AROUND THE SPIRE

November 2026

Issue 126

Please recycle me after you've read



ST JAMES QUEDGELEY
Living God's Love Together

Saint James' Church
Quedgeley & Kingsway
FREE magazine

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

November - A month of reflection & renewal

Features this month ...

- Volunteer lay readers
- Ride & Stride
- Theresa & The Knit & Natter team
- QTC

If you have a story to tell and would like to share it with us, contact The Editor aroundthespire@gmail.com

Welcome to the November edition of the Parish Magazine

November is always a time for remembering. At the beginning of the month, we remember the souls of our loved ones, while later we pause to remember the many people caught up in the two World Wars and conflicts since.

November has traditionally brought bleak weather, although with climate change, who knows what the month may have in store for us! We can certainly expect the familiar foggy mornings, and with the clocks having gone back in late October, the darker mornings and earlier evenings are now with us each day.

This month we have another varied selection of articles for you to enjoy. Our Curate, Rosa, recently attended a service for Lay Readers at the Cathedral, and you can read her report in this edition. The Ride & Stride team did a magnificent job and raised a great deal of money, with Paul Bridges sharing a report on their efforts. Victoria, meanwhile, is as busy as ever in the garden and has some great tips for us this month.

We hope you enjoy this month's magazine and find plenty to interest and inspire you.

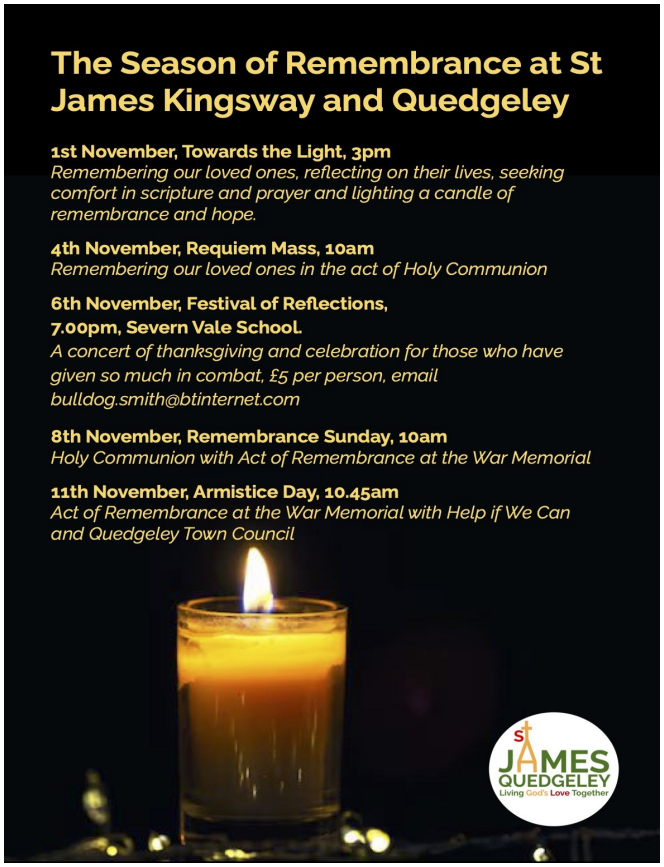
Next month's edition will cover December and January as we approach the Christmas and New Year season.

Enjoy!

Jackie H



A photo taken last year during November, an early morning shot taken by Paula Whitcher.





Out and About with Revd. Mark

This month has seen the start of a new initiative at St James - PRAISERSISE.

Working with Sportily, the Christian Sports Mentoring Charity, *PRAISERSISE*, is a bit like Zumba but with lively worship music. It is a lot of fun and has been a joy to be part of. We began with 14, including 5 new faces to the work of St James and folk of all ages which was very encouraging. Right from the start there were smiles all round as we had fun and exercised together.

Ruth and Beth the leads (both trained dance coaches) begin with a warm up, teaching a few key dance moves and then we move into some more energetic dances before a slow down at the end. Something I love about it is that anyone can do it because you just dance with the energy and moves that you can manage. There is no pressure. There are pauses for drinks and snacks when we can get to know each other and there is a proper chance for a slow down and cool off with relaxing music at the end.

The first round of PRAISERSISE has come to an end but watch out for the next sessions in January and February (dates TBC). Come along and 'GET JOY-FUL'!



Autumn Fair

Join us at the Community Centre on **14th November** for our Autumn Fair!

There'll be plenty of **Christmas bargains** and lots of wonderful stalls to browse. You'll also have the chance to win a **lovely hamper in our raffle**.

