

No Services & Meetings this week

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 be open on Wed 16th Sept 5.30pm - 6.30pm & Sat 19th Sept 9am - 10am for the arranging of Baptisms, Weddings, etc.

The Eucharist on Sundays: see notes on page 3

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

CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector & Parish Priest

The Revd. Canon John Ward

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

ia_jdr@lineone.net

The Revd Jenny D'Esterre

01453 890384 - Mobile 07540 322 744

Revdjenny@gmail.com

Fr. Gordon Ripley

01452 883399

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Fr. Michael Garland

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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 Sept issue is now available in church & also on email. Notes for October to Fr Hugh by **TODAY** please!

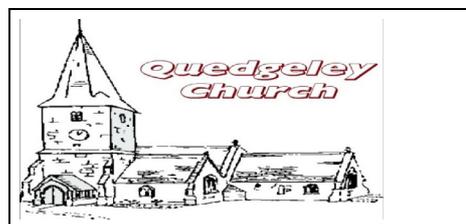
Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

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

&

St MARY MAGDALENE

Quedgeley & Kingsway Diocese of Gloucester



www.quedgeleychurch.org.uk

[Www.facebook.com/saintjames'churchquedgeley](https://www.facebook.com/saintjames'churchquedgeley)

Sunday 13th September - Holy Cross Day

The Holy Eucharist:

9am (Said) Celebrant & preacher: Fr. Ian

11am (Said) Celebrant: Fr Hugh

Preacher: Fr Gordon

Bible readings for today:

First Reading. Numbers 21. 4 - 9.

God instructs Moses to set up a totem of healing for the Israelites.

Second Reading. Philippians 2. 5 - 11.

Through a sacrificial act of obedience, Jesus is raised to glory.

Alleluia:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel. John 3. 13 - 17

Jesus explains to Nicodemus how the ministry of the Messiah must end.

Collect for The Holy Cross :

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

On the advice of the Archdeacon of Gloucester, we shall revert to ONE SERVICE on a Sunday morning at 10.30am, beginning on 20th September. We very much hope you will all feel able to join us - at the usual social distance in the pews, of course!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AT THIS PRESENT TIME.

Almighty and merciful Father, you show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for a quick control of the coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in many parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead, and consolation to those who have been bereaved. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found and we pray that governments and health authorities may take appropriate steps for the good of all people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday: St James' clergy & congregation; all Christians and people of goodwill.

Monday: Schools, teachers, children, & support staff as a new term begins; all Key Workers.

Tuesday: Victims of domestic abuse. All who are lonely or afraid. The Homeless.

Wednesday: The Police & Emergency Services; the Armed Forces, Aid Agencies; all in authority.

Thursday: NHS Staff & their families; Chestnut Ct, Queen Ann Ct, The Lawns & all their staff & families. The vulnerable at home. Chemists & Medical Researchers.

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

Saturday: Our shops & Supermarkets & their staff. Delivery drivers & all who supply our daily needs.

Those who are ill: Helen Jones, David Way, Philip Parker, Barbara Ward, Ray Wright, John Hall, Shirley Wilce, Jane Rogers, Wynn Sutch, Barbra Rusike, Fr John.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
With St James and St Mary Magdalene,
Pray for us and all the world. AMEN.

"Thought for the Week":

Holy Cross Day

Holy Cross Day commemorates the story of Helena, Mother of the Emperor Constantine, who is said to have discovered a cross while exploring ruins in the city of Jerusalem. The cross is, of course, the universally recognized symbol of the Christian faith.

The symbol of the cross is prefigured in the story of the Garden of Eden. Two trees are set in the garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In eating the forbidden fruit from the second tree, Adam and Eve overreach themselves, and God drives them out of Paradise. This ensures that the tree of life is saved from the destructive impulses of human beings.

At the heart of our faith is the gospel account of the historic crucifixion of Jesus. The cross came to be seen as answer to Adam and Eve's sin, enabling reconciliation between humanity and God. The cross of Jesus is the tree of life manifested in human history.

In the cross we see a reconciling grace through the presence of divine love in Jesus, which makes Jesus and his Father one throughout.

God's love is a cross-shaped love, God's hope, a cross-shaped hope. This is the same love and hope that created the universe, the world and everything in it. This is the truth in the centre of everything: 'God so loved the world'.

Sacred, self-giving love, seen on the cross, is simply a window into the way God lives and moves all of the time. God is full of love like this and constantly pours it out like this.

So we should be thankful for the cross and reflect on its life giving mystery, not only because Jesus suffered for our sins, but because it has produced new life, bearing fruit in the forgiveness of sins and in holy lives.

Fr. Gordon

PS:

" Sylvia and I would like to invite you all to stay for a while after the 10.30am Parish Eucharist on **Sunday 20th September** to share in a glass (well, paper cup!) of wine and a slice of cake to help us celebrate our Golden Wedding which falls on the following Saturday. If the weather is good we hope to meet outside; if not, Plan B will be to distance safely in Church"

Fr Gordon.

Sunday 20th Sept: Trinity 15

The Holy Eucharist

10.30am (Said) celebrant: Fr Gordon
preacher: The Revd. Ann

Please note: Fr John is now on one month's sick leave; please continue to hold him in your prayers. Pray also for those who are ministering to him, and for our honorary assistant clergy, and our churchwardens, as they all continue to care for our church and parish.

Contact details are all on page 1 of this newsheet.

