

The church is now open during the following times for supervised private prayer:

Sunday 12noon - 4.00pm

One of the clergy is usually available 10.15am - 12noon

Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Please follow the directions on social-distancing, hygiene, direction of movement around the building, & seating.

The Parish Office will not be open until further notice.

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings, etc., please contact the clergy - details below.

All the clergy are available (by phone or email) and our details are as follows:

CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector & Parish Priest

(Our Parish is now in vacancy)

Hon. Assistant Priests

Revd. Canon Hugh Broad

01452 541078 – Mobile 07928 455674

hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

Fr Ian Robb

01452 676059 – Mobile 07962 469250

irobb925@gmail.com

Fr. Gordon Ripley

01452 883399

gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com

Fr. Michael Garland

01452 720872

michaelgarland368@btinternet.com

The Revd Ann Morris

rev.ann@btinternet.com

Keep up to date with the latest Church news by looking at our parish website or at our Facebook pages, or find us on "A Church near You".

"Around the Spire" : The **MAY issue** is in church, online on our parish website, & on "A Church near You". ***Notes for the June issue should be sent in this week please!***

Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

Our church is still open for worship and private prayer - we have received several notes of thanks for remaining open - and we shall continue to observe all the social-distancing & hygiene rules. But we fully understand that if you feel anxious about attending, you may prefer to stay at home.

**The Parish Church of
St JAMES the APOSTLE**

&

St MARY MAGDALENE

Quedgeley & Kingsway Diocese of Gloucester



Sunday 16th May -

The Seventh Sunday of Easter:

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

10.30am: The Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: The Revd Ann

Preacher: Fr Hugh

Bible readings for today:

First Reading. Acts 1. 15 - 17, 21 - 26
Matthias is chosen to be an Apostle.

(Reader: Andrew Wakely)

Second Reading. 1 John 5. 9 - 13

God gives us eternal life through his Son Jesus Christ.

(Reader: una Steer)

Alleluia:

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel. John 17. 6 - 19

Jesus prays to the Father that He will protect his disciples.

Intercessions led by: Andrew Wakely

Collect for Easter VII

O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
For the Easter season :

In joy and hope we pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter:
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to
one another in Christian love ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work
or shelter ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease
through all the world ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the
sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and
strengthen them ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon
his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to
his resurrection,
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to
eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St James and St
Mary Magdalene, and all your saints, we commend
ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing
love. AMEN.

Those who have died: Victims of Covid-19;
those whose anniversary of death occurs at this
time.
All who mourn their passing.

Those who are ill: Barbara Ward, John & Pat
Hall, Shirley Wilce, Wynn Sutch, David James,
Rod Robinson, Jane & Doug Drakeley

Worship in St James this week:
See details on page 3.

**When we are unable to get to St James for our
Eucharist:**

Fr Dennis McBride offers the Holy Eucharist: go to
www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online.

And we can make an act of Spiritual Communion
as follows
“Lord Jesus Christ: I believe that you are in the
Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things,
and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot, at
this time, receive you in the consecrated Bread
and Wine of the Eucharist, come spiritually into my
heart. As though you have already come, I ace you
and give myself to you; never permit me to be
separated from you. Amen”

**A Prayer for use now the “Lockdown” is
easing:**

***Risen Lord, we thank you for all the members
of our National Health Service - the admin staff
as well as the doctors, nurses, ambulance
crews, first responders, and the staff in our
care homes; strengthen those who give their
skill and care to return us to health and
well-being. Guide and prosper the work of all
who are involved in medical research and
development, and all who involved in the
vaccination programme. Teach us never to
take our health and freedom for granted, and
keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.
Through him who is always the resurrection
and the life Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN .***

Intercessions on Sundays. Thank you to all
those who have helped us to restart our rota; if you
would like to take part in this ministry, please
contact Fr Hugh as soon as possible. (*details on
p.1*)

We are also looking to have **more Readers** for our
Rota - contact Fr Ian for the Readers' Rota

**Please continue to remember The Gloucester
FoodBank when you go to buy food. Most of
our supermarkets have a place where you can
leave gifts for the Foodbank.**

Prayer Cells: Two people have expressed
interest in being part of a second prayer cell in the
parish. We need four more to make it work; are
YOU interested? If so, please contact Fr Hugh.

