their kingdom.

They then brought their ideas to life by creatively building their castles, using a variety of materials and lots of imagination. Their teamwork was impressive along with their fantastic creativity.

The children included brilliant castle features such as moats, battlements and arrow loops, just like real medieval castles. It was amazing to see how different and unique every castle was.



Pupils had a truly special visit to St. James' just before Easter where they took part in an "Experience Easter" session.

Throughout the visit, the children were immersed in the story of Holy Week, exploring the Easter story through a range of meaningful and hands-on activities. They wrote their own messages on palm leaves, shared prayers, and retold the story of the Last Supper. They also enjoyed tasting bread and grapes, helping them to connect with the events in a memorable way. A quiet moment of reflection with candlelight gave the children time to pause and think about the meaning of Easter.

It was a lovely and thoughtful way for Year 2 pupils to deepen their understanding of the Easter story





God Loves Quedgeley



We love getting to know other families

StJ's WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE

bible stories, craft/activity great music

EVERY SUNDAY, 11.30am

I never knew church could be so much fun

The perfect way to spend Sunday morning together

The music is amazing and I love the dancing

Quedgeley COMMUNITY PANTRY  
QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

**SPRING PRE-LOVED BABY SALE**

**SATURDAY 30TH MAY**  
10:30am – 12:30pm

**Kingsway Community Centre**  
Thatcham Avenue, Kingsway, GL2 2GS

**PRE-LOVED:**

- Baby clothes
- Toddler & children's clothes
- Toys
- Baby items
- And much more!

**50p ENTRY** children go free

**£10** for a stall

**PRE-BOOK YOUR STALL:**  
One table only - limited tables available

£ CASH-ONLY EVENT    FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

PRE-BOOK YOUR STALL:  
QCPantry@gmail.com



A HUGE thank you to Prospects Training for creating our amazing new website!!

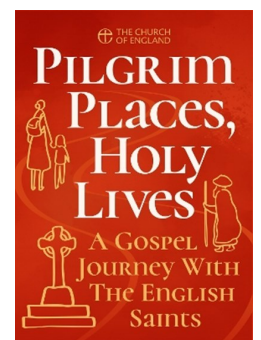
Our old site was in serious need of an update, and Prospects absolutely came to our rescue—designing and delivering a fantastic new website completely FREE of charge! We are so incredibly grateful for their generosity, support, and all that they continue to do for us.

We'd love for you to check it out: [www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk)

**Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives – A Gospel Journey with the English Saints**  
By various C of E writers, CHP, £3.99

The greatest story ever told is of God becoming human in Jesus Christ to offer us a transforming relationship with Him. *Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives* explores how this amazing story took root in Anglo-Saxon England, and how those who responded to it can still inspire and encourage us today.

Through eight places of spiritual awakening and the saints associated with them, this full-colour devotional booklet offers 24 days of Bible readings, reflections, questions and prayers on the ancient practice of pilgrimage. From Durham to Canterbury, Lindisfarne to Lastingham, it will help you reflect on what it means to live as a pilgrim on a purposeful journey through life.

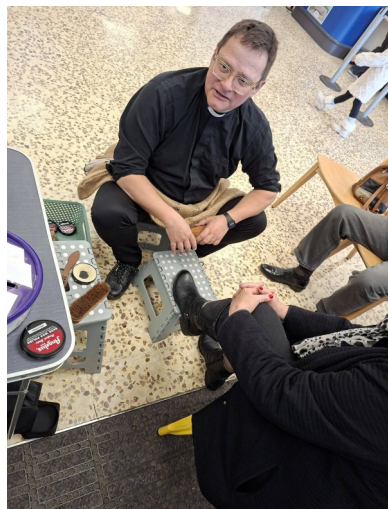
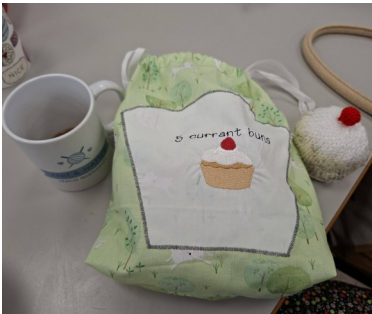


Each week focuses on two saints who dedicated their lives to God and shared the gospel with others: the Venerable Bede of Durham; Bertha of Canterbury; Cuthbert of Lindisfarne; Cedd of Lastingham; Frideswide of Oxford; Etheldreda of Ely; Alcuin of York; and Hilda of Whitby. *Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives* will help you to see the saints not merely as remarkable people from the past but as fellow travellers on the pilgrim journey who can shape our identity, our worship, and our witness to the world today.

