

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Trinity 9  
Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>

## **Sunday Message 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Greetings from the vicarage and I do hope you all keeping well.

Today in many respects is a day for celebration; it's our first Sunday back in church after missing 19 weeks.

I know that many of you are still not able to attend because of the limited numbers of people that we can safely fit into church –

and for others it is still a little early to be going out into confined spaces with a large amount of people –

but over the next month or so I'm sure I will be able to see you all back in church – if only at limited services.

Each week when I write these messages I try and keep you up to date with the latest guidance from the National Church which follows the advice from the government.

I almost dread looking at the website because of what restrictions or things that are being imposed on us – but I have to remind myself that it is all about keeping us safe.

Having said that, this week it is all about face coverings, where it was previously strongly advised to wear a face covering in church –

it has now become law as from 8<sup>th</sup> August that everyone (with the exception of the clergy leading the service) has to wear a face covering in church.

The only other exception is for a bride and groom at their wedding service.

I'm pleased to report that after much waiting and discussion we still have three couples who are getting married here at St. Mary's over the next couple of months.

Their Banns are being read for the first time today.

Today is the Ninth Sunday after Trinity and our first reading comes from the book of **Genesis chapter 37 verses 1 – 4 and 12 – 28.**

It's the story of Joseph who was one of Jacobs's twelve sons and from what we read his favourite son.

He made this obvious to his other sons when he gave Joseph a beautiful robe as a special gift.

### *Joseph's Dreams*

*37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.*

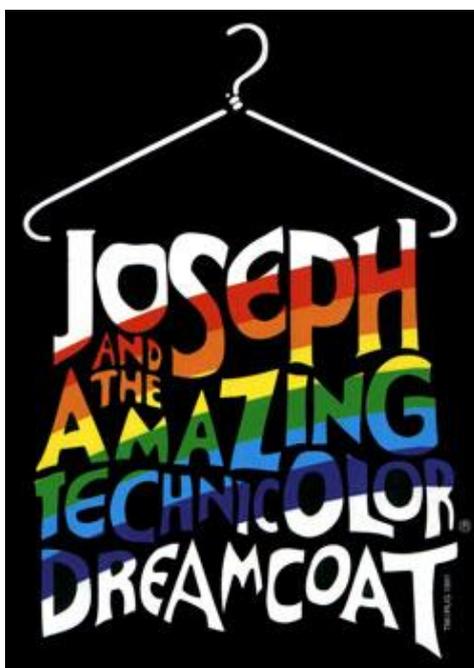
*<sup>2</sup> This is the account of Jacob.*

*Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.*

*<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*

Robes in those days were not only to keep you warm but were used for carrying your belongings, wrapping babies in, sitting on and even as a security for a loan.

There varied in style, quality and length depending on who you were, Joseph probably had a fine quality, long sleeved, ankle length the kind more associated with royalty.



I guess many of you will have watched the film or seen the play Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. I first saw it at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry many years ago.

The passage continues with the account of how the brothers get their own back on Joseph and think that they have finally seen the last of their annoying brother.

### ***Joseph Sold by His Brothers***

***<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."***

***"Very well," he replied.***

***<sup>14</sup> So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.***

***When Joseph arrived at Shechem, <sup>15</sup> a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"***

***<sup>16</sup> He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"***

***<sup>17</sup> "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"***

***So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.***

***<sup>19</sup> "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. <sup>20</sup> "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."***

***<sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.***

***<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing—  
<sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.***



***<sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.***

<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?" <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

<sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.



We will follow his story in later weeks and see the changes in the different characters.

Also being reminded how God watches over us and has a plan for us.

It's an amazing story where far too much happens to be considered as coincidences.

Moving to our Gospel reading it continues where we left off last week. It's from **Matthew chapter 14 verses 22 – 33**.  
Jesus walks on the water.



### ***Jesus Walks on the Water***

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"



<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Last week I had a holiday in Wales. It's a lovely spot where we are near to both the mountains and the sea, two of mine and Sam's favourite things.

