

***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 openuntil 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

irobb925@gmail.com

The Revd Jenny D'Esterre

Mobile 07540 322 744

Revdjenny@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 **February** issue is  
available in church & online. Please take copies to  
deliver to neighbours & friends.

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**



**Sunday 21st February -  
The First Sunday in Lent**

**Parish Eucharist at 10.30am:.**

Fr Ian will be the celebrant;

Fr Michael will be the preacher

***The Revd Jenny D'Esterre will be in church to  
wish us a fond farewell.***

**Bible readings for today:**

**First Reading.** Genesis 9. 8 - 17

God makes His covenant with Noah.

**Second Reading.** 1 Peter 3. 18 - 22

The covenant is sealed by the blood of Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Blessed are those who have endured temptation;  
they have stood the test and will receive the crown  
of life.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Gospel.** Mark 1. 9 - 15

After his baptism, Jesus spends time in the desert.

**Collect for the First 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. Amen.

**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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** **for the First Sunday in Lent**

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.  
For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church ...  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church,  
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel  
to the ends of the earth,  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ,  
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow  
among nations and peoples,  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who  
suffer ...  
for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger;  
that they may be relieved and protected,  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended,  
we pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the  
reign of God, we pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in  
the way of holiness, we pray to the Father.  
Lord of compassion, in your mercy hear us.

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: Violet Berry, Christopher  
James, Robert Hamilton, 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 Hall, Shirley Wilce, Wynn Sutch, David  
James, Marie Spicer, Pam Westwood, Barbra  
Rusike.

### **As the church is open each day:**

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.

## **Worship in St James this week:**

### **Wed 24th Feb: St Polycarp,** **Bishop & Martyr**

10am Eucharist The Revd Ann Morris  
Revelation 2. 8 - 11  
John 15. 1 - 8

### **Sun 28th Feb: The 2nd Sunday in Lent**

10.30am Parish Eucharist:  
Fr Hugh & The Revd Ann  
Genesis 17. 1 - 7,15-16  
Romans 4. 13 - 25  
Mark 8. 31 - 38

**As we try to keep socially-distanced, we ask  
everyone to leave the church as promptly as  
possible and resist the natural longing to stay  
and chat! Keep safe!**

### **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”

**Worship during Lent:** Sadly, we cannot hold our  
usual Lent study groups this year - but if you go to  
the **“A Church Near You”** website, you will find an  
act of worship for each week of Lent, beginning on  
21st Feb (Lent 1). Look out for the logo:  
**#Live Lent.** There will be further details on our  
own church website thanks to Jackie Hall (our web  
link).  
(And see below on page 4 for details of the **Bible  
Society’s** Lent Course.)

### **Our Church Electoral Roll**

**The annual revision** of our Membership Roll  
starts today. If you know that your name is on the  
Roll, there is nothing else for you to do!

**If you would like to be on the Roll** - and we  
would very much like that to be the case! - then  
please see **Peter Allen (01452 721565)**, who will  
supply you with the necessary Form. **If you have  
an email address, please include it on the form,  
so that you can be on our mailing list for this  
Newsheet.**

### 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.**

### An important Message from our Churchwardens:

Following the retirement of Father John, we need to begin the process of appointing a new rector for St James.

As a part of this procedure, we would be grateful to receive your thoughts on life at St James. What do we do well? What can we do better? What might our priorities be for the future of this rapidly expanding parish? What are our strengths and weaknesses?

Your comments will be used to create a Parish Profile to help in the selection process. Comments should be sent to Ian or Paul, churchwardens, or to Lu, our PCC Secretary, anonymously if you wish. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts; we need your help in this important chapter in our life together.

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

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

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

### “Thought for the Week” : - Fr Gordon

#### **The 1st Sunday in Lent**

Lent is a time when we can look at our priorities: it's not at all 'giving up chocolate for Lent'. Lent is about trying to truly be the people of God. There are forty days in Lent to remind us of the forty days Jesus spend in the wilderness

The wilderness is a desert place, a place of danger and deprivation; a steep, wild, rocky and barren, a place where to lose your way means almost certain death. No one can survive in the wilderness unless they are guided and protected by God. Lent is a wilderness place, Lent is a time of self examination and a place of testing how we stand in our relationship with God.

