

No Services & Meetings this week

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

Sunday 10.30am - 4.00pm

Fr John usually available 10.15am - 12noon

Monday - Saturday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Fr John is usually available at 5pm except on Mondays.

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

The Parish Office will be open on Wed 29th July 5.30pm - 6.30pm & Sat 1st Aug 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 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
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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
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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 August issue has been sent out by email. We apologise for the reduction in size of the email copy this month! Paper copies are available in church.

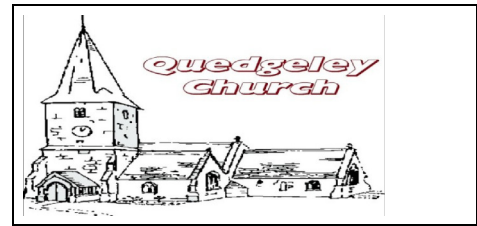
Notes for next week's **Newsheet** should be sent to Fr Ian no later than Wednesday evening. (Contact address above.)

**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 26th July - The Feast of St James the Apostle

The Holy Eucharist at 9am (Said) & 11am (Said)
Celebrant & preacher: Fr. John

Bible readings for today:

First Reading. Acts 11.27 - 12.2

St James is martyred at the hands of Herod Antipas.

Second Reading. 2 Corinthians 4. 7-15

All who commit to Christ will share eternal life with him.

Alleluia:

I do not call you servants but friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel. Matthew 20. 20-28.

James and John are challenged by Jesus: can they truly share in his ministry?

Collect for St James :

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; 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.

Sunday 2nd August: Trinity 8

The Holy Eucharist 9am (Said) *The Revd. Jenny*
11am (Said) *Fr. Ian*

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 & 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: 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, Joy Cockerton, Philip Parker, Barbara Ward, Ray Wright, John Hall, Shirley Wilce, Jane Rogers. 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.

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!

"Thought for the Week":Fr. Gordon

St Mary Magdalene

"You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness; Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever." Psalm 30. 11-12

This weekend we celebrate our Patronal Festival. We are blessed to have two patron saints, St James the Apostle is one and Mary Magdalene the other.

Mary Magdalene divides opinions. Confusion began to surround her very early on.

It's clear that Mary was a woman whom Jesus had delivered from evil spirits and who came to love and follow him. She was present at the crucifixion, and as, of course, the first to find the empty tomb and meet the risen Christ on Easter morning.

Mary Magdalene crosses so many boundaries: theology, literature, gender studies, cultural history, social anthropology, psychoanalysis. She stands out in the gospels as a woman in a world of men, of course, she's not unique in this by any means.

But to some interpreters, Mary Magdalene is the archetype of the fallen woman at its most threatening to men: libidinous, teasing, seductive, and dangerous.

Mary subverts the norms, she challenges the stereotypes. And most astonishingly, Jesus seems to affirm her subversive personality; never does he criticise Mary as he did others of his inner circle.

Mary is the woman with an altogether unique role in Christian history. She loved Jesus, maybe not more than others loved him. But Mary was given a privilege to be the first witness of the resurrection and to take the news of Easter to the other disciples.

That word "Witness" sounds passive doesn't it? The onlooker seeing, observing, but disengaged and not getting involved. And yet Mary Magdalene is the passionately committed witness for whom seeing, believing, acclaiming, loving, and following all merge into one great "yes" that transforms her entire life.

When Jesus calls her by name in the garden, "Mary!", she knows that she is alive again; she knows that she's ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven. "Rabboni!" She cries - and in that moment a lifetime of passion and pain, of searching and longing, of hunger, fear, and hope, is all gathered up.

It's the greatest recognition scene in human history. Mary recognizes Jesus on behalf of the whole human race; it's about giving a reason for the hope that lies within us. And the world is changed - for ever.

Fr John's Notes:

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.)*

Palm Crosses are also available for collection if you wish.

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 supply of **FACE COVERINGS** which are on sale at £1 each, **in aid of Church Funds**.

(Fr John adds: "Thank you, Jackie B., for making these! They are attractive, practical, & varied, of great comfort to many in these sad times - and of great benefit to our Church Finances. I am especially proud of my Canon's face covering!")

An Invitation from Val Harris:

I shall be holding a **mini fund-raising event** here at 33 School Lane in the afternoon on Sat 25th July & Sun 26th July from 2pm to 5pm on both days - **all proceeds will go to church funds**. *Crockery, glassware, general household goods.*

Covid19 restrictions will be in place, with regard to spacing & hygiene. If the weather permits, we shall be on the driveway! Please come along! *(It will be very helpful if you would bring your own shopping bag(s)!*)

Quotation from the Letter of James :

"Faith without works is dead."

Feed the Hungry

The lockdown has meant that we have been unable to have food collections at St James in aid of the Gloucester Foodbank. There are collection-points in most foodstores (Quedgeley Tesco for one); I hope that you will keep this important part of our mission & ministry in your minds, especially with the school holidays now upon us.

This Sunday (26th July) we keep the Feast of one of our Patron Saints St James the Apostle.

Sadly, we shall not be able to follow the Eucharist with a buffet lunch, but we hope to correct that later in the year when situations improve.

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 and there will be a strict limit of **30 people** at each service.

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 shall be 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. *(Fr John will usually be available from 10.15 - 12noon)*

The Eucharist during Midweek:

The **10am Wednesday Eucharist** will return on 5th August, when we shall keep the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. We shall asking the congregation to sit in the **GREEN seats** in the nave and sadly no coffee will be served afterwards. *(The Wednesday 7.30pm Eucharist will need to wait a little longer.)*

The Parish Office will be open on Wed 29th July 5.30pm - 6.30pm and on Sat 1st Aug 9am - 10am for the arranging of Baptisms, Weddings, etc. *(Social-distancing & hygiene guidelines will be in place.)*

These present times are very difficult, tiring, and frustrating; they also seem to be going on and on. There is a wonderful family here at St James Church, and the light still shines for everyone. It is our faith and fellowship that brings us fully into that light, the light of Jesus Christ, and it is that light, and our persevering, that will allow us all to move again as one family in the Lord, in the place we love.