There'll be **Christmas cakes, handmade knitted goods** and, of course, our own **delicious refreshments** to enjoy.

So pop down, have a browse, enjoy some refreshments and get into the festive spirit!

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Harvest Gifts

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated non perishable food for our Harvest Thanksgiving. The food has been sent to the Gloucester Foodbank and is very much appreciated.



Visit by Member of Parliament

The Member of Parliament for Gloucester, Alex McIntyre, visited St James' on Friday 2nd October.

Our Next Steps team welcomed Alex and shared our plans for the future of St James'. He was very encouraged by what he heard and told Revd. Mark and the team that he would support the project wherever he could.

We are grateful for his interest and encouragement as we look ahead to the next stage of this exciting project.

The Curious Curate



Last Month I was honoured to be at the opening of the new, bigger and better Gloucester Men's Shed which is based here in our parish. If you haven't been I would highly recommend it. The shed [or rather sheds as the site has a large wooden shed alongside the original cabin] is well equipped with a range of woodworking machinery and offers men a place to bring existing projects as well as using recycled timber to create items for the community. More importantly than the objects created are the friendships that are made, the loneliness that is banished, the camaraderie that is grown.

Just two days later I was joining in the celebrations for 10 years of Knit and Natter where again I heard of the friendships that have grown and supported people through illness, bereavement, job loss, relationship breakdown as well as the many moments of good news, life celebrations that have been joyfully shared.

Both groups are amazing initiatives designed to bring people together around common hobbies, combat loneliness and do good in the community at the same time. Our local primary schools have benefitted from bird boxes and friendship benches. Shoppers all enjoy the planters outside the local Tesco and the letterboxes of Quedgeley have proudly displayed a huge array of colourful knitted tableaus that bring a smile on the dullest of days.

What was interesting was how many of the same people I saw at each event. The two groups are each other's biggest supporters because the women of knit and natter can see how much the men's shed gives their husbands and vice versa.

Friendship and communal gatherings are important. They are one of our most basic human needs. The sadness is that in our tech enabled, interconnected world people can feel more isolated than ever.

Jesus saw the great value in friendships. Firstly, he gathered 12 disciples to accompany him in his ministry and to entrust his teaching to when he was gone. The camaraderie and friendship of the twelve shines out from the pages on the gospels. They often misunderstand Jesus and get things wrong but they are always forgiven and set right. It is a testament to the strength of their brotherly friendship that the betrayal of Judas is so keenly felt, not only by the disciples themselves but by us the reader down through the ages. His name forever used as shorthand for those whose actions are seen as the most treacherous.

During Morning Prayer we have been reading through the book of the Acts of the Apostles. This is the story of the remaining disciples, who along with Matthias, Paul, Barnabas and others, gather after Jesus ascends into heaven. Left alone without their friend and leader, bewildered by what they realise they have witnessed they resolved to spread the Good News of Jesus, the saving power of his sacrifice and the love, strength and new life that is given through him. In a time of great turmoil and personal danger they stuck together, prayed for, cared for and encouraged each other, sharing their resources and the task set before them.

I appreciate that the Men's Shed, Knit and Natter and so many other wonderful community groups that bless Quedgeley, Kingsway and the wider city are not church or faith based. But I do see a purity of love, kindness, acceptance, encouragement, joy and friendship in them that reminds me of Jesus and the loving God he proclaimed.

This is something that is always to be celebrated and prayed for with thanks and joy. The nights may be drawing in but the light of our love and care for each other shines brightly in Quedgeley.

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



Quedgeley COMMUNITY PANTRY
QUEDGELEY TOWN COUNCIL

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

Lay Volunteers Celebrated at Cathedral



This year the annual service for licensing new Readers and Lay Worship Leaders was extended to celebrate the huge variety of lay ministries in the Church of England.

A Lay person is anyone who is not an ordained member of the clergy and churches up and down the country rely on the vital help, faith, energy, time and gifts of the people who volunteer in their local congregations and buildings.
There was a wide range of roles highlighted including Church Wardens, Pastoral Visitors, Welcome and Hospitality Teams and Children's Workers.

Our curate Revd Rosa was accompanied by some of our Open the Book team who regularly visit our primary schools to bring the bible to life, acting out well known stories for, and with the help of, the children. A huge thankyou to them for coming along but also to all our volunteers. Next year we hope to have many more celebrating alongside us.

RIDE+STRIDE for ChurCheS

Saturday's ride was a special day for St James as we were blessed with 21 riders, who thanks to Hari were all dressed for the occasion with T-shirts emblazoned with the St James church logo, Ride & Stride and Hari's company name.