Contributors include Sarah Mullally, Stephen Cottrell, Dee Dyas, James Shelton, Sammi Tooze, Sally Welch, Jenny Wright and Alexandra Zhirnova.

# Around our Patch

This project has been one of Theresa's favourites. The knit and Natter group were asked by the Gloucestershire Gateway Trust to knit some nursery rhyme characters for the local stay and play groups for the children to play with whilst having story time. They made the most gorgeous characters and they are all presented in beautiful bags along with scatter cushions and an absolutely amazing blanket for the children to sit on. Theresa says, "A massive Thank you to everyone who helped out on this project"



On Maundy Thursday, just as Jesus washed the disciples feet, Revd. Mark decided to polish shoes. He set up his stall in Tesco Quedgeley and by all accounts did a very good job. Folk were very impressed!



## Quedgeley WI

It was a warm evening for our April meeting and after the singing of Jerusalem we heard that last month's talk about the Midlands Air Ambulance had raised £114.37, there is a theatre trip at the end of this month and a tour of Llanthony Priory in June. Votes were taken on where we should go on our Summer Outing and Bath and the American Museum was the most popular choice. April means the payment of subscriptions so we will be ready for another entertaining year.

We saw the return of Paul Murphy with the second part of his talk on Charlie Chaplin. Paul is an excellent and amusing speaker, helped by the fact that he is experienced in amateur dramatics but also does many different talks, two of which we have already seen, the Von Trapp family and Sid James.

We heard a lot of details of Charlie Chaplin's life, from the workhouse to millionaire film actor, producer, director and writer of over 200 songs and music, a lot of talent from such an interesting character.

As well as his very entertaining talks, Paul also covers step-by-step art lessons and magic shows so perhaps we will be having yet another visit from him in the future. In May there will be a discussion on the WI Resolutions followed by wine, nibbles and a quiz.

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in Quedgeley Village Hall and always welcome visitors and new members.



Saturday 16th May  
First Question at 7.00pm.  
Bar being run by Kay.  
£10 per table of 4 or less.  
Book in with your team name.

QVH is opposite ALDI on Bristol Road in Quedgeley, very limited car parking on site but ALDI has a big car park as does the Haywain Pub next door..so at your own risk!

### What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

### Quote for May

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point. – Anon

## City Councillors Report

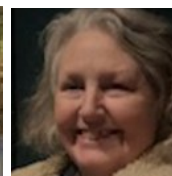
You have heard of the WI and Knit and Natter, for the men there is Men's Shed but a new group for men is now starting. It's called Blokes and Brews and it's on a Monday in Tesco's cafe between 1.30 and 3pm. Men just turn up and chat with like minded people and just relax. It is a time to destress and help each other. The mental health of men has been a forgotten problem for many years but by just congregating and talking this new group may help with this. Please support this great innovation and just come along.

If you would like to come and join us for our litter picking session in May we will be going out on 9<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 10am. Contact us 077799590250 to find out the meeting point or, if you know of an area that could do with a bit of a tidy up.

The date in May for the Tesco Surgeries is 21<sup>st</sup> May. Come and meet us between 4 – 6pm, with an issue or just to say hello!



Cllr Stephanie Chambers



Cllr Victoria Miller



Cllr Andy Lewis

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

# Snappy Snippets—Quick Reads

## National Biscuit Day – 29<sup>th</sup> May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world?

According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscoctus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.



### Small plates are better

How large are your dinner plates? If you replace 12" plates with 10" plates you could end up eating between 16 and 22 per cent less food. That could mean a loss of two stone over a year. The study at Cambridge University concluded: "Helping people to avoid 'over-serving' themselves or others with larger portions of food or drink is likely to ...help reduce their risk of overeating."

### Beware Bread for Ducks

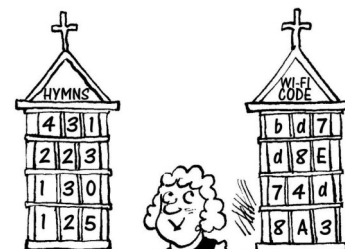
The Canal & River Trust, which looks after Britain's waterways, has warned that bread is 'junk food' for ducks. It can lead to excessive droppings, which spread disease. If bread is left to rot, it can trigger noxious odours which can kill fish and encourage algae, as well as rats and mice. So – what DO ducks eat? Try corn, peas, lettuce and seeds.

### Looking for old metal—and at least getting exercise

Here is a hobby that will give you great outdoor exercise – and might, just might, make you rich! Metal detecting is simple to start, and the actual machine is very affordable and easy to master. You can do it anywhere, from your own back garden to local pathways, to fields and even the beach.

