

**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  
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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  
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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 June issue is in production & will be emailed to you during the coming week. Magazine distributors: do you know of anyone who is not yet in receipt of the magazine? Please send their details to Fr Hugh.

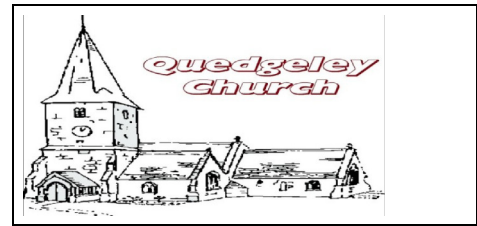
Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

**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](http://www.facebook.com/saintjames'churchquedgeley)

**Sunday 24th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Alleluia, Christ is risen!**  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Bible readings for today**

Acts 1. 6 - 14.

St Luke, the author of "Acts", describes the Ascension of Jesus.

1 Peter 4. 12 - 14; 5.6 -11

Part of our discipleship involves standing firm in the face of opposition and danger; the grace of Christ is with us.

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.**

St John 17. 1 - 11

On the night before his crucifixion Jesus prays for all his disciples, that the Father will keep them safe in his care.

Collect for 7th Sunday of Easter:

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 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: Fr Peter Minall, 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: Philip Parker, 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:**

The funerals of Nicolina Demattia & Arthur Ellis will be held on Wednesday 27th May.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of Fr Peter Minall, who worshipped with us and on occasion celebrated the Wednesday Eucharist. A lovely, gentle priest and person, Fr Peter had a long ministry in this diocese; may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**We apologise** for the closure of the church during the pandemic; we are not able to hold public worship or conduct the Parish Office sessions for the arranging of weddings & baptisms.

**When the church building re-opens:** Once we have had official confirmation, we shall re-open with the necessary spacing & hygiene measures in place. We shall have to have a "spring clean" - perhaps with a "ploughman's lunch". (The church is being maintained, aired, & water supplies tested daily).

Then we shall open for private prayer & reflection; Sunday worship will resume. All being well, mid-week worship, Parish Office sessions, baptisms, weddings, & funerals will restart. Our social groups & bell-ringing sessions will recommence when the respective teams are fully ready to go. Watch out in the weekly news, notice boards, Internet sites for all the information.

**Thank you for your Fund-Raising suggestions:**

A "Gift Day" & Social Evening  
A Rectory Barbecue  
Garden Teas  
The Christmas Fayre (*very important!*)  
*All your ideas will be most welcome.*

The cancellation of the Summer Fayre has hit our finances very hard; being mindful of our call to be good stewards of all God has given us, we need to consider our financial support of our church. I commend to you the Parish Giving Scheme.

**Be assured** that although the church is closed at present, we are able to continue a ministry to the departed, under strict guidelines. Please contact me by phone or email - contact details on page 1 - or by mail to The New Rectory, St James Close, School Lane, Quedgeley, GL2 4PN.

**Quotation for the week:**

"He did not leave us forever, He will return....just in time."

*(Author unknown have said it.)*

**Next Sunday 31st May:**

The Feast of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) - the disciples are confirmed by the Holy Spirit and become Apostles - sent out to build the Church.

## A Message from Mary Ellis:

My dear Friends,

I would like to say a big Thank you for all the messages of condolence I've been sent. Your love and prayers are a great help and support in this strange world we are in at present. Any gifts in Arthur's memory may be sent to Parkinsons UK and on the back of the cheque please write 'for research.'

Mary Ellis.

## Shirley Wilce, a leading light in our Poetry

Group has just published a collection of her work. She hopes that you will feel moved to buy a copy - she promises that all the proceeds will be given to our Church Funds.

Thank you, Shirley, and Well done!

## From The Reverend Jenny:

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Ascensiontide**

When I was a child, Ascension Day was always a special day; it started with my school walking to the church for the celebration of the Principal Feast full of glory and wonder, followed by the afternoon off. It really was "holy-day".

Today, Ascension is still a very important day in the Christian Calendar, being the fourth great Christian Festival; a day which marks the completion of the story of Jesus' earthly life, though not the end of His relationship with us.

In the Ascension Jesus goes before us, uniting humanity with God and showing us the way. We profess our faith in this glorious mystery when we say in the Nicene Creed: "*He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father*". The Ascension tells us that Jesus is alive in our midst in a new way. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us.

In our life we are never alone. The Crucified and Risen Lord guides us as we live out our faith daily, bringing to the world the lordship of God's love in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven; our own Advocate who intercedes for us. He is our eternal High Priest, our Mediator with the Father.

After that very first Ascension Day those eleven disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer whilst they waited for the promise Jesus made for the power and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. During these nine days after Ascension, we also observe them as days of prayer in preparation for the celebration of that great outpouring - the Feast of Pentecost. Just like those first disciples our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total - on our own we can do nothing. Our task is to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit as we seek to bring the Gospel to the world.

Love and prayers,  
Revd. Jenny

Why not light up the world with prayer and join in with the global wave of prayer?

### **Thy Kingdom Come: 21st - 31st May**

Archbishop Justin hopes to see every church join Christians in this global waver of prayer as we take forward our commission to bring others to faith.

For more information and resources follow the link: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/lightuptheworld>