As there was such a large number of riders they were split into small groups with an experienced cyclist at the helm of each. I was mindful of the need to ensure that all were conscious of road safety. Each group set off at intervals, the first being Rev Mark who undertook the task of riding the extra mileage to St Nicholas at Hardwicke which also gave the speedy rider Dan and family the opportunity to catch the other slower groups.



We all initially rode to St Peters at Upper Framilode where, as usual, we were treated like royally by their welcomers and enjoyed the splendid spread provided. From there we moved on to St Mary the Virgin at Fretherne where the church tower was embraced by scaffolding, being repaired. Catching our breath, we moved on to Frampton on Severn where we intended to stop for our lunch break. Two pubs, a shop and cafe provided refreshments for us all. Rev Mark's team rode on to visit St Mary the Virgin locally. Replete all groups then took the back route to Saul junction where we crossed the closed canal bridge! Passing St James the Great we moved on towards St Laurence church at Longney and St John the Baptist at Elmore.







A little further down the road we stopped at the Wholly Gelato where we all deserved ice cream. With limited churches open on our route we spent most of our time enjoying both the beauty of St Peters and their fare. It was a really enjoyable day out and as the photographs show, much enthusiasm, great effort made and the exhaustion of some riders but well done all. We promoted the cause very well.

“Times and Seasons” - the Christian Year



A look at the various seasons of the Church Calendar: in the month of November we journey from All Saints Day to Advent

None of us are Christians in isolation: “In my Baptism I was made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven” (The Catechism, Book of Common Payer). We are members of a company of saints and our belonging to that company transcends death.

All Saints Day and the commemoration of the faithful departed on **All Souls Day** both celebrate this mutual belonging. All Saints Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. “All Saints” is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace and for the ways in which it shapes human lives. It is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that holiness can grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living. The Commemoration of All Souls celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more closely – those who gave us life, those who nurtured us in faith – all of whom now live on closer to God.

Redemption is a work of God's grace; it is God who redeems us in Christ and we cannot do more than Christ has done. But we must wait for the final consummation of God's new creation in Christ; all who belong to Christ, whether or not they have passed through death, are all joined in prayer that God's kingdom will be revealed finally and in all its fullness. We sense that it is a fearful thing yet wonderful and life-giving to come before God and receive his mercy; this instinct also is expressed in the liturgy of All Souls' Day.

If you have loved ones who you would like us to remember and pray for during the Memorial service on 1st November and in the Requiem on the 3 rd November, please add their names to the list which is on display in church.

Remembrance Sunday goes on to explore the theme of memory, on both an individual and a community level, as we confront the issues of war and peace, loss and self-giving, memory and forgetting year.

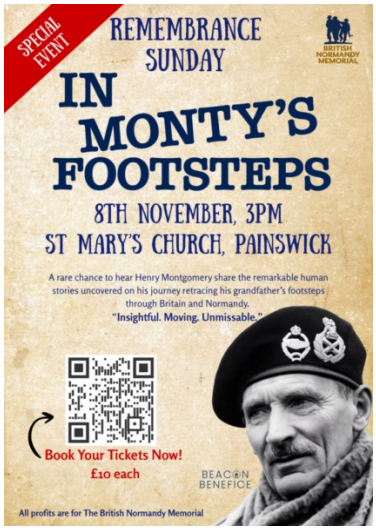
The annual cycle of the Church's Year ends with the **Feast of Christ the King**. The year that begins with the hope of the coming Messiah ends with the proclamation of his universal sovereignty. The Ascension of Christ has revealed him to be Lord of earth and heaven, and final judgement is one of his proper kingly purposes. The Feast of Christ the King returns us to the Advent theme of judgement and a new Christian Year begins.

“One family, we dwell in him.
One Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.” (Charles Wesley)

“Lights of the Church” we remember in November:

3rd: Richard Hooker, priest & Teacher of the Faith. 1600
6th: William Temple, Archbishop. 1944
10th: Leo the Great, Bishop. 461
13th: Charles Simeon, Priest. 1836
16th: Margaret, Queen of Scotland. Reformer of the Church. 1093
17th: Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln. 1200
19th: Hilda, Abbess of Whitby. 680
20th: Edmund, King & Martyr. 870
23rd: Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr. 100
25th: Isaac Watts, hymn-writer. 1748
30th: Andrew the Apostle





https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/in-montys-footsteps/

People and Places in the Bible:

Part 5 – The Corinthians (contd.)



