

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Friends

Hello and greetings from the vicarage on this beautiful hot and sunny day. Isn't it lovely to be able to open the doors and windows and bring the sounds and smells of creation into your home? The flies aren't as welcome; in fact they can be quite a pain when you're trying to concentrate when all they can do is fly around your head looking for a place to land. I have to keep telling myself they also are living things and part of God's handiwork.

What did you think of 'Freedom Day' (as it's been named) last week. Was it any different from any other day? Have things changed very much for you? I forgot it was Monday and after my daily session at Coventry Hospital I walked out of the consulting room without putting my mask back on. No one questioned or reminded me, but I suppose people probably thought I was taking advantage of the change in law and doing away with the wearing of a face covering.

Each day I have received emails from the Diocese, Archdeacon Sue, The House of Bishop's Recovery Group and even Coventry and Warwickshire Public Health. They are all offering guidance as to how and what we should do in order to return to church now that the restrictions are over.

Their advice is all very similar and in a nutshell they are suggesting a slow and steady return to something more normal, with each church deciding what is best for the people in their community. They also suggest that it is also down to the individual worshipper to think about how they want to return to church and what they need to do to feel safe. Thankfully this sits in line with what I suggested to PCC and what I informed you of last week.

Today is our All-Age worship service and our families will be exploring the theme of 'Praise'. This will include a sentence from Psalm 126 verse 3, explains a task to find as many ways as possible to Praise God, listening to a song that tells us the many different instruments that we can play to give praise to God, praising God through prayer, and an



activity sheet to take home with a recipe for making a cake in a mug and a certificate if you praise God by helping someone.

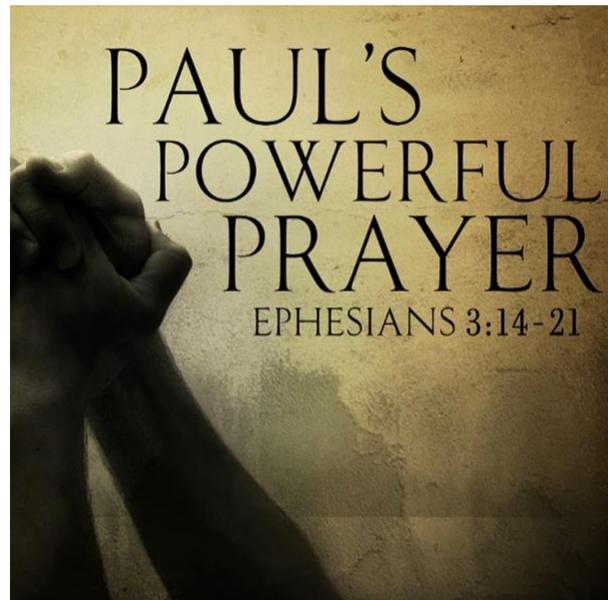
And remember every breathing creature can praise God, so I think I better stop swatting flies!

This Sunday is our last Sunday service where you need an invitation card for church. Beginning next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August there will be no invitation cards as the church will be open to all. I am now inviting you all to come and worship together in St. Mary's Church at 10am and it will be a service of Holy Communion from the later Church of England Order of Service know as Common Worship. There will be no restriction on numbers and no need to be shown to a seat, please sit where you feel comfortable and safe.

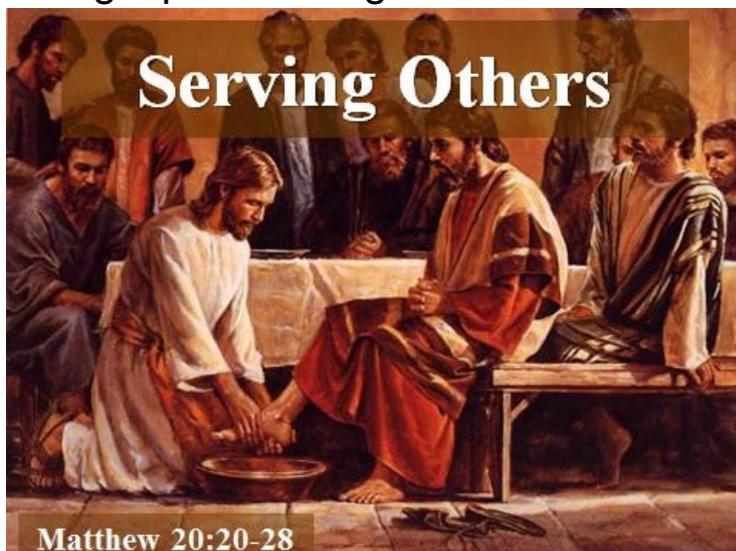
Because we are moving back to allowing everyone into church this Weekly Message will be the last. If for any reason the government decide that we need to return to some form of

restrictions or lockdown then I shall restart the Weekly Message so that everyone is kept informed about church.