Ruby our dog loves the water and whenever we're in Wales and we put her lead on she knows she is going somewhere where she will be able to swim.

It's the only time she pulls on the lead normally she is very placid and laid back, but when there's a chance of water things are different.

Having learnt from a young age that if you run straight into the sea there's a chance you will end up getting flipped over by a wave, she is a little more cautious now.

As wonderful as the sea is, you need to take care, what sometimes looks like a gentle lapping of the waves can often take you by surprise and you find yourself rather wet at best.

The disciples were caught out despite most of them being used to the sea.

I have witnessed first-hand how the Sea of Galilee can be so calm and still one minute and then in a short time become quite rough with noticeable waves. -

This is mainly due to the effects of the wind blowing down the valley from the north onto the sea.

This is what must have happened to the disciples and I can only imagine how frightening it must have been especially as it was at night.

***The Sea of Galilee looking over towards the area where the disciples had travelled from after Jesus had told them to set sail.***



In the Old Testament there is a long tradition of associating the sea with evil powers.

According to an ancient creation myth, when God made the world and separated out the dry land He had to combat monstrous forces of chaos that lived in the waters of the sea.

This battle is recalled in many verses of the Psalms and the Prophets.

The writers of both often remind God of what He has done and ask that He also use His same powers now.

At this present time we too might be thinking why doesn't God use His power and might to bring us out of this dreadful pandemic or has He forgotten us.

But we are to learn from this story that we are not forgotten, the Lord watches over us unseen, as Jesus did from the banks of the sea and that He, the Master of winds and waves will surely come to our salvation – even if it is in the fourth watch of the night.

However aware you are of the sea, this image of the storm has lost none of its power – and has strengthened many Christians over time –

Perhaps not in the sense of physical storms being calmed or walking on water.

But certainly in the sense that Christ's words still have extraordinary power to bring a 'great calm' in times of need or desperation.

When we have faith, however small or faltering, that He is who He is.

It is He who says 'Peace, be still. Do not be afraid.'



## **A Prayer to Mediate on**

Be still my soul:

your God will undertake to guide the future as He has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,

all now mysterious shall be clear at last.

Be still, my soul:

the tempest still obey His voice,

who ruled them once in Galilee.

**Amen.**



# Reverend Graham



## Something to think about

- Joseph's brothers acted out of jealousy, something we all experience, how do you get over such feelings?
- When we look at Joseph's life story, we notice how God had a plan for him. Can you look back on your own life and see instances when God was leading you in a particular direction?
- Jesus made time to be with God, how are you getting on with spending time with Him?
- Do you find it helps when you set yourself a specific discipline?
- Why do you think Peter started to sink?
- What did Peter do when he began to lose faith?
- What do you do when your faith is not as strong as you would like it?

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
**Trinity 9**  
**Altar Flowers – Standbridge Family**

~~~~~

**SERVICE TODAY**

Invitation only

10.00am: Common Worship Communion

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

Invitation only

10.00am: Book of Common Prayer

~~~~~

**Congratulations**

Many congratulations to

**John and Margaret Walters**

and to

**Alan and Doreen Lees**

who both celebrated their

60<sup>th</sup> Diamond Wedding Anniversaries

on

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August.**



~~~~~

Saint Mary's publish the Banns of Marriage between

**Ian Andrew Hunt & Rosemary Lunt**

**Michael Declan Cleary & Michelle Louise Hope**

**Adam Daniel Pearman & Robyn Sarah May Kennedy**

If anyone knows cause, or just impediment, why these persons should not be joined together in holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.

These are for the FIRST time of asking.

For any of your family, friends  
and neighbours  
who have access to the internet,  
you might like to suggest  
that they look at the church's website  
where they will be able to see this  
message and other useful information.

Also, anyone you know with  
Primary Age school children will find  
stories from 'Open The Book'.

Tell them to Google  
St. Mary's Church Cubbington.