

# Saint James & Saint Mary Magdalene Quedgeley & Kingsway



## Parish Profile



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# Welcome to Quedgeley and Kingsway

## **In brief.**

Welcome to the single Church Parish of Quedgeley and Kingsway, which is situated just south of Gloucester mid-way between the Cotswolds to the east and the Forest of Dean to the west. The Church and Rectory are at the centre of these two large estates, with facilities and amenities such as schools, shops, medical and dental practices all within very easy distance. We hope that what follows will inspire and encourage you to consider becoming our next incumbent!

**The Church family** is widely held to be a warm, friendly and welcoming congregation, consisting of a worshipping group of between 60 and 80 regulars attending services on Sundays and Wednesdays and in smaller special focus groups

**Local Schools** are numerous, with 5 Primary, 1 Junior, 1 Secondary and several nurseries all nearby. We maintain a close working relationship with the Church of England schools and hope we can develop similar contacts with the others in the future.

**Outreach** is key to the future, and we believe that work with families through the schools forms the basis for an exciting opportunity. Whilst the Church building is in Quedgeley, the big area of development is Kingsway.

**Our new Incumbent**, we pray, will be someone with a strong personal faith and leadership skills who is not afraid to explore fresh ideas and new ways of worship to meet the challenges and needs of today's community, to build on existing foundations and thus encourage a vibrant, outward-looking congregation for the future.



# The area on your doorstep...

The Parish is about 5 miles from Gloucester's Cathedral and rejuvenated Docks, with modern quays, places to eat and a Shopping Mall, and its residents can enjoy the nearby River Sever and Gloucester/ Sharpness Canal. The M5 is only 1 mile distant at J12 and provides easy access to Bristol and Birmingham.

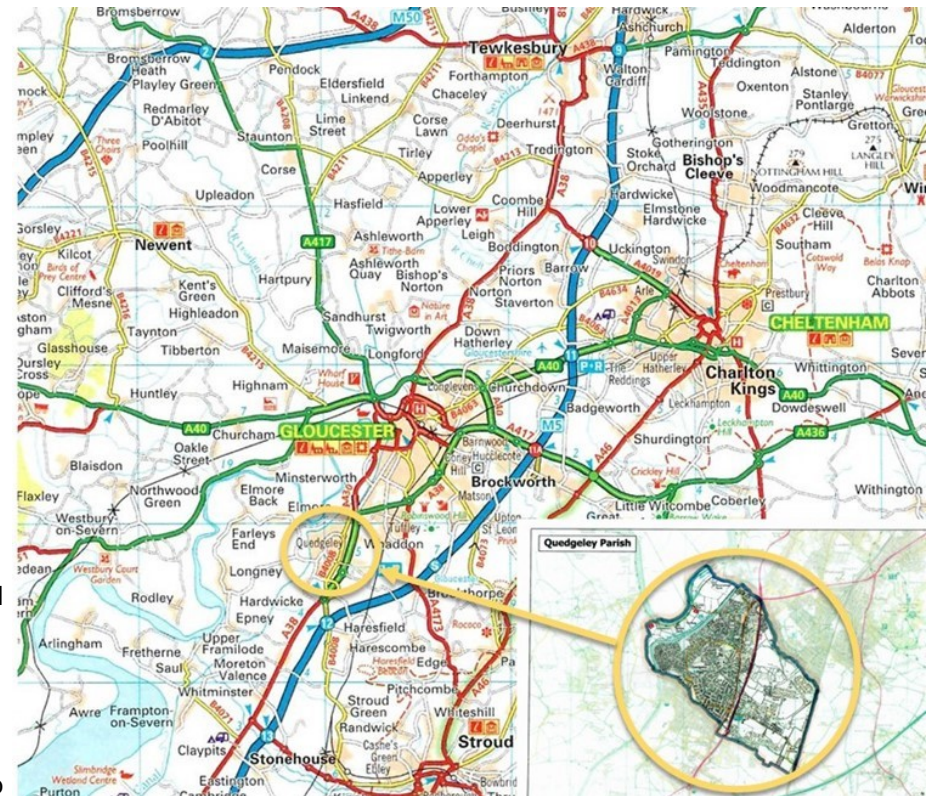
The A38 road cuts through the Parish and divides the area into Kingsway to the east and Quedgeley to the west. Access between the two is limited; however, one pedestrian underpass is relatively close to the Church and is well used.

Exponential growth in recent years has resulted in an estimated population of 22,000, a figure that continues to rise especially in Kingsway which is still developing.