Moving back to today, the church remembers and celebrates the life of the Apostle James. The readings are taken from **St. Pauls letter to the Ephesians chapter 3 verses 14 to the end**, where we read how Paul prays for Spiritual Empowering, something that each of us should be praying for every day.



Our gospel reading is from **Matthew's gospel chapter 20 verses 20 to 28**. It is here that we read how



Jesus teaches about serving others - again something that we are called to do and I know that this is an everyday occurrence for many if not all of you.

In this passage Matthew re-tells the account of James and John's mother asking Jesus for favour. Some favour, to sit on thrones in the Kingdom either side of Him, no wonder Jesus turns her down. I can't blame her for asking, it's natural that you want the best for your children and sometimes it takes a bit of cheek in order to get them a reward. But that would have been some reward!!

This week I've heard about people like Richard Branson and others paying massive amounts of money to fly into space, hundreds of thousands of pounds for a few hours in the spaceship and to be able to look back at earth. I imagine it would be a life changing experience but there is no comparison with sitting next to Jesus in His Kingdom. We won't have to save and spend a fortune to sit in God's Kingdom, which is above all space because we are all guaranteed a place where we can relax and enjoy His presence when our earthly life comes to a close and we move to begin our eternal life.

We read how the other disciples weren't very happy with James and John after they had tried to get a special favour and become the greatest. In our modern world as in the time of Jesus many people strive to become the greatest, in some instances this is expected especially in sport. With the Olympics starting soon it's hard to imagine how much time and effort each of the athletes has put into their daily routine in order to become the greatest. In James' case the motive was rather different and Jesus points this out to him and his brother.

When I was still a curate at Lillington Church I was assigned to minister to the residents and staff at Eden Place directly over the road from the church. Eden Place is a residential home for people suffering mental illness. I spent many hours in the home, going out in their minibus as part of getting to know everyone. The manager was new to Christianity and was really fired up to learn as much as possible, we had many thought-provoking conversations about our faith. One verse that he loved and was very appropriate to him in his capacity of managing the home was "Whoever wishes to be great amongst you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be the first among you must be your slave," I believe that the Home was such a lovely place to spend time in and so successful which I believe was down to the staff acting in a Christ-like manner and serving the residents as Jesus would have.

St. Paul's words are just beautiful, I'm trying to think of a better way to explain them, but I think what he wrote everyone should read and hold in their hearts. I know that the manager at Eden Place did because he told me that without his faith and love of God, he couldn't have done the work in the Home. It was not just a job to him (or many of the staff) it was a calling to serve the people who were considered by many to be on the outside of humanity. They were 'care in the community', but I would rather say they were being cared and cared for very well in the community. I learnt a lot about my faith whilst ministering there and although I was initially a bit nervous of knocking the front door, I soon got to know the people and I loved to spend time with them.

I know that many of you follow the teachings of Jesus and offer help and support to so many as part of your daily life. I pray that you are allowing the Holy Spirit to empower you so that you go out in Gods full strength. It is also a great help if we, as part of the family of God also support each other.

St. Paul tells us that God's love is total. What he means is that it is wide enough to cover us and the whole world. It is long in that it is with us for our entire life. It is deep enough to reach us when we are in the depths of despair and even death.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Take care and have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you all in church when you feel comfortable to do so.