Three Important Messages from our Churchwardens & P.C.C. Secretary:

The Annual Church Meeting will take place at 11.30am on **27th June** - this is the time when we elect our Churchwardens, Church Council, and Sidespersons for the coming year. The Nomination Lists are in church, so please make your nominations - having asked your candidate first, of course!

We are still in need of a **new Treasurer** - you do not have to be an accountant, and lots of help and support will be available, so do think seriously about this task. On the financial front, we need to increase the number of those authorised to be signatories on church cheques - the Wardens have further details.

Confirmation: The Bishops have arranged Confirmation services at four venues across the diocese; if you wish to be confirmed, please speak to one of the clergy or the Churchwardens.

We need someone to help tend our small Garden of Remembrance (to the right of the main door). Please speak to Lu, or Lovell Cornwall (who will be providing plants for the time being.)

It's not too late to let the Wardens have your comments about our church life in general - what do we do well, what we could improve, what are our needs as we come out of lockdown & focus on our future development.

Ian Pearce: ianlu123@hotmail.com

Paul Price: thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk

Lu Pearce: androulapearce@hotmail.co.uk

Worship at St James in the coming week

Holy Eucharist on Wednesday this week, 19th May at 10am for the feast of St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury

10am Eucharist: Fr Hugh
2 Corinthians 5. 1 - 10
Matthew 24. 42 - 46

Sunday 23rd May: The Feast of Pentecost
10.30am Parish Eucharist cel: Fr Ian
pr: Fr Michael

Looking further ahead: On Sunday 13th June we shall be welcoming the Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Venerable Hilary Dawson, as our celebrant and preacher at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist - this will be her first formal visit to St James and we look forward to welcoming her.

"Thought for the Week": Fr Michael

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Reflection for the Sunday after Ascension Day

Life goes on. How often do we hear people making that short statement during or after a time of crisis or loss? Within those three words there is a real and comforting expression of hope as well as an acknowledgement of reality that as one chapter of life ends, so another begins.

We are just a few days on from Ascension Day, a festival which marks the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus. His post-resurrection appearances in recognisable form have given shape and meaning to the forty days of Easter but now there is a necessary parting from his friends. A parting that will enable the release of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Life goes on.

That was, of course, the great message of Easter. Death did not have the last word – Jesus lives! There were momentous changes for the disciples as well. Peter had suffered the trauma of denying Jesus but in his later meeting with Jesus he is lovingly forgiven. Judas has gone his way, not able to forgive himself for his act of betrayal. Matthias is elected as one of the twelve in place of Judas. Life goes on.

The risen Lord ascends that he might fill all things with his promised spirit. Life goes on. Or, as Sydney Carter put it so well in his most famous hymn – 'The dance goes on'. Much of the later ministry of Jesus recorded in the gospels, is a ministry to those who are closest to him; preparing them for what is to come; encouraging them to engage with the life of the Spirit which will lead them into all truth and protect them from all evil.

This is what we must grasp today as we live and move and have our being in this place - as we live and give voice to the gospel and encourage others in the life of faith. This is the work to which Jesus calls us and we must joyfully pick up the mantle to ensure that life – the life of our risen and ascended Lord – goes on through us.

Fr Michael

A Message from Jackie Hall:

FUND-RAISING EVENT : Saturday 5th June from 11.30am in the church grounds.

We plan to hold several stalls, including Tricia's famous Plant Stall, outside the church. In the light of Covid restrictions, we shall not be able to serve refreshments as we cannot guarantee a Covid-secure area.

Would you like to help on one of the stalls, or even arrange one of your own? (Sadly, NO FOOD PRODUCTS, PLEASE.)

We would be grateful for someone to "man" a Raffle Stall (with cloakroom tickets) on the day.

Contact Jackie on 07853 217954 or 01452 721062

We have had 10 enquiries about stalls, so it looks as though we shall have a good event!

PS Please pray for fine weather; if it rains, we shall have to cancel the event!

A Message from Val Harris:

"I have recently purchased some new equipment and am now all set - after 17th May - to resume men's haircutting in aid of church funds!

All I need is some willing customers, so please book in on 01452 498018.

I look forward to seeing you!. Val."

We send our best wishes for a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to **Jean MacCarty** on Saturday 15th May.