The Church building and adjacent Rectory are well-positioned in the centre of Quedgeley and are close to local amenities. The Parish is well-served with doctors and dentists' surgeries, pharmacies, veterinary practices, local post office, public library and bank, estate agents, solicitors, funeral directors, service stations and hairdressers. There is a well-used community centre and a village hall, and the area has a range of competitive shops including Tesco, Asda, Aldi, Lidl, Boots and many others. Local hosteries and take-aways cater for a variety of tastes.

The Community Centre at Quedgeley is within a few metres of the Church and Rectory and another is established in Kingsway. At each venue there is a wide range of activity to be enjoyed by people of all ages, young and not so young.

Activities at these and other locations include Scouts, Air Training Corps, Rowing, Dance, Martial Arts and much more. Severn Vale school boasts two AstroTurf pitches and has excellent sports facilities. Additionally, Quedgeley Wanderers is a thriving local football club which supports mini, junior and senior participation.



Canal towpath view



Gloucester Cathedral



Tidal River Sever



St James at the centre of things

# The Church Environment

Our Parish sits within the Gloucester City Deanery within the Archdeaconry of Gloucester. Adjoining parishes are, to the south St Nicholas, Hardwicke, and to the east St Georges, Tuffley. Other denominations are represented by the Methodist Church in Quedgeley, and the Grace Church of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) operating in Kingsway and Quedgeley. We also have the RC Church of English Martyrs in nearby Tuffley.

We stand against any form of prejudice or discrimination whether that be on the grounds of race, sex or sexuality.

On the issue of the ordained ministry of women we are fully supportive of the House of Bishops' Declaration.

## Pastoral Care

**Care Homes.** In recent years we have enjoyed regular contact with our two local "Homes", primarily through a monthly in-house Eucharist service led by a member of the clergy and accompanied by one or more members of the congregation. This has been much appreciated by residents and staff alike, and we look forward to being able to re-establish this contact once allowed.

**Individual home visits.** In the past this has happened on an ad-hoc basis, but we would love to formalise the situation with a more organised group which would provide more regular contact with parishioners in need.



# Meet the Teams

Our Leadership Team currently comprises 8 members of the PCC plus 2 churchwardens and a treasurer,



*Church Wardens and Treasurer*

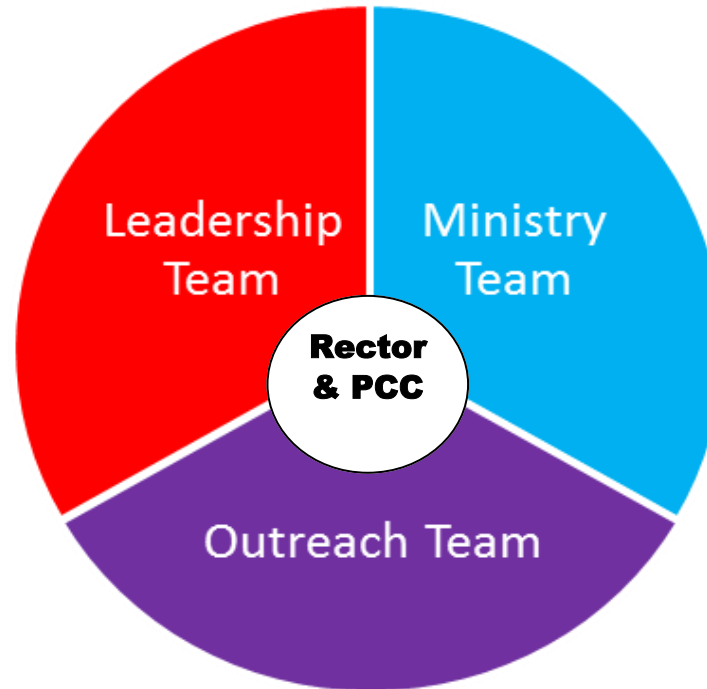


*Our Open the Book Team*

There are currently 5 retired clergy who act as Assistant Priests and officiate at weekly services, weddings, baptisms and funerals. Each has their own very special and valuable gifts, and together they have provided inspiration and wonderful leadership in the Parish over recent years.



*Our Ministry Team*



The Outreach Community Groups, Chatterbox and Chit-Chat, comprise 10 volunteers including an organiser who prepare, set up, and supervise the weekly activities

Open the book - 6 volunteers have been visiting 3 schools in the parish every 2 weeks during term time.