People who do metal detecting are called 'detectorists'. They hold on to the stem of a metal detecting machine which is in turn attached to the search head on the ground. This is swept from side to side in an arc as the detectorist walks along. When it passes over a buried metal object, a signal – a bleep – is relayed, usually via headphones, to the enthusiast. A hole is then dug to retrieve the treasure.

If you like the idea, but don't want to try it alone, you might consider joining one of a number of clubs. Visit <http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk/clubs.html> for a full list. Apparently Norfolk, Suffolk, Wiltshire and North Yorkshire are the best places to find treasure.



## What home gadgets do you regret buying?

You know what they are: those things you never knew you needed until you saw one in an advert. Then suddenly you felt that life would never be complete without one.



And so, you brought home the spiraliser that makes vegetables look like spaghetti. And the pasta maker that you can't quite figure out how to use. And the ice-cream maker that makes everything sticky and helped you put on another three pounds. And the robot vacuum which terrorises the cat. As for the bread maker, well at least it makes a good shelf on the kitchen counter.

If this is you, you are not alone. A recent survey by Saga has found that 65% of us have experienced 'gadget regret'. It occurs when we buy something and then wonder why we ever bothered, because who needs it anyway?

Top of the list of regrets is the spiralizer – 62% of us woke up one morning to realise that no one needs vegetables to look like spaghetti. Second place belongs to digital picture frames, which 52% of us regret buying. After that comes the pasta maker (45%), the ice-cream maker (42%), VR headsets (35%), the bread maker (31%), the internet-connected exercise equipment (31%) and finally, the robot vacuum (29%).

What do we do with all this stuff? 46% of us keep it, even when we don't want it. 15% of us try and sell the things, while a desperate 14% of us simply throw them away. And 19% of us grimly hang on to them for a year or so, before passing them on to an unsuspecting friend.

*Why not drop us a line and tell us what home gadgets you regret buying and what you did with them?*

### RSPB advice - Red Alert !!

To help prevent disease amongst the wild bird population the RSPB has issued the following advice:-



1st May –31st October—Pause filling bird feeders with seeds or peanuts. You can offer small amounts of meal worms, fatballs or suet.

1st November –30th April—You can feed birds a full range of bird foods including seeds and peanuts.

## In the month of May...

60 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1966 that British racing driver Graham Hill won the 1966 Indianapolis 500. He was the only driver in history to win the 'triple crown of motor racing': the Formula One World Championship, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Indianapolis 500.

40 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1986 that Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa Tenzing), died. This Tibetan/Nepalese mountaineer had been with Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand when in 1953 they became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

30 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1996 that the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson) were divorced after ten years of marriage.

15 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan. He was the founder of Al-Qaeda and is thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA.

10 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 that Carla Lane, TV screenwriter, died. Best remembered for creating the sitcoms *The Liver Birds*, *Butterflies*, and *Bread*.

### Christian Aid Week 2026

Christian Aid Week takes place from 10 to 16 May. This year, Christian Aid is focusing on supporting mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, as they face urban poverty and the daily challenge of providing food for their children. Churches can take part in Christian Aid Week in a variety of ways, including collections, fundraising events, prayer, and raising awareness. Further information is available at <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>

The music of Coldplay by candlelight, **Tewkesbury Abbey, GL20 5RZ, 9 May**, 6.15pm and 8.30pm A concert of Coldplay songs featuring a live band and vocalists, coming from the West End. <https://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com/events/kindadustyltd/2040110>

**Wild Worship at Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ, 3 May, 3pm to 4pm** An informal, family-friendly outdoor service giving thanks for the beauty of creation. All ages are welcome.

**Morning prayer** "Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," And there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

# Gardening with Victoria



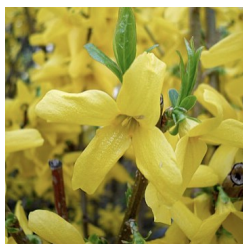
*Victoria has guided us through the cold winter months, and now, as spring unfolds, we can begin looking ahead to the warm, sunny days of summer. There is still plenty to do in the garden, however, and in this update, Victoria shares the tasks she is focusing on during the month of May.*

Now that May is here the chance of a heavy frost is slim and so it is time to plant out frost sensitive plants such as

Though I always start off my Dahlias under glass earlier in the year you can plant them straight into the ground where you want it to flower. Dahlias need a lot of goodness so it is worth digging in a load of compost into the ground before planting up.