The letters that we have in the New Testament would have originally been written on papyrus. It is thought that Paul wrote his letters to the Corinthians c55AD and scholars suggest that Paul's various letters were collected together around 90AD to eventually becoming included in the New Testament. At this time, it is possible, as the theologian William Barclay suggests, that papyrus sheets were gathered together out of order, or in some instances, even subsequently lost.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 9, Paul writes, "In the letter that I wrote you…", so there was obviously a 'previous letter'. Some scholars say that letter is now lost whilst others suggest we can read part of it in 2 Corinthians 6. 14 – 7.1.

There is also a very interesting change when we read the final chapters of 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. Chapters 10 – 13). As chapter nine draws to a close, Paul is drawing thoughts on generosity to a conclusion and urging the Corinthians to thank God for His priceless gift of grace. Then, in marked contrast, beyond chapter nine we have four final chapters where an exasperated Paul displays a completely different temperament. It is suggested that this is actually another separate letter written by Paul to the Corinthians. Paul refers to it in 2 Corinthians chapter 2, verse 4: "I wrote to you with a greatly troubled and distressed heart and with many tears…" Scholars term this the 'Severe Letter' as Paul here answers rumours and accusations about him in, at times, a very 'severe' tone. And it seems that we have it here, placed at the end of 2 Corinthians, not as a separate letter before it.

In his Commentary on the letters of Paul to the Corinthians, William Barclay suggests that the letters may be unravelled as follows:

Paul writes his "Previous Letter" which *may* be contained in 2 Corinthians 6: 14 – 7: 1.

He then receives a reply.

In response, Paul writes 1 Corinthians and he sends this via his close associate, Timothy.

Paul then visits Corinth and is greatly distressed at the situation there.

The outcome is the "Severe Letter" (possibly 2 Corinthians, Chapters 10 -13) which is taken to the Corinthians by Titus, another close associate.

Paul sets off to meet Titus who informs Paul that all is now well.

Paul then writes 2 Corinthians, (Chapters 1 – 9) with its themes of forgiveness, encouraging the Christians there who face adversity to live by faith, some warnings against any Pagan influence and encouraging the Corinthian Christians to give generously to other Christians in need.

Memorable Verses:

2 Corinthians 4. 8 & 9: "We are often troubled but not crushed; sometimes in doubt but never in despair; there are many enemies but we are never without a friend and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed."

2 Corinthians 5. 17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 9. 7: "Each of you must give as you have decided, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

National Tree Week – 21st to 29th November

It really is time to appreciate our trees. Did you know:
That the UK has 123,000 ancient and veteran trees, and more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe combined?
Or that trees help us feel better? Studies have found that exposure to forests generally reduces our mental and physical stress, anxiety, and depression.
Or that 95% of land carbon in the UK is stored in soil, and trees help put it there? When wood and leaves fall, their carbon gets stored in the soil.
Or that hedgerows alongside our roads can reduce air pollution exposure by up to 63%?
No wonder that each year the Tree Council and its partners bring together the conservation sector, volunteers and tree-lovers to mark the start of the annual tree planting season. Together, they plant thousands of trees and hedgerows, to celebrate these "magnificent mainstays" of our landscape.
On the plus side, there are more than 80 community tree nurseries in the UK, growing an estimated 250,000 trees a year, often from locally collected seed, and which are given away or sold at minimal cost.

Creation Care by Revd. Mark





I love our annual 'Blessing of the Creatures' for many reasons.

We are fundamentally relational creatures. We relate to each other, to God and to other creatures. An important thing about our relationships with creatures is what they teach us about ourselves. Many of us might say 'I am a dog person' or 'I am a cat person' for example. They help us express love and show us it in return. They remind us of our simplest needs and most importantly in doing that help us keep a simplicity and humility that curbs our arrogance and our tendency to think we are God-like rather than Creature like. Being made in God's image is not to say that we are Gods!

Every year the Blessing of the Creatures throws up something special and this year a lovely treat came from a very special St James family who had raised a number of native butterflies from cocoons. After their blessing we were able to release them, which was a moment of blessing for all of us there and a perfect illustration of how the Creator is glorified in all Creation.

















MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

St. James' in partnership with Tesco hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September a total of £460.00 was raised in total. Thank you to all who helped and supported in this very worthwhile cause.

















Gardening with Victoria



This month, Victoria shares some helpful tips on preparing our gardens for the winter months. There's no getting away from it – there's still plenty to do if we want to enjoy the rewards of our efforts when spring and summer return next year!