*Members of Team Chatterbox and Chit Chat*

# May we be honest?

## A Snapshot of our key:-

### Strengths

Good connections with local schools

Strong baptism team

Friendly and welcoming congregation

Existing members are willing to help when needed

Well attended community groups (Chit Chat, Chatterbox)

### Opportunities

Mission work in Kingsway

Building new links with Severn Vale secondary

Reordering the church building

Creating new links with other churches in the Deanery as per the Deanery's strategic plan

To introduce fresh expressions

### Challenges

Having a clear vision and plan of going forwards

Establishing IT expertise

Finding a way to create more space for existing activities and other events

Encouraging new members to join our church especially young people and families with young children

Developing new ways of worship that may be more appealing to the modern generation

Helping those who find change difficult

Making ourselves more visible in the community

Recruiting volunteers for outreach and community groups

Thinking of ways to raise more funds to start the re-ordering process and to be sure of being able to pay the Parish Share

# Please could you be

After consulting a wide range of people in the Parish about the qualities they would like to see in our new priest, we consider these are our priorities

Someone who is:

passionate about outreach in our ever-expanding community

enthusiastic about developing other worship opportunities outside the church building

able to engage with children and families and encourage them to be more involved in our church and faith activities

happy with a variety of worship styles and keen to explore new possibilities to meet changing needs

keen to nurture and strengthen existing links with our local schools, and to look beyond this to establishing connections with other schools in the Parish

a good organiser who is happy to promote the use of IT skills in our church life.

If you are also an open, approachable person with a good sense of humour, "our cup would run over" and you would have the enthusiastic support of our ministry team and of the congregation.

# Reflections from our schools

## Clearwater Primary Academy



### Reception

We think the Vicar needs to be calm, caring kind and smiley. We think they should give people lovely things, be good at reading stories and know the bible well and wear a nice T-shirt!

### Year One

Be happy, cheerful and helpful. Must be good at telling stories from the Bible and have a puppet. We want a Vicar who likes children and is a good leader of Worship. Would be good if they could paint!

### Year Two

Someone who involves the whole community. Parents, grandparents, children, teachers, cleaners knows a lot about the bible. Good at computer, easy to speak to, friendly and smiley. Helpful, confident, loud clear voice, brave enough to speak to lots of people and patient with children

### Year Three

Religious, confident and a good understanding of the Bible. Good sense of humour, fun and entertaining brings stories to life, good with children, helpful and experienced.

## Field Court Infant Academy



### Penny & Emmy

"We'd like someone who is exciting and joyful, happy and funny when they come to talk to us about Christian values."

### Jacob & Elijah

"We'd like to see someone who does things differently, kind, thoughtful and nice. Comes into school and talks to us"

# Reflections from our Community



*Caroline, who has been a member of the Church for 85 years! She was baptised at St James in 1936 and came to the Church with her parents. She was later confirmed and married there. Over the years she has worked steadfastly helping with fund-raising and flower arranging.*



*Keith is one of our loyal volunteers who with his wife helps at Chat-terbox, our Parent and Toddler Group. Their young grandson also attends. Recently Keith has been more actively involved in raising funds for the Church. Although not a regular worshipper, Keith and his wife attend at Christmas and Remembrance Sunday.*



*Margaret says "Everyone has been most generous in their welcome to us, and we have enjoyed the leadership of the Church, and especially the fact that it has remained open during this pandemic time."*



*Alice Marume says: "Our family has been attracted to this Church because everyone is friendly and welcoming, with warm Godly hearts."*

# Worship

## Services

Two Eucharist services normally take place each week - Wednesday 10.00am and Sunday 10.30am. (*Church of England Common Worship*). The average attendance prior to lockdown was 60 –80 increasing to over 100 at Christmas. The Christmas Eve Crib service and later Carol Service are full to bursting with families. Services have continued during the pandemic, (when regulations allowed) thanks to the dedicated team of 5 retired clergy. Eucharist is celebrated at two local nursing homes by members of the clergy accompanied by one or more members of the congregation. Bespoke events are specially prepared for and by local schools using the church building.

Pet services have been held and proved very popular. In addition, organisations such as the Royal British Legion, Scouts and Cadet Corps attend services of worship to mark Remembrance Day and other significant dates of national and local importance. Healing services have been held once a month and have more recently taken place in private homes with a priest in attendance when possible.

Each month we hold a special service for families called STJs. We view this part of our activities as being vitally important and there is a special page related to STJs later.

## Style

Currently we have a liberal catholic style of worship. The reserved sacrament is used on visits to the sick and in residential care. Robes are worn. Collects and other prayers are sometimes chanted rather than spoken. Occasionally incense is burned .

As Church numbers have remained fairly consistent over recent years, we are keen to grow our congregation by introducing Fresh Expressions, and new styles of worship. We would be keen to re-explore the idea of having a pioneer minister to assist in the work. Change is timely and vital if we are to fulfil our Christian duty of outreach and ensure St James' future. We believe that there is scope to hold services within other public buildings and venues across the Quedgeley and Kingsway area.