It is also a good time to start potting up your containers and hanging baskets. If you are using the same soil as the previous year make sure you check for vine weevil as their grubs will make short work of the root system of any plant (though they have favourites such as Hostas and Heucheras). Before planting up your tubs etc it can be a good idea to harden up your plants by putting them outside during the day but bringing them in over night.

May is the time to prune spring flowering shrubs, like forsythia (ie after they have flowered). This helps to keep them compact yet does not hinder their display next year. Also thinking about next Spring, you may want to feed any daffodils or tulips with a liquid feed as this will encourage better blooms next year. Be careful not to cut off any bulb's foliage as this is what is needed to create next year's bulb.



Another job for the month of May is tying up new shoots of climbing plants such as Roses and Clematis, to their stakes.

May is the time to prune any penstemons that you may have (I have a few of these lovely plants in my garden). You need to cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves. You can take cuttings from the bits you have cut off, penstemons are quite easy to propagate.

Keeping your beds tidy and weed free is an important job as it does not take long before those pesky weeds multiply and take over. A timely use of a garden hoe works wonders. Also it is a good idea to lift any spring plants – for example Forget-Me-Nots before they self seed.

May is the month that you will find that it is necessary to start to keep your pots feed and watered. Try and water early morning or in the evening, using recycled water if possible.

Another pest that will be showing itself around this time is the Lily Beetle – you need to keep an eye open for these as they can quickly destroy your Lilies.



They are small red creatures and attack not just Lilies but I am told other plants like

Rosemary. When I lived in Nottingham we were never troubled by these creatures but as soon as I moved south we were introduced! Apparently they like it down South!! If you have any lilies in your garden you will need to do

a daily check for them and their grubs, I tend to just wash them off but I am told that they don't like garlic spray – you could use the same stuff to deter the slugs from your Hostas!



***Happy Gardening!***

## ***Laughter lines... Notices found in newsletters - that didn't come out quite right!***

- ◆ The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- ◆ At the church meeting last week, the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- ◆ Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help!



# Quedgeley Town Council



A big thank you to everyone who came along on Easter Monday to support our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The weather was amazing which certainly brought out the crowds! We have never seen this event so busy with lots of eager Easter Egg Hunters around, enjoying chocolate, facepainting, colouring and eating cupcakes. Sounds like a perfect morning to us! We would like to enforce that this has always been a local community event and as such has always enjoyed a high footfall without vehicles and we urge everyone who can walk to this event to continue doing so.



This year we saw an increase in parked cars and this starts to impact on the local community. We always try to be good neighbours and an increase in cars is something we want to deter, especially if the weather's nice. The Local Nature Reserve nor the surrounding areas does not lend itself to parking. So remember, if you intend to come to our Easter Egg Hunt, enjoy the walk



Moving on from this event, the council are now working hard for the Summer Fiesta which is due to take place on Saturday 4th July 2026 at Fisher's Meadow. Another great family event with costs kept to the minimum. Included in the day will be stalls, a bouncy castle, Ice-cream Van, Free Dog Show, exhibitors and much much more. This

event is growing rapidly and we are excited to be providing something else for the community. Officially opening at 10.00am, please come along and enjoy an all round fun filled event

Do you have something you want to get off your chest? Come along to the Police Information Points every third Thursday in the month at Tesco Extra from 4pm – 6pm. A chance to meet your local PCSO, County, City, Town Councillors and other members of a very close network.

## Annual Meeting

The next community meeting will be Thursday 28th May 2026, the Annual Parish Assembly which is a meeting for the community not the council. A chance for everyone to come along, meet your Town Councillors face to face and talk about things that either concern you or ideas for the community.

Taking place in Hall 2 of Quedgeley Community Centre at 7.00pm.

Refreshments are available. For anyone who has reservations in coming along, this is not a formal meeting, it's a gathering of the community and a chance to talk about anything community related and kept as informal as possible. Furthermore if you have any ideas for subjects that you think might be a popular subject then please do let us know.

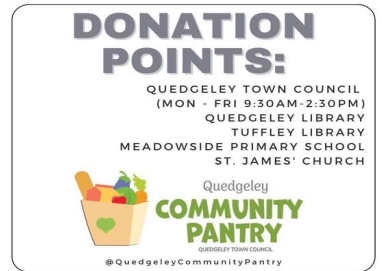
The Annual Audit is underway with the Council's accounts being subject to the normal highly intense scrutiny. This secures good governance and provides assurance to the community that the council remains accountable for spending public funds responsibly. There will be an opportunity to view the accounts and a notice will be placed in the office window in the next month providing the exact dates that appointments can be made.