Now the church is open:

You can find a **PRAYER BOARD**, together with pen & paper, for you to leave any prayer requests which will then be offered during worship on the following Sunday. In addition to any names, please say, in a few words, why prayer is requested. *(Please write legibly. If you wish to make an offering with your prayer, there is an offertory box nearby.)*

Shirley Wilce, a leading light in our Poetry

Group has just published a collection of her work: "Walking with Angels" - poems, prayers, & prose. She hopes that you will feel moved to buy a copy - she promises that all the proceeds will be given to our Church Funds. Copies are £6.50 from Shirley direct, or £6.50 + £2.40 p&p by mail. Phone 01452 883272 or 07845 962457 to order.

At the back of the church, you will find a new supply of **FACE COVERINGS** which are on sale at £1 each, **in aid of Church Funds**.

*To date, we have sold over **140 face-coverings**. Our grateful thanks go to Jackie Broad for all her hard work in making these. (The good news is that Jackie has not yet stopped, so if you have not bought one, there is still time. And if you have, do you need a spare?)*

If you are unable to get to St James for our Eucharist on Sunday:

Fr Dennis McBride offers the Holy Eucharist: go to www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online. *(Available from Saturday evening onwards.)* Enjoy!

Worship in Church on Sundays continues according to the following pattern:

There will be TWO celebrations of the Eucharist:

9am Holy Eucharist (Said)

9.45am Church will be cleaned / sanitised

11am Holy Eucharist (Said)

11.45am Church will be cleaned / sanitised

Each service will take approximately 30 - 45 minutes.

A single service sheet will be available for use, which we shall ask you to take away afterwards and there will be some necessary changes to our usual pattern.

(e.g.: No sharing of The Peace; Communion will be given in one kind only; there will be no offertory procession - we shall indicate where you may leave your financial gifts. We regret that we are unable to serve coffee afterwards.)

To comply with Government "Track & tracing" requirements, we have been asked to keep a list (names only) of those attending.

Social-distancing & hygiene guidelines will be in place; GREEN seating markers will be in place.

The church will remain open for private prayer on Sundays from 12noon - 4pm.

The **10am Eucharist** will be celebrated on

Wednesday this week, 16th Sept, when we shall keep the **Feast of St Ninian, Bishop of Galloway**.

Fr Hugh will be the celebrant. We shall be asking the congregation to sit in the **GREEN seats** in the nave; sadly no coffee will be served afterwards. *(The Wednesday 7.30pm Eucharist will need to wait a little longer.)*

Readings for the day

Isaiah 52. 7 - 10

Acts 13. 46 - 49

Mark 16. 15 - end

The Parish Office will be open on Wed 16th

Sept 5.30pm - 6.30pm and on Sat 19th Sept 9am - 10am for the arranging of Baptisms, Weddings, etc. *(Social-distancing & hygiene guidelines will be in place.)* **Please note that from the 1st October, the Parish Office session will be held on Saturday mornings only.**

Sharing The Common Cup

"Why do we use only one chalice / cup at the Eucharist?" It's a question that many people have asked over the years.

The simple answer is that we are doing what our Lord did, and commanded us to do, when he gave those first disciples the gift of the Eucharist when they shared that last supper together.

It was the Jewish custom, at Passover time, to place on the table a large cup which would be used by the prophet Elijah, who was to return to them at some point. Naturally, the cup was never used as Elijah (as far as they were aware) had not returned. So we can imagine the disciples' amazed reaction when Jesus, on this occasion, picked up the "Elijah cup" and having blessed its contents, instructed them to share it: "This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you."

The Eucharist is all about sharing - that's what the word "communion" means. It is not just me, on my own, receiving a personal gift from God; it is me, and you - all of us - the whole people of God, being fed by our heavenly Father with food to strengthen us for his service. St Paul said that just as there is one body of Christ given to the world, so there is one cup poured out for all of us to share. In so doing, we express our solidarity and equality with each other, and with the whole universal Church.

It is understandable that in these strange times when we are urged to be extra-careful about hygiene issues that there may be misgivings about sharing the common cup. That is why the Church has decreed that for the time being, Communion should be given in one kind only. This does not in any way detract from the meaning and importance of the whole service; we believe that our Lord Jesus is present in the forms of consecrated bread or wine and to abstain from one of them does not lessen the importance of his gift to us.

This is certainly a much more hygienic measure than what we call "intinction", when individuals dip the consecrated bread in the chalice, an action which is far more likely to spread bacteria / viruses than if we were to receive the cup itself. Therefore intinction is also being discouraged. Far better to receive the Body of Christ and then return to our places in quiet thanksgiving for the gift we have received.

Our Outreach Groups: Chatterbox & ChitChat

A Message from Jackie Hall:

"Over the last few days I've been asked by a number of people as to when Chatterbox will return. I think this has been prompted by the schools returning in September. Guidance from Church House Westminster for early years groups operating from church premises is that they must adhere to statutory legislation! To follow this is well outside our league as we are not a registered early years setting! So I've made a decision that groups will not recommence this year unless a vaccine is in place. I know this has a knock-on effect for church finance as well as for your plans for your children / grandchildren. However, we shall take stock in January or earlier if applicable.

With regard to Chit Chat we cannot guarantee physical distancing neither in the actual church or kitchen! The objective of these groups is social interaction not distancing & we all prefer to be together rather than apart! Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Please keep praying for a vaccine to be found - it will be a game changer."

Our November Fair

Sadly, with all the current restrictions on space & numbers with regard to public gatherings, it has proved impossible to arrange our Fair for 28th November this year. I realise this will have a major impact on our church finances and I am currently working on ways in which we might at least be able to hold a "Virtual Grand Draw". Watch this space! Jackie H.