*Sunday Holy Eucharist*



*Typical STJ service—busy and full of fun!*



*Remembrance Sunday*

# Baptisms

For many years Baptisms have been a very busy element of our Church life, and to reflect this, a Baptismal Ministry Team was set up from amongst members of the congregation.

The aim is to provide an ongoing personal link between the clergy/ congregation and the Baptismal families which we achieve this through pre-baptism meetings, taking an active part in the service itself, and maintaining follow-up contact with the provision of small gifts and anniversary cards.

Due to lockdown and restrictions, the numbers have drastically reduced, falling from 46 in 2019 to just 3 in 2020, but we have already made a good start this year beginning with a lovely ceremony in May as part of our Sunday morning service. We look forward to the privilege of welcoming many new Church members in this way in the coming years.



# Children and STJs (The St James' Family Service)

We believe that families, young children and teenagers are important both now, and are key to the future. To this end we normally have a monthly special service called STJs. It is aimed specifically at families and youngsters, and consists of worship, prayer, and craft followed by lunch provided by members of the congregation. It is a noisy, happy and vibrant service which can be enjoyed by the whole congregation.

The pet service is a favourite for young children as well, and likewise Christingle and Candlemas in season. A special area for little people is always available at our services, in full view of parents and the activity at the nave altar.

Children from the local C of E schools attend for special events and some often take part in the Wednesday morning Eucharist.



*Confirmation*



*STJs*



*Field Court Infant Academy helping at Wednesday morning Eucharist*

*Pet Service*



*Christingle*



*Little People's Corner at our Sunday Service*



# Prayer and study

## Prayer Groups

We believe that prayer is an essential part of life.

A prayer cell has recently been established. These groups are able to concentrate on the significant issues affecting our country, the world at large, and those impacting the Church and its development.

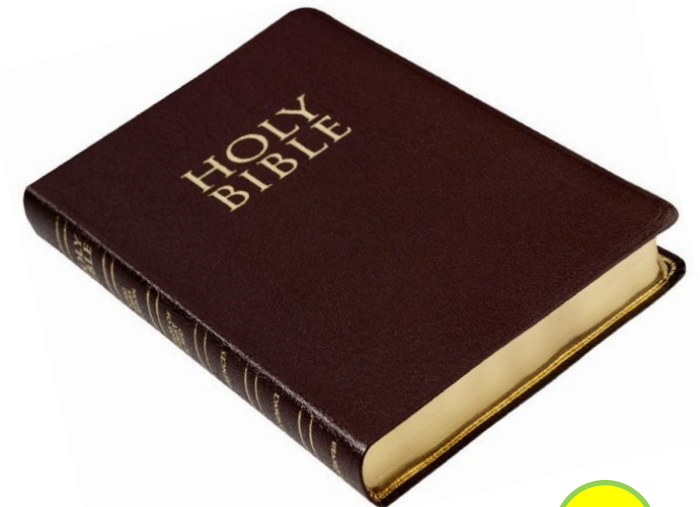
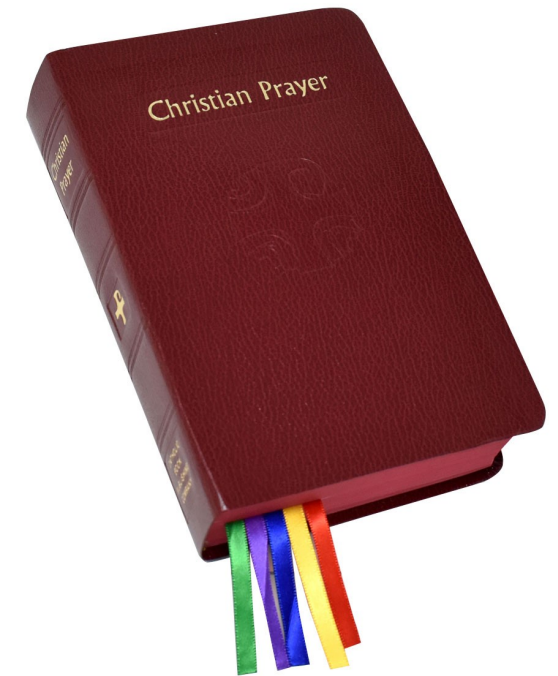
Prayer requests can be made using our website, or a special board in the church. These are then offered during the following Sunday service.

An ecumenical prayer group meets in normal times once a month. St James' Church, Quedgeley takes its turn in hosting the prayer group once a year, providing music, a picture to focus prayer on and tea and cake at the end.

## Study groups

A study group 'Come and Find out', led by a member of the clergy, has proved popular, meeting regularly in peoples' homes.