The wilderness featured strongly in Israel's history as a place of preparation, a place where a person was stripped of all pretensions and found out what they were really like. Moses met God in the wilderness; Elijah met God in the wilderness. It was in the wilderness that John the Baptist was prepared by God for the great things he had to do.

Has God led you into a wilderness? Is your life at present dark and dreary? Have circumstances pressed in on you, until you don't know where to turn? Take the problem to Jesus; explain it to him in all the detail you can, and trust him to do what is necessary.

It's in our failure that God is best able to reach us. It's when we are in a wilderness place that He gives us the resources to live with it; he sends the Holy Spirit and the angels to support us.

The wilderness is a place of hope – the prophet Jeremiah tells us so, the tortured prophet Hosea tells us that the wilderness is the place where the marriage between God and his people must again be restored.

Jesus prepared himself for the coming of God's Kingdom by going into the wilderness. If we wish to best prepare ourselves during this Lent to meet our risen Lord at Eastertide, we, too, need to make ourselves even more vulnerable than we already are, go into our own personal wilderness and call upon the Lord, challenge ourselves in prayer, study and reflection. That's a positive thing to do.

**Fr. Gordon**

## Newsheet circulation:

***I am keen to make sure that as many of our church family as possible receive this Newsheet. Do you know of anyone who is connected to email but does not yet receive it? Please obtain their permission and then send me their details so that I can add them to the list - we want everyone to stay in touch! Thank you.***

**Fr Ian** irobb925@gmail.com

## **A Journey through Lent: Week 1 "Can I know God?"**

Read: Genesis 9. 8 - 15.

God and Noah enter into a Covenant, in which God invites Noah to get to know Him; God already knows Noah as a righteous man. The rainbow is given as a symbol of the covenant relationship; God promises to be there, through all the dark times - for us as well as for Noah.

Can you see a link between the waters of the flood and the waters of Baptism? Especially when it is baptism by total immersion? Something is destroyed in that "watery chaos" so that something new can come to birth. Newly-baptised Christians share in God's creative work.

Our new birth as children of God is the fruition of that covenant begun long ago in the promise to Noah from One who is waiting for us to know him better.

## For Reflection:

How are you discovering more about who God is? Have there been times when it felt as though the "waters of chaos" were overwhelming? What do you understand the word "Covenant" to mean?

## Prayer:

"Lord of the heavens, we bless your name for all your servants who have been signs of your grace through the ages. You delivered Noah from the waters of destruction; by the hand of Moses you led your people from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. You made a new covenant in the blood of your Son, that all who confess his name may, by the Holy Spirit, enter the covenant of grace, receive a pledge of the kingdom of heaven, and share in the divine nature. We thank you for our rebirth in the waters of baptism and our new life in Christ. As the apostles & prophets, saints & Martyrs faithfully served you in their generation, may we be built into an eternal dwelling for you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen"

## Supporting our Church financially:

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online, you could be raising a free donation for St James Church - Quedgeley?

There are over 4,400 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, Argos, Amazon, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible ready to give a free donation every time you shop online via easyfundraising. It only takes 2 minutes to sign up.

Plus, if you sign up and raise £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us a bonus £5 donation.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/quedgeleychurch/?invite=dliskv&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=raf-e](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/quedgeleychurch/?invite=dliskv&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=raf-e)

2. Click 'support this cause' and create an account

3. Choose from over 4,400 retailers to do your online shopping as normal and our cause will receive a free donation with every purchase you make.

Thank you for your support, you'll be helping to make a real difference to St James Church - Quedgeley.

## Lent is here! - Time to get busy!

Here is something from the Bible Society; it's called:

## NEW experience: The Lent Encounter

Esther King, the Digital Communications Officer, writes:

"The events of the past 12 months have been unprecedented and many of us are feeling a real thirst to connect afresh with the Bible and focus on the life of Jesus. Taking this into account, we wanted to do something a little different to mark the season of Lent this year.

So, we've put our heads together and developed a brand new, 40-day experience called The Lent Encounter. It's completely free – all you have to do is sign up. You'll receive an email each day featuring Bible verses, beautiful and inspiring images, video reflections and practical challenges."

**Just go online to Bible Society or talk to one of our "Open the Book" team - they have already been contacted by the Society and have all the details!**