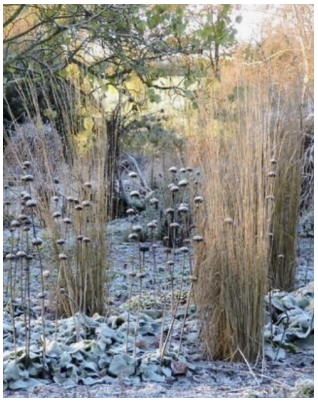


There are several jobs that can be done at this time of year to get a garden ready for Winter. I will cover the following three in this article: tidying up beds and clearing out dead plants, adding mulch to the soil and protecting plants from frost.

It is the time of year to do a bit of 'housework' in your garden – you will reap the benefits come Spring! Leaves need to be removed from lawns – it is not a good idea to leave them to decompose on the grass. I say 'removed' rather than 'raked' as unless you want to make leaf mould with your leaves it is quite a good idea just to mow over them. You can mow over a light to moderate layer of leaves. The mower breaks them up into small bits that can filter down into the soil, by doing this you keep all the good nutrients in the soil as well as saving yourself from a physically hard job! The reasons why it is a good idea to clear leaves from lawns (especially if there is a substantial layer) is that leaves can smother the grass by blocking air and sunlight from reaching the turf. Another reason is that heavy wet leaf layers trap moisture and encourage fungal diseases during the cooler months as well as providing a perfect breeding ground for slugs!



There are good arguments against clearing up leaves completely though. The main one is that it destroys wildlife habitat. Fallen leaves provide frogs and hedgehogs, and many other creatures, a home; these creatures feed on slugs and snails so it is in our interest to encourage them in our gardens. A second reason why it is a good idea to resist clearing the leaves up from your flower beds is that it helps to cancel one of the other jobs on your list – that of putting a mulch down. The decomposing leaves will provide a perfect mulch as well as some protection to your plants over winter.



The second area I will touch on here is tidying up the beds. It is important that you get rid of stubborn weeds- make sure you pull them out by the root so they don't grow back. Pull out spent annual flowers and lift up any dahlias or tender plants for over wintering. Though it is important to tidy up weeds do remember to leave seed heads and natural debris for the wildlife, so you could leave border plants alone and cut back in Spring when new growth starts. Also untrimmed borders can offer hibernation spots for animals, so leave these until Spring too.



Applying a layer of mulch to your beds is something that your garden will thank you for, just remember not to go right up to the base of the plant. By doing this you will help to suppress the weeds, improve the soil, protect from frost and provide moisture control.

The last item on my list is how to protect your plants from frost. I have already mentioned lifting tender plants and dahlias. Tender plants can be brought inside – a porch, conservatory or greenhouse will do. For dahlias and other tubers and corms you need to cut back the stems, gently clean off excess soil, turn them upside down and let then dry out completely. Then pack in dry compost or wrap in newspaper and store them in a cool dark, frost-free place.

Another way to protect tender shrubs, potted plants and ferns is to cover them with a horticultural fleece – these trap in warmth while letting in light and water. Mulching, as already mentioned helps to protect a plants root system. With regard to any pots that you may have, move them together and closer to your house as this will help to protect them from frost. For those very large pots that can't be moved – you can wrap them in bubble wrap and put 'feet' underneath them so that they are raised off the ground – this will also help protect your pots from cracking.

I hope that these ideas prove helpful. If anyone would like to share their handy hints please just email in your ideas and they will be shared in next month's magazine.

Happy gardening!

TESCO



Theresa with Anthony Cox and Jan in the Tesco Store fundraising for MND. Lots of support and all the very best for Anthony's marathon next year.



Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice

Our hospice is Gloucestershire's only inpatient unit for specialist palliative care. We also provide community and outpatient support to help you live the best life you possibly can.



Fund raising for Sue Ryder, they provide palliative care and support for those in our community. They raised £275. Well done everyone.



This is where all the work takes place at the Knit and Natter sessions at Tesco. Everyone enjoys these sessions. Not only do they work hard for community causes but they enjoy each others company . Everyone has a smile on their face!





Taking part in the innocent smoothie hats fundraiser for Age UK plus a beautiful box of cardigans, hats and blankets for premature babies on their way to Gloucester hospital.