Separate devotional study groups operate during Advent and Lent, again led by retired clergy. These are normally run in the church and the study is followed by soup and bread.



# Open the Book

St. James' Open the Book team has been visiting local primary schools in Quedgeley for over ten years. Until March 2020, they have been acting out Bible stories during assembly time at Beech Green Junior School, Field Court Infant Academy and more recently at Clearwater Primary Academy as well.

The team enjoy presenting Bible stories to the pupils, inviting a few to put on costumes and joining in 'on stage'. Audience participation is encouraged, to emphasise a point or just for fun.

The St James' Open the Book activity provides a wonderful link between our church and the schools. We are delighted when schools ask for special services to be held at St James and members of the team can give a friendly smile to welcome the children as they enter.



# Chatterbox and Chit Chat



**Chatterbox** is our parent/carer toddler group run by a volunteer team and meeting in the Church every Tuesday morning from 9.30 until 11.00. A variety of play equipment keeps toddlers amused and a bespoke baby area provides for those with young babies. There is always a different craft activity each week and for those who like to curl up with a book we have a book corner with lots of choice. Healthy snacks of fruit are served for the children and for the adults a cuppa and biscuits are available.

**Chit-chat** is our social group aimed at those of a certain age who are still 'Young at Heart', meeting in Church on a Thursday morning from 10.00 till 12.00. Newspapers are on hand for those who like to read up on the daily news over a cuppa while there is always a choice of books, magazines and board games available. Music in the background adds to the happy atmosphere.

During the year we hold quizzes and raffles and celebrate birthdays; the annual Christmas party is always a favourite. Refreshments vary from week to week with a selection of sandwiches, fruit, quiches and home made cake. .



# Church and Community together

We are seeking someone who can help us find new ways of engaging in the community to build on these current

**Community help.** We are delighted to work with the local council in the distribution of food to children whose families struggle during school holidays.

**Outings.** Normally we arrange an annual Church outing to places of interest by way of a pilgrimage which normally includes joining a local congregation for Holy Communion. Visits to Cathedrals at Coventry ,Hereford and St Davids' and Prinknash Abbey are recent examples.

**The Gloucester Food bank** is supported by the congregation using the Church as a collection point

**Knit and Natter** This group knits items for sale for church funds. They have provided two local maternity units with neo-natal bonnets and twiddle mitts for patients with dementia.

**Poetry Group** have performed at Church events and produced bespoke poems for special occasions. Publication of some of their work has raised funds for the Church.

**Charity Fundraising** is an ongoing effort and we are pleased to regularly raise funds for Cancer research, James Hopkins Trust, Macmillan Cancer and BBC Children In Need.



# Communication

In a parish with well over 22,000 people, being able to keep in touch and communicate with the local community as well as regular church members is an important issue for us.

At Saint James' we are fortunate that a retired member of our clergy team volunteers to compile the Weekly Newsletter. This gives a brief account of what is going on in the life of the church. Prayers and a 'Thought for the week' is produced each week. The newsletter is published on our website [www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk) on a weekly basis and is available to view on the 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) site. The newsletter is also sent out to those church members with email addresses. We encourage members of the local community to send us their email addresses so we can send a newsletter direct to their in box.

We have two notice boards in the parish as well as the notice board in the porch where we advertise our services, future events and useful information. As well as our own notice boards we sometimes display notices on the Town Council notice boards in Kingsway and Quedgeley and at the Tesco store.

Our website and ACNY site is kept up to date with useful information as well as safeguarding information. You can view the site at

[www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk](http://www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk) <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14167/>

Our Facebook and Instagram pages attract members of the local community and are regularly updated. The church also has its own Twitter account. We've featured regularly in the local Citizen newspaper and other local newspapers in the area,

**Around the Spire** is our Parish Magazine, edited by a member of the retired clergy. It is printed for us by a local printing company for a nominal fee each month. 250 copies of the magazine are delivered to houses in the Parish by members of our congregation as well as being circulated at nursing homes, schools and the local library. The magazine is available on line.



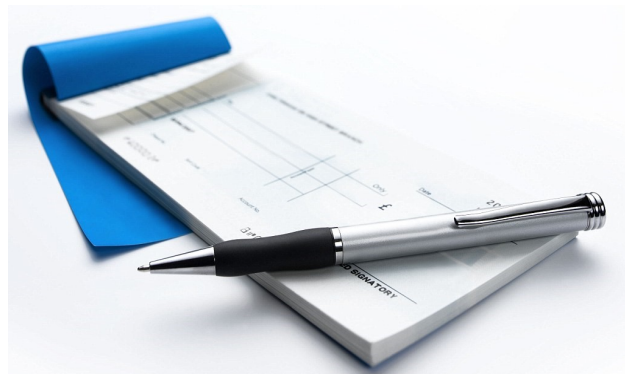
*Delivering our Parish Mag out in Kingsway*



# Finance



Like the great majority of parishes in the Diocese, our church finances have suffered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and we are currently not able to fund our Parish Share to the extent to which we would like.



