

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 18th July
7th Sunday after Trinity

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Dear Friends

Greetings from the vicarage. As far as I'm aware we don't have any special birthdays this week.... now there's a change. I hope birthdays or not you are keeping well and able to enjoy yourself making the most of the weather when the sun decides to shine. We are fast approaching Freedom Day as it's now been named. As far as we are aware tomorrow all the restrictions should be lifted!! How do you feel about that? For some time I've been thinking about what it actually means to be free to do what you want when you want and how you want and how different that will be for each of us. And what does it mean for St. Mary's?

On Monday we held our first PCC meeting for a long time and the main business was deciding how we get back to something like normal. After much deliberation and discussion, we have decided on a plan which I would like to share with you. The first thing to say is we think it should be a gradual return, not rushing into changing everything back to how it was. This is for several reasons which are outlined below.

As you know I'm not able to lead services and so we rely on visiting clergy to help us out. At the present we are struggling to find a Priest to lead most of the services in August and September, so much so that we have written to Bishop John for help and guidance.

In addition, many of our congregation have only been attending church monthly and some not at all, so I'm conscious that we make every effort to make their return to church as comfortable as possible.

There are also a lot of practical elements that need to be put in place, for example several different rotas that need to be formed and agreed with the relevant people.

With that said, we agreed to continue our pattern of services as we have been doing for the last few months, one service per Sunday and one Wednesday service per month. The difference is there will be no more invitations issued, everyone is welcome to come to as many services as you would like. The services will be advertised as usual, and they will consist of one BCP, one All Age and two Common Worship services. Hopefully if we can find a Priest for each, they will be our usual Holy Communion services (apart from the All Age Service).

We will return to the altar to receive Holy Communion but for a time we will still only receive the bread. I think it is a little early to return to sharing a chalice. The choir can if they would like return and process with a server bearing the cross. Everyone who wants to can sing and we will be asking people to return to reading the lesson. The offertory can be handed around and presented at the altar, but we will not be processing the bread and wine. Bell ringing will continue with a full band if they feel comfortable. We will leave the after-service refreshments that are served in the Parish Room until a later date.

I appreciate this is a very gradual approach but after agreeing this on Monday evening I received a letter from Archdeacon Sue. She recommends a gradual and slow return and explained that after the announcement tomorrow the Places of Worship taskforce will meet later in the week to draw up guidelines for churches. She went on to say that she had been told that this is more likely to include principles rather than a list of what can and cannot happen as it will depend on context. So I feel happy that we are acting in-line with the National Church.

It was a busy PCC meeting as you can probably imagine given that we haven't met for some time and a lot was discussed. The minutes will be on the board in church as usual and I will keep you up to date as much as possible.

In church today we will be holding a BCP service and so I am using the readings from the Prayer Book. They are from St.

Paul's letter to the **Romans chapter 6 verses 19 to the end** and from **St. Marks gospel chapter 8 verses 1 to 10**. Interestingly if I had chosen the readings from the Common Worship lectionary instead of reading the story of Jesus feeding the **four** thousand, we would have been reading the story of Jesus feeding the **five** thousand. It's very rare that the gospels match up, but when they do it means that I only have to think about preparing one address instead of two.

Whichever account you read it is one of those beautiful passages where Jesus shows his love for everyone. There are only slight differences in the miracles. In today's miracle Jesus is mainly feeding non-Jewish people as opposed to the feeding of the five thousand where the people being fed and ministered to were mostly Jews.

People have always tried to work out the mechanics of how a small amount of food manages to feed thousands of hungry people. This began with the Pharisees who thought it was achieved by luck, coincidence or evil power. Of course, they would suggest anything rather than admit that it was Almighty God. Sometimes if we tell ourselves enough times that something is right, (even if we really know in our heart of hearts that it isn't) we can harden our heart so as never to allow it to change.

It's one of the miracles that Jesus not only shows His power but also reveals His true compassion for those who have travelled to hear Him and be with Him. We can think of ways that might explain or help the miracle, for example would you take your family on a day trip knowing that there would be no shops or cafes to stop and buy food and drink without putting something in a picnic basket and flask? But whatever explanation we decide on, it doesn't really matter as long as we see the bigger picture (the message Jesus was teaching).

You or I might only be one person and God has everyone else to think of and watch over as well, a pretty tall order when you

think about it and no doubt, He is kept very busy, but just as Jesus was concerned with these thousands of people He is also concerned for our daily needs. Remember Jesus saying, “Don’t worry about having enough food or drink or clothing etc, your Heavenly Father already knows your needs”. If you have concerns that you think would not concern God, be reassured that there is nothing too big for Him to handle and none of our needs are too small that He will miss. Put your trust in God and He won’t let you down.

God bless.