Field Court C of E Infant Academy

















Reception classes Willow and Oak have had the best start to their school journey at FCIA. The staff have been so very proud of how quickly they have settled and learnt the new routines of big school.
Starting with the topic of All About Me has helped the children to get to know each other as well as helping them to learn how to make new friends.
They have learnt our first phonics sounds, practiced their maths, had their first PE sessions, visited forest fun and even attended their first worships already!
Of course, we have also had plenty of play opportunities and have loved getting to know our new environments.



Handy Hints for Tiring Days

Parenting is the most rewarding job in the world—but let's be honest, it is also the most exhausting.

When you are running on broken sleep and toddler energy, it's the little shortcuts that keep the day moving smoothly. We've rounded up some of the cleverest, community-tested life hacks to save your sanity, your budget, and your carpets!

The 3 AM Bed Strip: Don't waste time changing sheets in the dark. **Double-layer the cot** with a waterproof protector and sheet, followed by *another* protector and sheet. When an accident strikes, just strip the top layer and crawl back into bed.

The Lightning Meal Prep: Ditch the knife when prepping toddler meals. A **rolling pizza cutter** is the ultimate shortcut for turning toast, quesadillas, and pancakes into bite-sized strips in a single swipe.

The Missing Sock Solution: Tired of the washing machine eating tiny clothes? Toss all baby socks, scratch mitts, and bibs into a zippered **mesh laundry bag** before washing so they never vanish.

Drip-Free Ice Lollies: Slide a paper **cupcake liner** up the stick of an ice lolly to act as a shield and catch sticky runs before they hit little hands.

Mess-Free Stampers: Place a clean kitchen sponge inside a small plastic tub and pour liquid paint over it. It acts as a **built-in ink pad**, giving toddlers just enough paint without the spills.

Glitter Lifting: If craft time leaves a trail of stray glitter and sequins across your table, press a ball of **Play-Doh** firmly over the surface to instantly pick up every bit of sparkle.

Over to You!

Got a genius tip of your own? Whether it's a brilliant distraction technique, a budget play idea, or a clever kitchen hack, we want to hear it! Send your top parenting tips to **aroundthespire@gmail.com** and you could see your advice featured in our next issue!

What I am praying for - by Revd. Mark



There is something of heaven feeling very close at this time of year as we remember those who we love but have died before us. A sense of loss but also thankfulness at all they still mean to us. We also reflect on those who have given their lives in military combat so that we might know peace. Psalm 30 verse 5 speaks powerfully of the oppression and pain of grief:

'Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.'

I shared this joy when the opening song for the first episode of Strictly Come Dancing this year was a powerful rendition of this psalm sung from the heart by a group of Gospel singers. I was even more joyful when I learnt that this version is from the singer RAYE and that it has been a huge hit! If you search 'Joy comes in the morning, RAYE' you will find it. It is not easy to face our grief but it is part of our journey to thankfulness and knowing the bright light of new life in Christ in our lives.

Lord, as we weep in the night, stay with us. Thankyou for the joy we know in the morning. AMEN



Quedgeley WI

The October meeting began as usual with the singing of Jerusalem. Everyone had enjoyed the Bingo in September and those who went to the beach themed Group Party said it was very good.

Letters of thanks for condolences as well as birthday bouquets were read out, donations were requested for the Salvation Army toiletry bags appeal and we were reminded of the date for the first Coffee Morning.

It was then on to our speaker, the excellent Andrew Meller with his talk with slides on A Blue Plaque Tour of Gloucestershire. He listed eleven men and only two women, starting with John Neville Maskelyne magician and inventor of the pay toilet, Herbert Cecil Booth inventor of the vacuum cleaner, William Henley who wrote the poem Invictus and who may have been the inspiration for Long John Silver, Joe Meek, record producer, the Horlicks brothers, the preacher George Whitfield, Edwin Budding inventor of the lawn mower, Grace Hadow who introduced the song Jerusalem to the WI, Christopher Merrett who invented champagne, Dorothea Beale of Cheltenham Ladies College, the miser James “Jemmy” Wood, inspiration perhaps for Dickens' Scrooge and finally Quaker and Anti Slavery campaigner Samuel Bowly.

This was a very entertaining, amusing and informative talk and one that is highly recommended. November is the AGM and December is a Social Evening and American Supper. If anyone would like to come along to any of our meetings they will be made very welcome. Details can be found on our website www.quedgeleywi.co.uk or on facebook.







A number of our members enjoyed a Group Meeting, hosted by Twyver WI at Upton Village Hall. The theme was the seaside/beach and many ladies joined in the spirit of the afternoon by dressing up. Twyver WI put a lot of effort into the afternoon with delicious food and ice-cream, followed by entertainment by singer Ian Oliver. A great afternoon all round!

