

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

**Sunday 12noon - 4.00pm**

One of the clergy is usually available 10.15am - 12noon

**Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**

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

**The Parish Office will not be open until further notice.**

To arrange Baptisms, Weddings, etc., please contact the clergy - details below.

*All the clergy are available (by phone or email) and our details are as follows:*

#### **CLERGY AND CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Rector & Parish Priest**

***(Our Parish is now in vacancy)***

#### **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

iobb925@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, or find us on "A Church near You".

**"Around the Spire"** : the **April issue** is in church, online on our parish website, & on "A Church near You". ***Fr Hugh would like your notes for May by 12th April please!***

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

**Our church is still open** for worship and private prayer - we have received several notes of thanks for remaining open - and we shall continue to observe all the social-distancing & hygiene rules. But we fully understand that if you feel anxious about attending, you may prefer to stay at home.

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

**&**

**St MARY MAGDALENE**

**Quedgeley & Kingsway Diocese of Gloucester**



**Sunday 11th April -  
The Second Sunday of Easter:  
Alleluia, Christ is risen!**

**10.30am: The Parish Eucharist**

Celebrant: The Revd Ann

Preacher: Fr Hugh

**Bible readings for today:**

**First Reading.** Acts 4. 32 - 35

A glimpse into the way of life of the Infant Church, ending with a powerful comment: "There was not a needy person among them".

(Reader: Andrew Wakely)

**Second Reading.** 1 John 1.1 - 2.2

The life of God shines through the life of Christ; the light of Christ has power over the darkness of sin.

(Reader: Pam Westwood)

**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!.**

**Gospel.** John 20. 19 - 31

John records the wonderful events that took place on the evening of the first Easter day.

**Collect for Easter II**

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in purity of living and truth; through the merits of your Son 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**  
**For the Easter season :**

In joy and hope we pray to the Father.  
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his  
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches  
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter:  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to  
one another in Christian love ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work  
or shelter ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease  
through all the world ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the  
sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and  
strengthen them ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,  
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection  
may be raised on the last day ...  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon  
his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to  
his resurrection,  
we pray to the Father: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us may raise us to  
eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St James and St  
Mary Magdalene, and all your saints, we commend  
ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing  
love. AMEN.

Those who have died: Victims of Covid-19; those  
whose anniversary of death occurs at this time.  
All who mourn their passing.

Those who are ill: David Way, Barbara Ward,  
John & Pat Hall, Shirley Wilce, Wynn Sutch,  
David James, Rod Robinson

**Worship in St James this week:**  
**See details on page 3.**

**When we are unable to get to St James for our  
Eucharist:**

Fr Dennis McBride offers the Holy Eucharist: go to  
[www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online).

And we can make an act of Spiritual Communion  
as follows  
**“Lord Jesus Christ:** I believe that you are in the  
Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things,  
and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot, at  
this time, receive you in the consecrated Bread  
and Wine of the Eucharist, come spiritually into my  
heart. As though you have already come, I ace you  
and give myself to you; never permit me to be  
separated from you. Amen”

**A Prayer for use during the “Lockdown”**

***Risen Lord, when many of our fellow-citizens  
succumb to illness at the same time, you are  
there, standing in the midst. We easily panic -  
or else unreasonably feel it will never happen  
to us. Be the rock in our turbulence, the calm  
in our storm, and strengthen those who give  
their skill and care to return us to health and  
well-being. Through him who is always the  
resurrection and the life Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN .***

(taken from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

**Intercessions on Sundays.** Thank you to all  
those who have helped us to restart our rota; if you  
would like to take part in this ministry, please  
contact Fr Hugh as soon as possible. (*details on  
p.1*)  
We are also looking to have **more Readers** for our  
Rota - contact Fr Ian for the Readers' Rota

**Please continue to remember The Gloucester  
FoodBank when you go to buy food. Most of  
our supermarkets have a place where you can  
leave gifts for the Foodbank.**

**From Fr Hugh:** “ ‘Around the Spire’ for April is in  
church today. **“Ordinary and Extraordinary” -  
What does that mean? Watch this space and all  
will be revealed!**”

**And a Quotation from Pope Francis:**

“The inclination to worship is instinctive in human  
beings. If we do not worship God, we will worship  
idols.”

## **An Important Message from our Churchwardens:**

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, our new church treasurer is now unable to take up the post - so we must once again ask for a volunteer to take on this important task. Please do think and pray carefully about this; we need someone with basic computer skills - but you do NOT have to be an accountant, just comfortable with figures, and help will be available for whoever comes forward. This is an urgent request, so please don't be shy in getting in touch - and do feel free to talk to either of us before committing yourself. We are anxious to hear from you!**

Ian Pearce: [ianlu123@hotmail.com](mailto:ianlu123@hotmail.com)

Paul Price: [thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk)

Lu Pearce: [andrulapearce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrulapearce@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Worship at St James in the coming week**

**Wed 14th April:** Wednesday in the 2nd week of Easter

10am Eucharist: Fr Hugh  
Acts 5. 17 - 26  
John 3. 16 - 21

**Sunday 18th April:** Third Sunday of Easter  
10.30am Parish Eucharist cel: Fr Ian  
pr: Fr Michael

*We shall of course be observing all the social-distancing & hygiene rules, and sadly asking everyone to leave the church promptly, resisting the natural urge to stay and chat. We want everyone to stay safe and we understand that not everyone is ready to join us in church just yet - we look forward to better times!*

**Looking further ahead:** On Sunday 13th June we shall be welcoming the Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Venerable Hilary Dawson, as our celebrant and preacher at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist - this will be her first formal visit to St James and we look forward to welcoming her.

**A big THANK YOU** to our singing group, under the conductorship of Fr Michael, for their lovely contribution to our Eucharist on Easter Sunday.  
Your contribution enriched our worship and prompted our thanks for the gift of music!

### The Second Sunday of Easter

Today's gospel reading is in two parts. There is an Easter Day scene where Jesus appears to his disciples in the evening; greets them with the blessing of peace and reveals the marks of his passion and death. Then the story moves on a week to tell us of the reaction of Thomas on meeting the Risen Lord for the first time. Thomas was not present on the earlier occasion and was not convinced by his friends that Jesus had been raised. In other words, he doubted their story. Ever since, Thomas has been referred to as Doubting Thomas. But we shouldn't think any less of him for that. In fact, Thomas is really our friend. He voices what we all experience from time to time. Doubt is not a sin! We may recall the cry of a father who brought his mute son to Jesus for healing in response to the comment that everything is possible to the one who believes – 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!' On many occasions, we may give voice to that prayerful request.

With his honestly spoken doubt, Thomas stands not at the edges but at the very heart of the company of God's faithful people. Tradition has it that he took the Christian gospel to India where to this day the Mar Thoma church in the state of Kerala honours a true friend of Jesus. This was a major outcome of his discipleship.

In his Diary of Faith and Doubt, Bishop Mark Green offers these helpful thoughts: "Whether we open the pages of the gospels in confidence or in doubt, the Lord who faces us in them will show us who we are, what we are for, and who he is. He will show us how to live, how to trust and how to obey."

We know how Thomas came to be blessed in the scene recorded in today's gospel. We too can rejoice in the blessing of the Risen Christ in this Easter season, when resurrection faith and resurrection hope is made more meaningful through our moments of struggle and honest doubt.

Fr Michael