With a full compliment of 16 councillors, we currently have no vacancies but we do hold a waiting list so if you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor please let the Clerk know your details so that you can be contacted as and when a vacancy occurs.

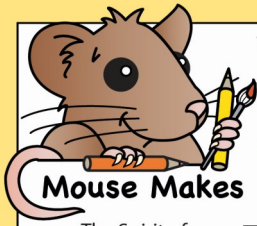
A reminder that any big announcements are made on our Facebook page or on the front of our website. Visit us either online at [www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk](http://www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk) or visit our office which is situated in the Matalan Retail Park, Mondays – Fridays, 9.00am – 2.30pm.



**Opening hours**  
**Wednesday 1pm-5pm**  
**Sunday 10am-12pm**



# May Puzzle Page



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of  
Genesis 1:2

The  
of the Father.  
Acts 1:4

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost? read Acts 2:1-41 How many believers were baptised that day?

The Spirit of  
Romans 8:15

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit  
Galatians 5:22-23

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\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_  
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Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

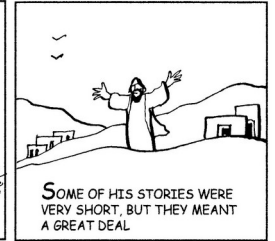
HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER  
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE  
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

D G C O M F O R T E R L C  
K E O N P P E A C E G O D  
I N U F A K J D H J R R F  
N T N A T L O V E O A D H  
D L S I I O H O L Y C D L  
N E E T E A I C P L E E G  
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S E L F C O N T R O L J O  
S N O P E P T E A C H E R  
J S R J O T R U T H F S Y  
R S P I R I T I L U I U K  
K P P R O M I S E R S R  
I D W I N D D O V E W

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The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

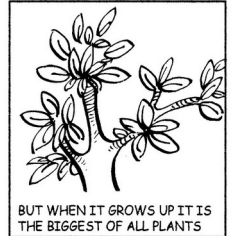


SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED



IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF SEEDS...



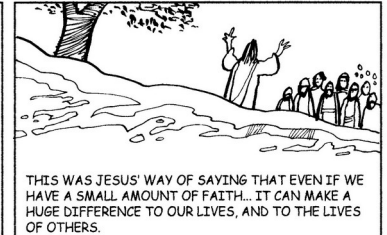
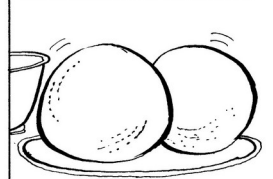
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES



JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT, WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR, THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.



n	h	c	c	r	o	p	s	p	t	a	t	d
p	r	e	e	a	s	l	s	e	x	s	d	
m	b	h	v	j	y	e	l	n	u	f	e	
q	t	m	e	e	t	i	n	g	s	g	c	r
o	t	m	k	c	r	s	e	r	v	a	n	t
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h	o	l	n	i	c	t	o	a	d	y	e	i
d	s	u	g	n	h	r	p	n	p	x	t	d
j	o	g	n	g	o	a	a	i	e	l	j	i
c	n	g	u	d	s	l	c	m	u	d	u	n
g	s	a	m	u	e	l	e	a	d	e	r	g
c	d	g	o	l	n	o	s	l	r	m	z	f
c	h	e	e	r	e	d	i	s	r	a	e	l

chosen	meeting	donkeys
crops	animals	sons
everyone	Israel	king
countries	cheered	hiding
leader	servant	found
luggage	daughters	land
palace	Samuel	Saul
rejecting	home	other

# Who's Who at Saint James' Church

<b>Priest –in– Charge</b>	<b>Land Line</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Email address</b>
<b>Revd. Mark Siddall</b>	<b>01452 722916</b>		<b>drmarksid@gmail.com</b>
<b>Assistant Priests</b>			
Revd. Canon Hugh Broad	01452 541078	07928455674	hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk
Revd. Ian Robb	01452 676059	07962469250	iobb925@gmail.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
<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 Officers</b>			
Andrew Wakely	01452 722528	07879883091	andrewmwakely@gmail.com
Jackie Broad	01452 541078	07928862976	60jackie60broad@gmail.com
<b>PCC Treasurer -</b>			
Mr Ian Pearce	01452 725178	07867502469	ianlu123@hotmail.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
Parish Administrator –Laura Elder	01452 307456		stjamesquedgeleyandking-sway@gmail.com

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

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

[email\\_aroundthespire@gmail.com](mailto:email_aroundthespire@gmail.com)

**"The Holy Spirit is a healing spirit.**

**When the Holy Spirit is present, anything is possible."**

— Reinhard Bonnke