HELP IF WE CAN
RAISING FUNDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

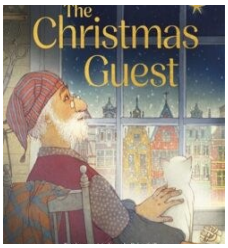
Friday 6th November at Severn Vale School. Starting at 7.00pm (seats by 6.50pm) is the Festival of Reflections based on the BBC Festival. Band, choir, soloist, dancers and Remembrance with Colours and Standards,
Book tickets in advance bulldog.smith@btinternet.com or entry on the night via the main entrance. Bar, raffle, auction.

Then Wednesday 11th November Armistice Day Service at the Quedgeley War Memorial .. to arrive by 10.45am, all welcome.
Extra parking at Quedgeley Community Centre.

Birmingham Christmas Market trip is on Saturday November 14th book now.

Switch on of the Christmas Tree lights at The Thatch on Friday 27th November
Starting at 6.00pm. Food, carols, fun.

Book Review



The Christmas Guest
By Kathryn Simmonds,
Starshine Books, £11.99

Discover again the message of Christmas with this beautiful retelling of a much-loved story.
Full of kindness, compassion, and generosity, it’s sure to warm your heart. A gorgeous Christmas gift for children ages 4 to 7 years.
In the old French city of Marseille, it’s Christmas Day and Martin the shoemaker is waiting. He’s expecting a very special guest, and his heart is full of hope and anticipation.
But as the hours pass, something extraordinary unfolds. Martin gives warmth to a shivering street sweeper. He shares a meal with a young mother in need. He places shoes on the bare feet of a little boy. He offers friendship to a lonely old woman who has no one.
And when night finally falls and his guest still hasn’t come… Martin begins to wonder. Or has the Guest been there all along? A story of unexpected grace, quiet generosity, and the true heart of Christmas.

Quedgeley Town Council





Welcome to our November update and we start this edition by welcoming a new Councillor, Katie Johnson. Katie is a life long resident of Quedgeley and brings with her a wealth of experience. We welcome Katie and hope she enjoys her time on the council, we are certainly looking forward to working with her. Please look at our website, www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk for Katie's bio.



A big reminder that our Fireworks Event will take place on Saturday 7th November at Fishers Meadow. Gates open at 4.30pm this year, with the display taking place at 7.00pm prompt and finishing at 7.30pm and it's not too late to buy tickets. This is a very popular family event and despite the annual complaints about fireworks, the appetite for this event remains as popular as ever and we look forward to seeing everyone there on the night.

On the 11th November there will be an Armistice Day event held in partnership with HiWC and St James' Church. We welcome everyone to come along to the War Memorial at St James' Churchyard at 10.45am on the 11th for a service to remember those who gave their lives to the war and we would like to thank HiWC and St James' Church for all of their help.



The council have now received their annual audit from PKF Littlejohn. Every year we have to submit our annual return to the external auditors and we are pleased to say that this year there was only one exception and that was the updating of the asset register which will be rectified in time for the end of this financial year. Local residents are invited to come into the office to look at the accounts so if this is something you would like to do please make an appointment by contacting the Clerk on Office@quedgeley-tc.gov.uk.

The main topic of conversation at the moment is the Local Government Review (LGR) which is currently paused, however this council is thinking seriously about future services for its community and how we can further support our local residents through times of change. This council has now formed a LGR working group whose main focus is to assess assets/services which can been passed from the principle authority to this council should the LGR continue.

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 or visit our office which is situated in the Matalan Retail Park, Mondays – Fridays, 9.00am – 2.30pm. either online at www.quedgeley-tc.gov.uk or visit our



Handel's Messiah by Candlelight, 21 November, 4.30pm to 7pm, Gloucester Cathedral A story through the story of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection. https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/handel-messiah

Tewkesbury Abbey Christmas Fair, **28 November, 10am to 4pm** Start the festive season in the joy of the Abbey, with a mix of stalls, crafts, food and drink. https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/whats-on/