However, we are determined to take advantage of the current easing of restrictions to improve our situation. We have already made a start with several initiatives including an impromptu mini-fayre in June which raised an impressive £1,228 and £1,100 from a fundraising lunch.

Statement  
SELECT ACCOUNT

Account Number: 111111  
Sort Code: 16-10-00  
BIC: HBUK33  
IBAN: GB70080100000111111111

Address: ANY STREET, ANY TOWN, ANY TOWN, TES TER

Period: 22 Oct 2014 to 21 Dec 2014

Date	Type	Amount	Previous Balance	Paid In	Paid Out	New Balance
22 Oct 2014	INITIAL POSTAL		£1,100.00			£1,100.00
22 Oct 2014	AUTOMATED PAY IN	1,100.00				£2,200.00
26 Oct 2014	DIGITAL BANKING	100.00				£2,100.00
26 Oct 2014	Faster Payment	100.00				£2,000.00
26 Oct 2014	BACS	100.00				£1,900.00
26 Oct 2014	Faster Payment	100.00				£1,800.00
26 Oct 2014	BACS	100.00				£1,700.00
26 Oct 2014	Faster Payment	100.00				£1,600.00
26 Oct 2014	BACS	100.00				£1,500.00
01 Nov 2014	Faster Payment	100.00				£1,400.00
01 Nov 2014	BACS	100.00				£1,300.00
01 Nov 2014	Faster Payment	100.00				£1,200.00
01 Dec 2014	CHQ	100.00				£1,100.00
01 Dec 2014	Bank	100.00				£1,000.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£900.00
01 Dec 2014	BACS	100.00				£800.00
01 Dec 2014	BACS	100.00				£700.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£600.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£500.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£400.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£300.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£200.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£100.00
01 Dec 2014	DD	100.00				£0.00

Bank of Scotland Plc, Registered Office: The Strand, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ. Registered in Scotland number: SC291700. Authorized by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Other possibilities include resurrecting our Fundraising Committee focussing on stewardship, also taking steps to spell out to as wide an audience as possible the importance of re-building our church finances. Our lovely Church will then be able to continue serving its parish as it would wish to.

# Church Building

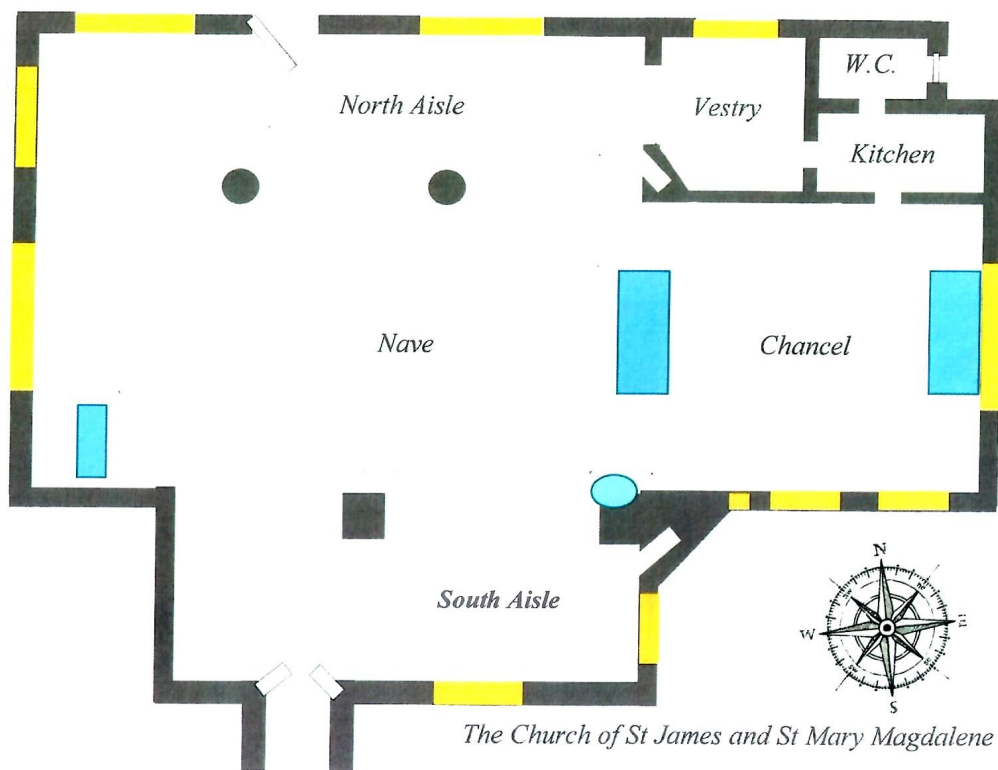
St James Church was built in 1210. It is Grade 2 listed. It has a much-used south aisle, a vestry, kitchen and toilet. Ramps are situated throughout to allow disabled access. It has impressive stained glass windows and the roof has been tastefully painted to give an impression of light and space. The tower houses 8 bells and in normal times a team of ringers practises weekly and rings for Sunday services.

