

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

**Sunday 12.30pm - 4.00pm
Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm**

During term-time, Morning Prayer is said at 9.15am on Monday to Thursday. The Revd Mark is available then for pastoral conversations. Please contact him by phone or email to discuss the arranging of Weddings, Banns of Marriage, Baptisms, etc.

CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS
Parish Priest: The Revd. Mark Siddall
01452 722916 drmarksid@gmail.com
(Revd Mark is off-duty on Fridays)

Hon. Assistant Priests
The Revd. Canon Hugh Broad
01452 541078 – Mobile 07928 455674
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The Revd. Ian Robb
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The Revd. Gordon Ripley
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The Revd. Canon Michael Garland
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The Venerable David Sutch
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The Revd David Humphries 01452 529582
fr.didts@virginmedia.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” or in **“Around the Spire”**.

Churchwardens & PCC Secretary:

Andrew Wakely: andrewmwakely@gmail.com

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**The Parish Church of
St JAMES the APOSTLE & St MARY MAGDALENE
Quedgeley & Kingsway**

Diocese of Gloucester



16th March: The Second Sunday of Lent

10.00am Parish Eucharist

cel: The Revd. Ann pr: Fr. Michael

Bible Readings for the Eucharist

1st Reading: Genesis 15. 1-12, 17-18

Reader: Una Steer

2nd Reading: Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

Reader: Lou Pearce

Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ; king of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God; O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts .

Praise to you, O Christ; king of eternal glory.

Gospel: St Luke 13. 31 - 35

Intercessions led by: Jackie Broad

Collect for The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns : 756, 738, “Christ be our light” (inside book cover), 260, Choir item, 929, 409

11.45am: STJ's Worship & praise

please pray for: those who are ill: Marita Westgate, Elizabeth, Jane & Doug Drakeley, June, Jo Miles, Kevin Dewhirst, Margaret Hartley, Fr. Gordon, Mary Ellis, Rita Cornwall, Marie Spicer, Angela Hughes, Barbara Valander, Pauline Burgwin, Millie Worrell, Pat Hall, Joy Cockerton, Cathy, Pam Westwood, Shirley Buckle, Doris Webb, Yonnie Barrett, Di Allen

those who have died: all those whom we have known & loved; all who have worshipped with us here; all victims of domestic abuse; those who have died as a result of political violence; victims of natural disasters.

In St James Church: in the coming weeks:

“Open the Book”

17th March: 3pm Rehearsal

18th March: 9.15am Clearwater Academy
2.25pm Field Court Infant Academy

18th March: Can we have your articles for April's "Around the Spire" please? - Fr. Hugh & Jackie Hall

19th March. St Joseph of Nazareth

10am Eucharist : Fr Ian & FCIA
Romans 4. 13-18; Matthew 1. 18-25

19th March:

11.00am "Sing & Play" - for babies & carers; stories, songs, & a warm drink for carers. Come and have fun and make friends.

2.00pm Tea at Two

21st Mar: at 7.00pm Choir practice in church; new members always welcome!

23rd March: Lent 3

10.00am Parish Eucharist

Isaiah 55.1-9; 1Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13. 1-9

11.45am STJ's Worship & Praise

“Come & Find Out” - NEW DATE: 25th March at 7.30pm By kind invitation of Andrew Wakely. The theme will be “The gospel record of the Passion of Christ”. Please let Fr Ian or Andrew know that you will be taking part.

During Lent: The sermons on Sundays at 10am will be based on the Nicene Creed, which was first compiled 1700 years ago this year. There will also be accompanying articles each week in this Newsheet, and two videos on Youtube, all to give us food for thought and prayer in Lent:

Look at: www.sswsh.com “Year of Faith 2025 Lent course” **Also:**
www.youtube.com/@alistairmcgrathchristianthe1158

“God loves Quedgeley – let's live that love together!”

From the Revd Mark:

Confirmation 2025 will take place on **Sunday 22nd June**. We shall also be offering Baptism by full immersion on that day – so if you, or anyone you know, have not been baptised or confirmed, now is the time to get in touch with the Revd Mark.

STJ's Planning Sunday: 23rd March: in church, following the STJ service, light lunch provided. Please put the date in your diary. ***This is the correct date for the planning meeting; I apologise for the error in previous notices.***

The Church Electoral Roll is our only official list of Church members – every parish has one and every six years the roll has to be renewed. 2025 is the year for our renewal, so from 1st January a new roll will be compiled and everyone who wishes to be enrolled must reapply.

To be eligible, you must be 16 years of age or over; you must be baptised, and be either a resident in the Parish of Quedgeley and Kingsway or a regular worshipper at St James' Church.

Ann & Gordon Williams have taken on the task of compiling our Electoral Roll and they will have a form available in church for you to complete and return to them. The forms will then be kept securely.

It is important that we have an up to date and accurate record of our members, so please do not hesitate to complete a form. Thank you!

Gentle reminder: If you are willing to serve on the Church Council, you must be on the Electoral Roll.

The Quedgeley Stations of the Cross have been created by the primary schools of our parish with support from Gloucester cathedral, the Sylvanus Lysons Trust, and Alpha Colour Printing, in partnership with St James Quedgeley. The Stations are installed in the cloisters of our cathedral and are available for you to view until May.

Palm Sunday: 13th April During the 10am Parish Eucharist the gospel will be read in dramatic form. To do this, we need 12 voices; if you would like to take part, please contact Fr. Ian. There will be a rehearsal on the morning of Saturday 12th April.

For your diary: Sat 17th May 12noon – 4pm: our Spring Fair. Contact Jackie Broad if you are willing to host a stall – details overleaf.

2025 – the Year of Faith: “We believe...”

The great affirmation of the Nicene Creed is that the one who becomes incarnate is God. In other words – Jesus, although born human – is God. He is not an intermediary between the One and the many – there is no gap or difference between our highest conception of God and the person who takes on human life and flesh.

To express both the distinction between the Father and the Son – and also the sameness of their being or nature – is one of the major roles of the Nicene Creed. The Creed describes the Son of God as ‘begotten not made’. The word begotten emphasizes the relationship between the Father and the Son – it is a relationship between persons of the same kind – they have the same substance or reality of being. Everything that the Father has or knows or is – so does the Son also have and know and is. The Son does not come after the Father in time or majesty – there was never a time when the Son was not God with the Father and the Spirit.

It's very easy to lower God to human or worldly standards – which was the problem with the Arian heresy – and the council of Nicea was doing its best to try to remedy that. The Son is not created or made – the Son is begotten – and all other things which are made through the Son with the Father and the Spirit. The Son is the one ‘through whom all things are made’. They seem slight distinctions, but they are a kind of warning about how easy it is to lower God down to human or worldly standards.

If all this stretches your understanding – that is a good sign. If we think we grasp all of who God is – it's a sure sign that we have lowered God or made an idol in human image. God reveals himself to us – but at the same time God remains hidden.

Some questions to think about:-

How is the Father like the Son and how is the Son different from the Father?

What is the greatest gift which God gives us?

In Lent, and beyond: *Fast from criticism; feast on praise. Fast from self-pity; feast on joy. Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness. Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence. Fast from jealousy; feast on love. Fast from discouragement; feast on hope. Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation. Fast from selfishness; feast on service. Fast from fear; feast on faith. Fast from anger; feast on patience. Fast from concern; feast on compassion from others. Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude. Fast from pessimism ; feast on optimism.*

We wish you all a happy and fruitful Lent.