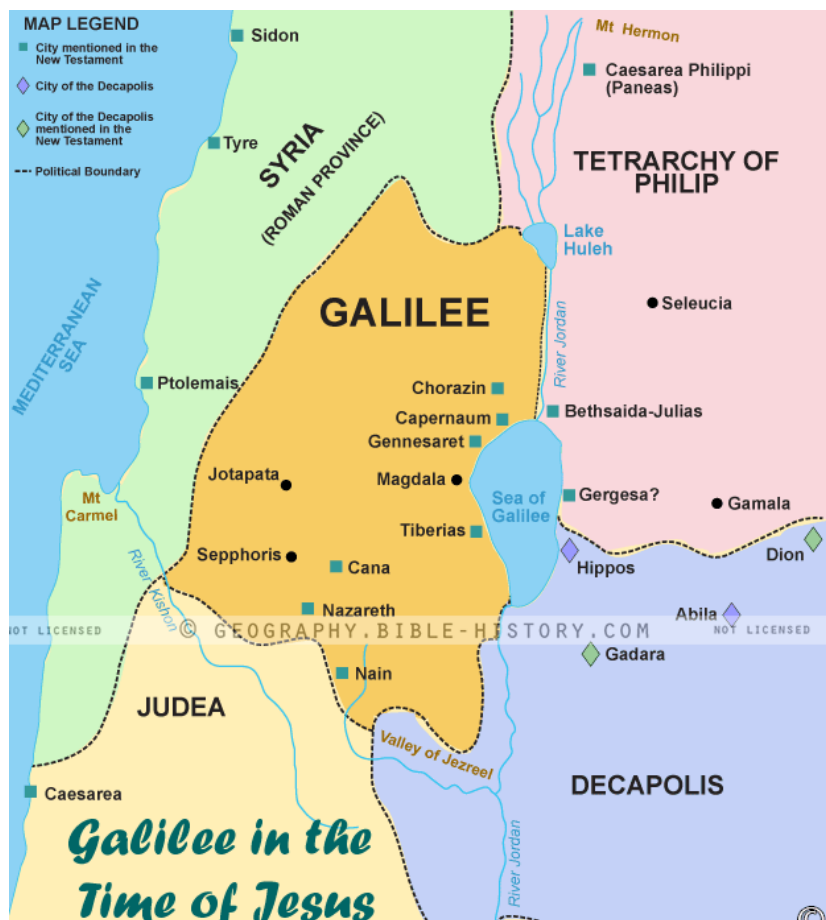
Revd. Graham



The Church of the Loaves and Fishes situated on the banks of the Sea of Galilee close to the village of 'Tagba where Jesus fed the 5000.

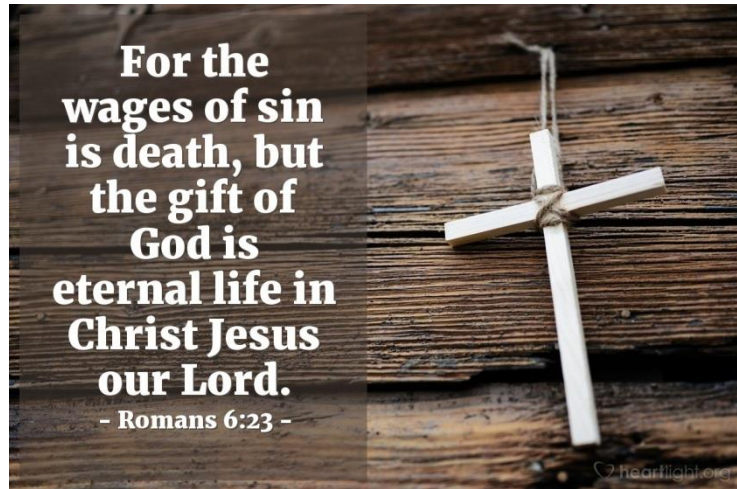


The site where Jesus fed the 4000 is thought to be in the Tetrarchy of Philip on the Northern border with the Decapolis close to the town of Gamala.



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our readings are

Romans 6: 19-end



¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin, and having become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8: 1-10



Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

8 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ²“I have

compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.

³ If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

⁴ His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

⁵ “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked.

“Seven,” they replied.



⁶ He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so.

⁷ They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.

⁸ The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

⁹ About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away, ¹⁰ he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.



Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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.

Sunday 18th July
Trinity 7



Altar Flowers
in memory of Gordon **SIMMS**

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**Services Today 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Invitation only  
**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**  
**11.00am: Interment of ashes for the**  
**late Maurice GOYMER**  
**2.30pm: Baptism for**  
**Aubie John Anderson SCHUMACHER**

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Service for Sunday 25th July

Invitation only
10.00am: All Age Service
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