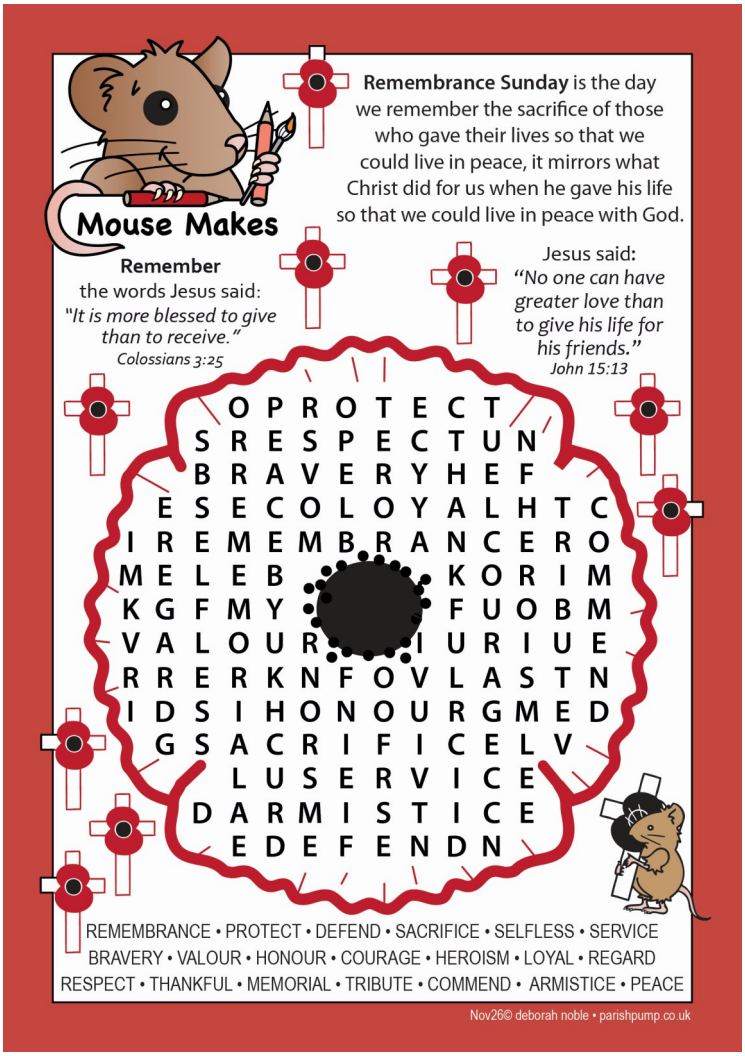
Who's Who at Saint James' Church

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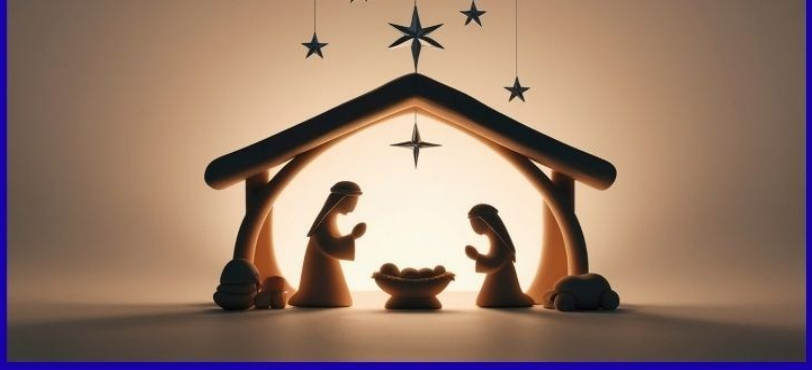
www.facebook.com/saintjameschurchquedgeley

email aroundthespire@gmail.com





The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance



LIVE GOD'S LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS AT ST JAMES' QUEDGELEY

Quedgeley Nativity Float - 4-6pm on the 4th, 5th, 12th and 19th December. More details on St James Facebook.

Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday 13th December, 6.30pm - A beautiful carol service with choir, readings and carols.

Carols in Tesco Thursday 17th December, 4pm - come and enjoy singing and listening to carols in Tesco Quedgeley.

Messy Christmas Tuesday 22nd December, 1-3pm - Christmas crafts, games, snacks and fun.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service, 2pm - a beautiful and joyous time as we sing carols tell the Christmas Story at the crib for all the family, 2pm

Community Carol Service, 4pm and 6pm - joy and fun at Christmas as we hear the Christmas story and sing accompanied by Gloucester Charter Concert Band

Midnight Mass 11.30pm - as the clock turns to Christmas Day we come together to share Holy Communion and reflect on the Christmas Story together

CHRISTMAS DAY

Parish Communion for Everyone, 10.30am - sharing together the Christmas Story whoever we are

NEW YEARS EVE

Watch Night, 31st December, 7-9pm - as we reflect on the last year we come together to pray for justice, peace, care for creation and to prepare to celebrate 900 year of worship at St James in 2027 as we look forward to centuries ahead

www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

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