

**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
hugh.broad@yahoo.co.uk

The Revd. Ian Robb
01452 676059 – Mobile 07962 469250
irobb925@gmail.com

The Revd. Gordon Ripley
01452 883399
gordon.ripley364@btinternet.com

The Revd. Canon Michael Garland
01452 720872
michaelgarland368@btinternet.com

The Revd Ann Morris
rev.ann@btinternet.com

The Venerable David Sutch
01452 552926 / 07948 370054
vendavid196@gmail.com

The Revd David Humphries 01452 529582
fr.didds@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

Jackie Broad: 60jackie60broad@gmail.com
01452 541078 or 07928 862976

Lu Pearce: andrulapearce@hotmail.co.uk
07922 115062

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

Diocese of Gloucester



9th March: The First Sunday in Lent

10.00am Parish Eucharist with healing ministry

cel: Fr. David Sutch pr: Fr. Mark

Healing ministry: Steve Morris & Erica Siddall

Bible Readings for the Eucharist

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26. 1 -11

Reader: Stev Morris

2nd Reading: Romans 10.8 – 13

Reader: Jill Robb

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 4. 1 - 13

Intercessions led by: Nicholas Lee

Collect for The 1st Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns : 467, 333, 727, 482, 419, 503

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

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:

12th March. Wednesday in the 1st week of Lent

10am Eucharist : Fr Michael

Jonah 3.; Luke 11. 29-32

12th March:

11.30am Bounce & Rhyme

2.00pm Tea at Two

14th Mar: at 7.00pm Choir practice in church; new members always welcome!

16th March: Lent 2

10.00am Parish Eucharist

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3.17-4.1;
Luke 13. 31-end

11.45am STJ's Worship & Praise:

"Come & Find Out" : Note new date: Tuesday 18th

March 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

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

"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 Way of the Cross" - a re-enactment of the last hours of Jesus' life – will take place in the centre of Gloucester on Good Friday. If you would like to be involved, please note that rehearsals will be held on each Sunday in Lent – from 9th March – at 3pm, in the Parliament Room at Church House. Contact the Revd Rachel Forrest, 07773 345816 or rachelforrest2603@gmail.com

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.

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

Two of the greatest problems faced by the early Christians were those of communication and travel. For the most part, news was spread by word of mouth or by letter, and the slowness of travel – either by land or sea – meant that news travelled very slowly. In the beginning Christian groups were small in number and often isolated from each other; it was easy for misunderstandings to develop. The world outside the Church was still a powerful influence – and often opposed to the “New Way”: the Greeks and Romans worshipped many gods, and often the Roman emperor claimed to be divine and “knowledge” itself was the subject of worship.

In 325AD a gathering of bishops and other clergy from Europe, Palestine, and North Africa was summoned. Representatives from Britain were also there. They met in Nicea (North-west Turkey) with the aim of unifying the Church and clarifying what Christians believed, in the hope that leaders and teachers delivered a clear, error-free, message. The meeting lasted for three months and the final statement, which was proclaimed by Emperor Constantine became to profession of faith which we use in church every Sunday: the Nicene Creed.

“We believe...” - this is our faith – and it begins with a bold statement: “We believe in one God, the Father Almighty...”. In contrast to the pagan world, we believe in only one God, the source of all that exists – things we can see and things we cannot see. Those first Christians also believed that God is revealed to us in three specific ways: God the Father / Creator of all; God the Son, Jesus Christ, who shared our human life and experience for a time; and God the Holy Spirit, who guides, inspires, and strengthens us day by day. This threefold vision of God we call the Holy Trinity – Three in One.

Jesus himself encouraged his followers to call God “Father”, to acknowledge him as the source of all being, and to enter into a relationship of love with him. For the act of Creation is an act of love, not necessity, and it shows God's desire to share his love and goodness with us.

All this was very challenging in a world of many gods which were often seen as vengeful, judgemental, menacing, and unloving. Our Creed begins by reassuring us of God's total, unfailing, love for us. He made us; he encourages us to share in the beauty, wonder, and love of creation around us. He gives us the ability to love and care for one another; and that ability to love also makes us aware that there is around us something quite the opposite: a force for evil and harm which God calls us to struggle against. Through the life and ministry of Jesus, God proved it is possible

to overcome this force of evil and work for love and goodness.

During this first week of Lent, as we look at the opening statements of the Nicene Creed, we pause to meditate on God as Father, Creator, and Sustainer of all life.

Here are two questions to consider this week:

How does belief in God as Father shape your own trust in him?

What can you do to align your life more closely with God's will as your Creator and Sustainer?

We wish you all a happy and fruitful Lent. *Fr. Ian*