The Church has a Viscount Domus 2-keyboard organ, and when our regular organist is unavailable, we have an alternative in the form of CDs of The Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New. We are also blessed with several musicians and singers in our congregation.

Wooden pews are complemented by cushioned movable chairs. The pews are in constant need of repair and there are plans to remove them to allow better use of the church floorspace.

There is no Church hall, however a long standing arrangement with the local Community Centre provides limited free use of some meeting rooms.

The tower is in need of work as indicated by our last Quinquennial report dated 2018. </perch/resources/ab-st-james-church-quedgeley-gloucester-qi-report-1.pdf>



# Rectory

The Rectory is a well proportioned detached 4 bedroom home set in its own generous garden adjoining the Churchyard. It provides the following:-

**Inside.** Living room, Dining room, Study, Kitchen and pantry, Cloakroom, Storage under stairs, Utility room, 4 bedrooms, Bathroom and shower over bath, Shower room and Gas central heating. The roof has Solar panels on the rear elevation.

**Outside.** Single garage, large drive parking for 8 cars, wrap around garden with the rear section looking towards the church, bounded with closely boarded fencing.



## Thank you .....

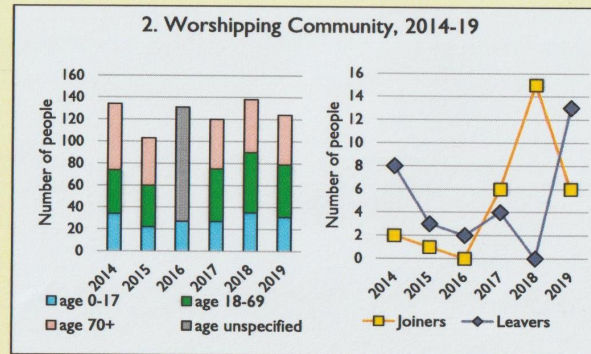
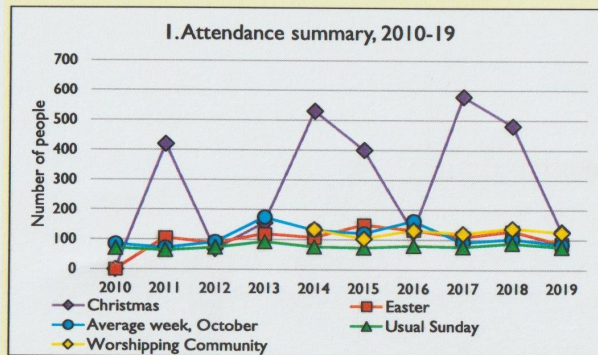
Thank you for your time in reading about our Church and Parish, and we hope that this might encourage you to become the next occupant of our Rectory!

# Our photo album



# Statistics

These figures are from the Diocese of Gloucester website - <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/> They show the trend and activity in our worshipping community over the last nine years. 2020 –21 . The last period of lockdown is totally unrepresentative fo course and those numbers have not been included in the profile.