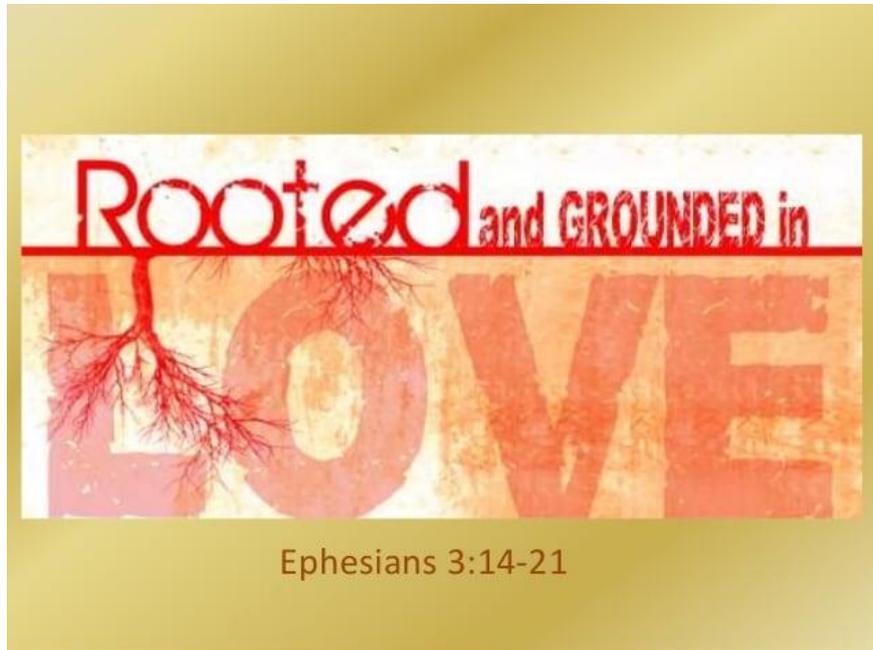
May God Bless you and keep you, and may His face shine upon you today and always

And finally, once again thank you for all your loving support.

**Revd. Graham**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**  
**our readings are**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**



### **A Prayer for the Ephesians**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 20: 20-28

#### A Mother's Request

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

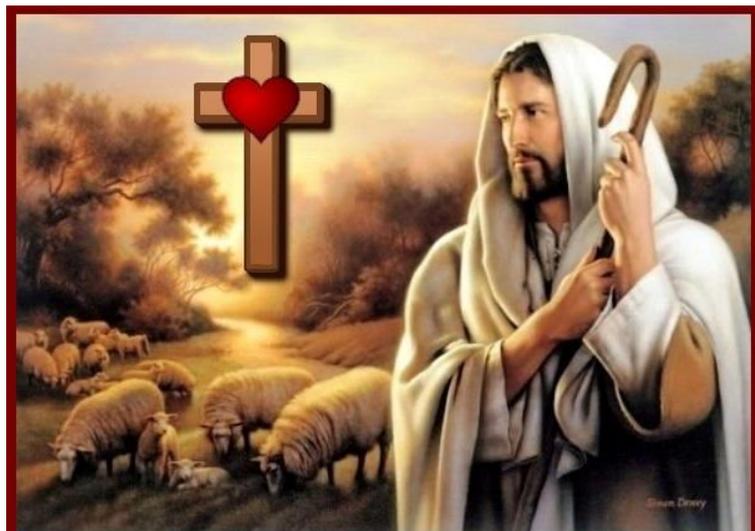
<sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

