

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

irob925@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 **March** issue is available in church & online on our parish website. 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 28th February -
The Second Sunday in Lent**

Parish Eucharist at 10.30am.:

Fr Hugh will be the celebrant;

The Revd Ann will be the preacher

Bible readings for today:

First Reading. Genesis 17. 1-7,15-16

When God makes a covenant with Abram, he gives him a new name.

Second Reading. Romans 4. 13 - 25

Abraham's trust in God was counted to him as righteousness.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

I, when I am lifted up from the earth, says the Lord, will draw all people to myself .

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

Gospel. Mark 8. 31 - 38

Following Jesus requires total commitment.

Collect for the Second Sunday in 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.

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 Second 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, 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 3rd March : St David,
Patron Saint of Wales

10am Eucharist Fr Gordon
1 Thessalonians 2. 2 - 12
Matthew 16. 24 - 27

Sun 7th Mar: The 3rd Sunday in Lent

10.30am Parish Eucharist:

Fr Gordon & Fr Michael
Exodus 20. 1 - 17
1 Corinthians 1. 18 - 25
John 2. 13 - 22

**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.

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, continuing on
28th Feb (Lent 2). 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 is
taking place now. 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.

Another 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

Paul Price: thepricefamily@blueyonder.co.uk

Lu Pearce: andrulapearce@hotmail.co.uk

End of Lockdown? Jackie Hall has already been asked when “Chatterbox” is going to restart!
Answer: “Not before September and not before all our volunteers have had both their jabs!!”

“Thought for the Week” : - TheRevd Ann

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

Lent is a good time for making small steps in trusting God – and these steps are not about making ourselves feel better or holier – but about allowing ourselves to explore the trustworthiness of God. Mark's gospel does sound a sombre note. God is not promising to give you whatever you want. It must be the deepest desires of your heart. Peter speaks for many of us when tries to turn Jesus to a safer, more enjoyable road.

But God insists on our knowing the truth – even if it might temporarily hurt us or spoil our plans – even if it might turn us against him. He'll never pander to our misguided longings either – he has too much respect for us. When Jesus outlines the Messiah's role – in which suffering, rejection and death are inevitable – we find it just as hard to take as Peter did. We can have a vague dream that with Jesus everything will be safe, happy and rosy. But it's not like that – and never was. Jesus tries to prepare his disciples - and us -as thoroughly and honestly as he can for the temptation to side-step the will of God.

We shall be tempted again and again to take the easier route and avoid the conflicts that accompany committed discipleship. But if we go along with such temptations where do we end up? Life in its fullest sense becomes smaller and duller. But how on earth do we manage to be strong enough to resist the pull of the world of comfort – personal safety – and self-gratification? Well, we're given the example of Abraham, who although he got things wrong from time to time, kept faith with the promise of God – even when it didn't exactly look hopeful. He trusted God so firmly that he stuck with it through thick and thin – and that is what delighted God.

Anyone who is a person of faith is a child of Abraham and in no circumstances will God ever let them down. Even if we're led astray and we make mistakes we can always turn back to God and will be welcomed. Even Peter got another chance to learn to trust God for what he's actually promising.

So we can trust God for the promise that he will never leave us. Can God trust us to have the faith not to leave?

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 2 "Can I trust God's promises?"

Read: Genesis 22. 1-2, 9-13, 15-18.

We recall the history of Abraham - a formative character in Israel's story. He receives the promise of God that he will be the father of a great nation, but he must leave his native land. No longer nomadic, the people of Abraham will receive a homeland to call their own and against all the odds, Abraham goes on trusting that what God is revealing and promising him will come to pass - even when he is challenged to offer his only son Isaac in sacrifice.

In these weeks of Lent it is as if we are walking with the Father and his only Son towards the place of sacrifice. Jesus will complete the story which begins in Genesis; the sacrifice will be made - out of love for us and obedience to the mission of the Father he will give up his life on the hill of Calvary. There is no last-minute substitution of another victim, just the profound mystery that it looks as if the promise of God has been destroyed, only to discover that it is destroyed in order that it might be fully carried out. On the other side of his real, physical death is the glory of the resurrection life through which he is present to us now.

For Reflection:

Has there ever been a time in your life when you have felt that you had to give up something treasured in order to follow a greater purpose? How do you understand "sacrifice" and the role it plays in your life? When the journey feels dark, what helps you trust?

Prayer:

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves to you.

I willingly offer all that I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose. Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. 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

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!