

**No Services & Meetings this week**

*Sadly, the church is currently closed for all acts of worship, public and private. **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 Fr John F. Ward - Rector  
01452 720411 - Mobile 07967 636094  
Jfmw23@gmail.com

**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  
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; last week we reached 1,100 viewers!

**“Around the Spire”** : has been sent out by email; notes for the June issue should be sent to Fr Hugh by Sunday 17th please.

**Thursday 21st May is ASCENSION DAY**

Bible Readings for the Day:

Daniel 7. 9 - 14  
Psalm 47  
Acts 1. 1 - 11  
Luke 24. 44 - 53

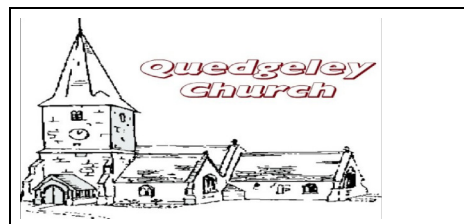
Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

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

**&**

**St MARY MAGDALENE**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway Diocese of Gloucester**



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

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

**Sunday 17th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Alleluia, Christ is risen!**  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Bible readings for today**

Acts 17. 22 - 31.

St Paul & his companions arrive in Athens and attempt to preach to a sceptical congregation.

1 Peter 3. 13 - 22

We are reminded that following Christ will involve an element of suffering, but suffering will be turned to joy by the resurrection of Jesus.

Alleluia:

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

St John. 14. 15 - 21

Jesus prepares the disciples for his departure from them and gives them a number of promises.

Collect for 6th Sunday of Easter:

God our Redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AT THIS PRESENT TIME.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful; lift up all those brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Especially remembering today.....

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

**Monday:** Schools, teachers & support staff; children; all Key Workers.

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

**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: David Hughes, Digby, John Eric Woollley, Pamela Carter, Alan Winter, Arthur Ellis, Nicola DeMattia, Doreen Raper, Beryl Burdett. All who mourn their passing.

**Saturday:** Our shops & Supermarkets & their staff. Delivery drivers & all who supply our daily needs. those who are ill: Barbara Ward, Bernard Harris, Ray Wright, John Hall, Shirley Wilce.

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.

*When we cannot meet to celebrate the Eucharist, we can make this **Act of Spiritual Communion** (especially on Sundays at 10.30am):*

"Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you, I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in the wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our life, our peace, and our everlasting joy. Amen.

## **Fr John's Notes:**

### What's happening at the moment?:

We are all praying and doing what we are allowed under the given guidelines.

Exercising a phone pastoral contact ministry, News Letter, Thought for the week, Magazine, Web-page updates, and a Church near you, Facebook updates, Pastoral letters and other. There is a 24/7 light burning in the lady chapel window.

The churchyard gates are opened daily for grave access and reflection.

A cross of Remembrance near the porch door. Participation in the Thursday 8pm appreciation of the NHS.

There is some technological communication going on (schools and parish community)

The Summer Fayre has had to be cancelled.

There are no Baptism or Weddings (All future Weddings are under review)

Funerals continue - but under guideline restrictions

And other things continue where possible.

Thank you all for keeping the flame burning.

We are very sorry that the parish church building remains closed for public worship and private prayer during the period of the pandemic. The churchyard is open daily for access to the graves of loved ones and for quiet prayer and reflection.

The Parish Office (*Wednesdays at 5.30pm; Saturdays 9am*) is presently closed for the booking of weddings, baptisms, renewal of vows, etc. Please watch this space, or church notice boards, Church or community websites, or "A church near you" on the internet to see when the church & office will re-open. In the mean time, for any enquiries, help, or advice, please contact Fr John (*details on page 1*), or by post at: The New Rectory, St James Close, School Lane, Quedgeley, GL2 4PN.

### **Church Finance**

The loss of income from the cancelled summer fayre will be felt deeply in our church finances. I hope that we can create and support other fund-raising events as soon as possible; we have had one suggestion from Ann Bridges (currently "locked down" in Spain) that when the situation allows, we have a "Gift Day" with a social evening. Thank you, Ann.

Please do let us have your suggestions for fund-raising; thinking-caps on, please!

### **Quotation for the week:**

"It may be stormy now, but rain does not last for ever!"

*(Author unknown - but Noah may well have said it.)*

FROM FATHER HUGH -

Many thanks to so many who have expressed their appreciation both for the Newsletter last week in its prayerful content, and also Around the Spire for May. Clearly although these have gone out to our e-mail list, quite a few people have taken the trouble to print it off and let some of our other friends in the parish have it

AROUND THE SPIRE -we are just starting to put the June edition together, so any items for inclusion to me as soon as possible. It would be good if we could have offers from other people so that we can make our magazine as far reaching as possible! I do hope very soon we may be able to have the printed form back again!

Our present print run is 350 per month then, and we know that it reaches a lot of other people, including Facebook and other media.. So articles, jokes, puzzles, photos, and so on. You will of course that as Editor I have to use such material as and when it is right!

I would also like to put my appreciation of Arthur as I ministered to him and of course Mary -first at Queen Anne Court and then at Chestnut Court after Arthur moved there. Mary was usually there at his side when I took the Monthly Eucharist there and I know it was a very precious time for this lovely and loving Christian man and wife.

#### **From Jackie Hall:**

This is from our diocesan website:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2020/bishop-robert-gospel-video/>

Share Sunday's gospel with Bishop Robert.

#### **A Memory of VE Day 1945:**

"When I was small".

When I was small I have little recall  
It seems such a long time ago  
Those in the know I can't refer to  
'Cause they're all dead and gone.  
8th May 1945 was Victory in Europe day  
And I was 5 years of age.  
The street party was fun, but I was having none  
I wanted to stay in with Grandpa  
I fell back on the hot fender  
Made my upper legs very tender  
So never joined all the oom pah pah!

Pam Sealy (now Westwood)

**From Fr Ian:**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

#### *Promises from Jesus*

We all make promises - to our spouses at our wedding, for our Godchildren at their Baptism, to our bishop when we were ordained, to our children on all kinds of occasions - and sometimes we have to be brutally honest and admit that a promise is impossible to make because we know that it will be impossible to keep.

But part of the joy of the Easter season is in knowing that the promises Jesus made, to his first disciples in Jerusalem and to his disciples at St James Quedgeley, have all been kept and are still bearing fruit.

"I will not leave you orphans, I will come back to you.." - and on the first Easter Sunday he was raised, given new life and restored to them.

"I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate..."; and fifty days later that is exactly what happened on the day of Pentecost. The disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go out and continue the work Jesus had begun.

"You will do greater things than these...". Three years' ministry in a small Middle Eastern province of the Roman empire is still growing, two thousand years later, into a worldwide family of believers who still share his word and receive his sacramental presence at every Eucharist.

The fact that these promises have already come true enables us to believe that there is still more to come. "Those who love me will be loved by my Father" - note the future tense - it has not all happened yet! Christians are people of hope, real hope, because of all that has happened; we can look forward with joy for even better things to come. "Because I live, you too will live."

Today's gospel-reading is part of Jesus' farewell discourse which he delivered in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday at the Last Supper. The disciples were distraught to hear that he was really about to leave them; we can imagine the thoughts that must have been racing round: How were they going to carry on? How could they live without him? Jesus gave them all these promises, reminding them of all that he had said to them and all the wonderful acts they had witnessed.

He reminded them - he reminds us: that God the Holy Trinity is always with us, re-creating, resurrecting, and above all, loving. It is when we dare to love, to commit ourselves body and soul, that we do indeed experience the love of God - a love that is stronger than death.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. Ian