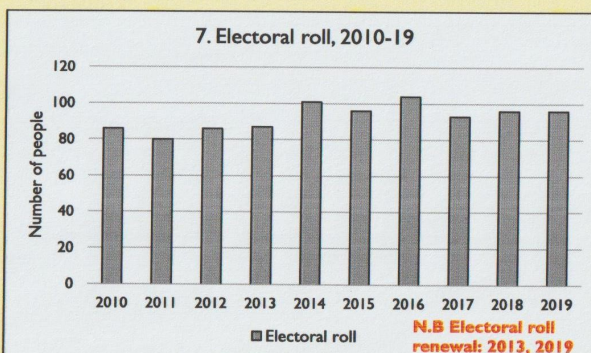
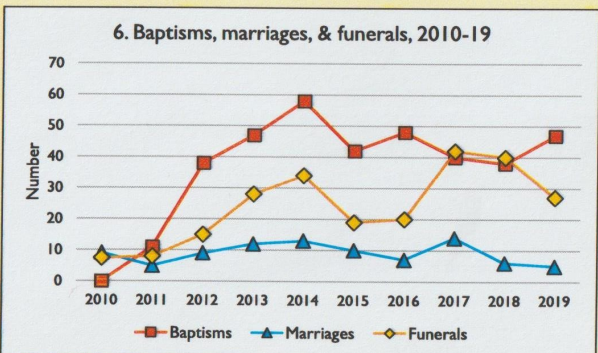
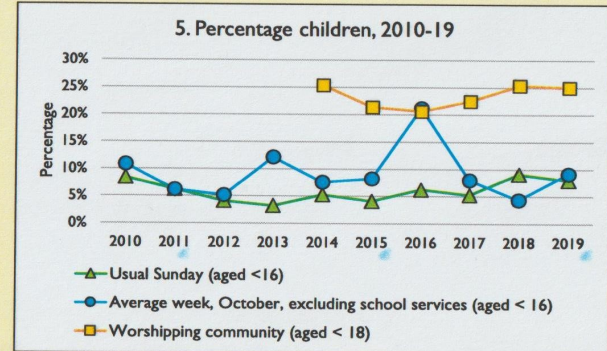
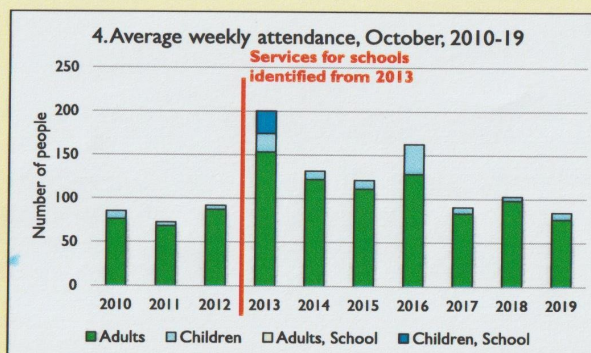
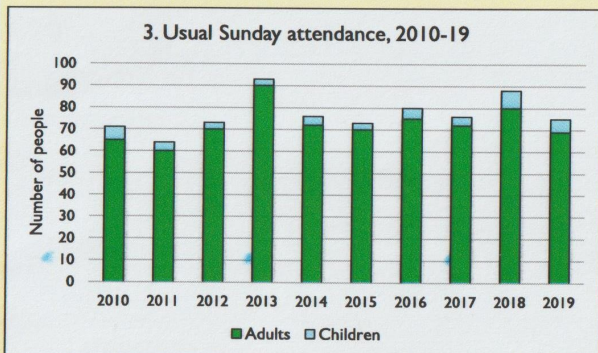
### Parish census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2018): 17175

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	28%	21%	21%
% aged 18-44	44%	33%	37%
% aged 45-64	20%	28%	25%
% aged 65 & over	7%	19%	16%
% Christian	62%	64%	59%
% non-Christian religion	2%	2%	9%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD, 2019): 9206  
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,382=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>  
and <http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>  
Number of churches in parish (2020): 1 Parish code: 160195



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish  
**Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.  
Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.  
Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.  
Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.  
Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.  
Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.  
Worshipping Community information has been collected from 2012 onwards.  
**Census data:** taken from the 2011 national Census and the 2018 population update.  
**Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.  
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.  
For more information, see:  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2010 1; 2011 1; 2012 1; 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1.

Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 23/9/20.

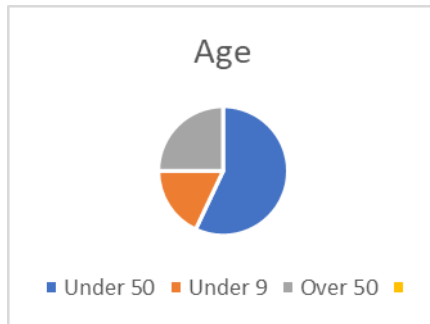
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)

Follow us on Twitter:  
@cofestats

# The People

The population here is largely young, British by nationality, white by ethnicity and Christian (at least nominally) by religion. The numbers for 2020 were as follows

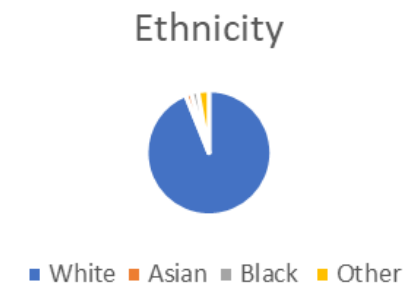
75% under 50 years



76% British



93% White



66% Christian

with 32% quoting 'NO RELIGION'