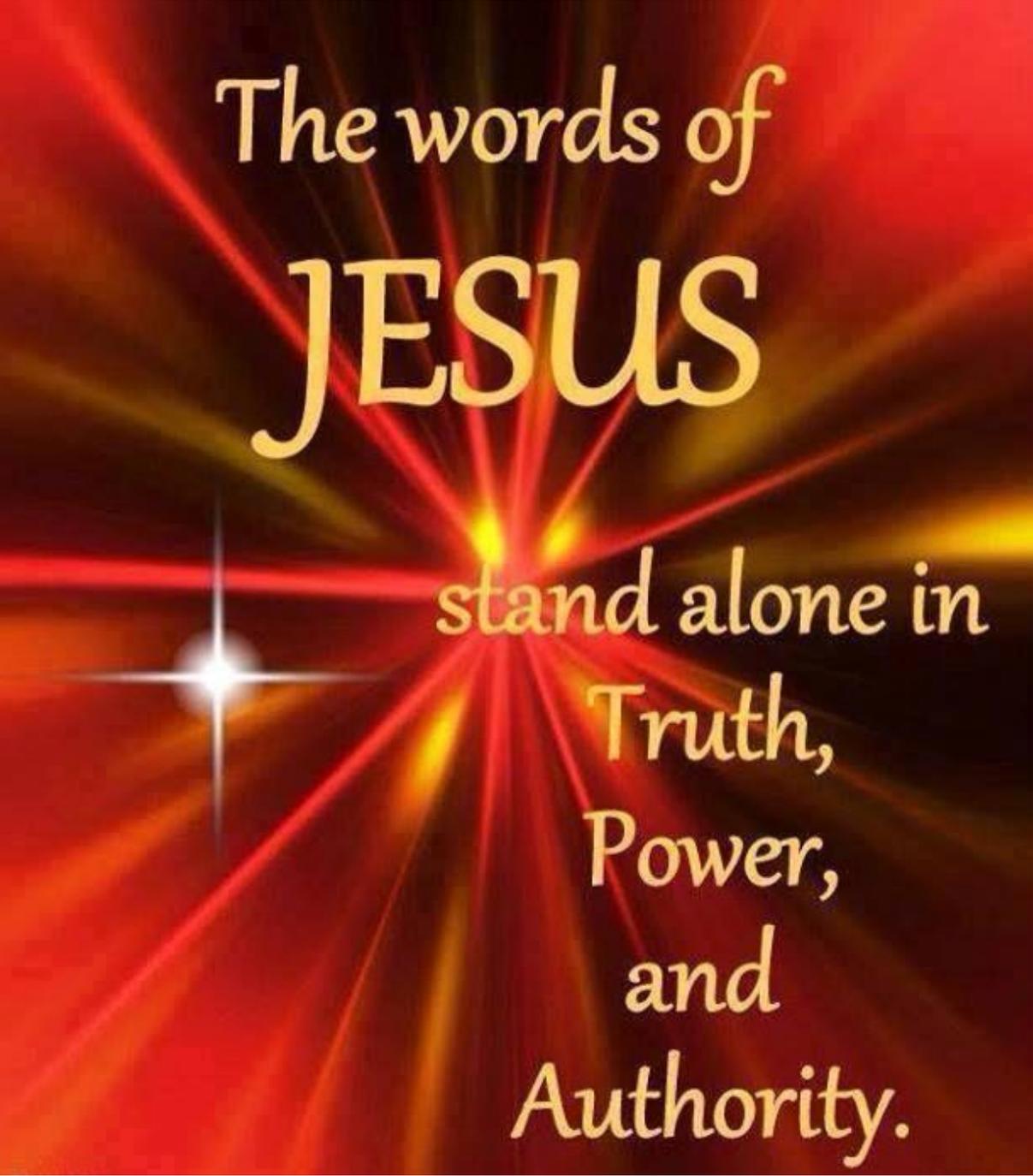
<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



*The Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve, and to give His life  
as a ransom for many.*

**Matthew 20:28**



The words of  
**JESUS**

stand alone in  
Truth,  
Power,  
and  
Authority.



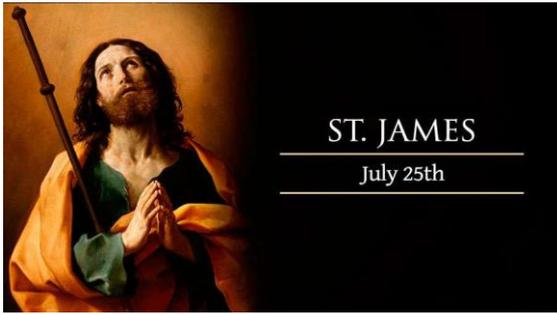
## ***Collect***

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern  
both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws  
and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July

## Trinity 8



## James the Apostle

**Altar Flowers – Alec COUTTS**

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### **Services Today 25<sup>th</sup> July**

Invitation only  
**10.00am: All Age Service**

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### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**1.00pm: Funeral for the  
late Keith TIMMS**

### **Service for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**10.00am: Common Worship  
Holy Communion**

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### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

2.00pm until 4.00pm

Open Afternoon in church and churchyard.

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

Cubbington Funday

From 2.00pm

Cliff Cleaver Community Pavilion

