

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Trinity 14  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

## Sunday Message 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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

Having missed the news for a few days it came as a shock when I heard that the government have decided to tighten up the restrictions of what we can and cannot do.

When I heard that they were proposing to close some activities and public buildings I was concerned they were going to include church services especially as they only included weddings and funerals in the exceptions.

Thankfully, the following evening they included services of worship in the exemptions, so I think we can continue with the pattern of services.

I say think, because I haven't received any up-dates from the National church which clarify the different points that the government have made in more detail.

When I have these, I will of course let you know anything that might change or effect St. Mary's.

I informed you last week that we have already held two weddings and we have another planned for next month.

This week we are opening the church for the first funeral following lockdown. I am still reluctant to offer baptism services because of the position of our font which makes it impossible for more than three people to gather around it.

Today in church it is the turn of our All Age Service and the theme of the service is **Love**.

The bible is full of passages speaking about **love** and encouraging us to love.

Our bible passage comes from **Matthew's gospel chapter 22 verses 34 to 40**. It is a very short reading but carries one of the most if not the most important message in the bible.

### **The Greatest Commandment**

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

<sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The passage is in response to the questioning that Jesus is receiving from the religious leaders.

To begin with, the Sadducees ask Jesus all sorts of questions about who should you pay your taxes to. If a man marries twice who will be his wife in heaven (a popular question asked today) and others.

Jesus in response tells them that they don't know their scriptures and they don't know the power of God!

I imagine that went down very well!

The Pharisees heard about the Sadducees asking the questions and how Jesus had responded, and no doubt gloated because they were their rivals.

Both the Sadducees and Pharisees were Jewish people divided into their two factions who were in constant conflict over social, religious, and cultural issues.

And so, in response to the Sadducees, the Pharisees thought up a question to show their superior knowledge and to defeat Jesus.

Neither groups were interested in learning from Jesus; they had established their own thoughts and beliefs which were in opposition to the other and believing the others to be totally wrong.

The Pharisees had taken the Law of Moses, the Ten Commandments and made 600 of their own laws out of it, they were also very interested in knowing which of them was the most important.



*Moses with the Ten Commandments*

Hence the question to Jesus.

Jesus responds by quoting from **Deuteronomy 6: 5** “**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” –

and from **Leviticus 19: 18** “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people but **love** your neighbour as yourself.”



*Sadducees and Pharisees arguing.*

*Condemnation  
of the  
Pharisees*



In those two short sentences Jesus spells out for all what it is to be a Christian -

Because if you follow and adhere to those two commandments then you will also have fulfilled all of the commandments – they summarise the Ten Commandments and the Old Testament Law.

I think it's quite refreshing not to have to think about all of the Ten Commandments but just focus of these two knowing that if you keep to them – then you are keeping them all.

The same can be said for **loving** God and **loving** your neighbour.

If you **love** God then you have to love your neighbour, because you can't hate your neighbour and still **love** God – it just doesn't work.

It all begins with **loving** God – get to know and then **love** Him and everything naturally follows on.

We should concentrate on what we can do to show our **love** for God and others.

One of America's best known legends is the story of Jonny Appleseed.

Jonny has a dream, to grow so many apple trees that no one would ever go hungry. As a young man he begins to travel across America, always carrying a leather bag full of apple seeds that he collected free from cider mills after the apples had been crushed to make juice.

As he travelled he planted the seeds in open spaces, in the forests, along the roadsides and by streams.

Year after year he returned to tend to the trees and when they were big enough he sold them or gave them to the villagers.

He wanted every villager to plant an apple tree.



JOHNNY APPLESEED.



JOHNNY APPLESEED.



JOHNNY APPLESEED.

As people began to know him and look forward to his visits, no door was ever closed to him.

He was a news carrier and friend; he was the 'appleseed' man.

He lived very humbly, eating the food he found along the wayside, not worrying about new clothes or good shoes, but he did always carry his favourite book, his bible.

He told the people that he met wonderful stories from the bible about Gods generosity and **Love**.

Jesus makes faith sound beautifully simple. It all comes down to **Love**. The most important thing of all is to **love** God completely, and to **love** other people as we **love** ourselves.



For those familiar with the Prayer Book Service you will know that as part of the service I always read Jesus' "On these two commandments hang all the laws and the prophets."

In other words everything God requires of us is all about **love**, all the laws He laid down, and all the important communications he made through His spokespeople, the prophets.

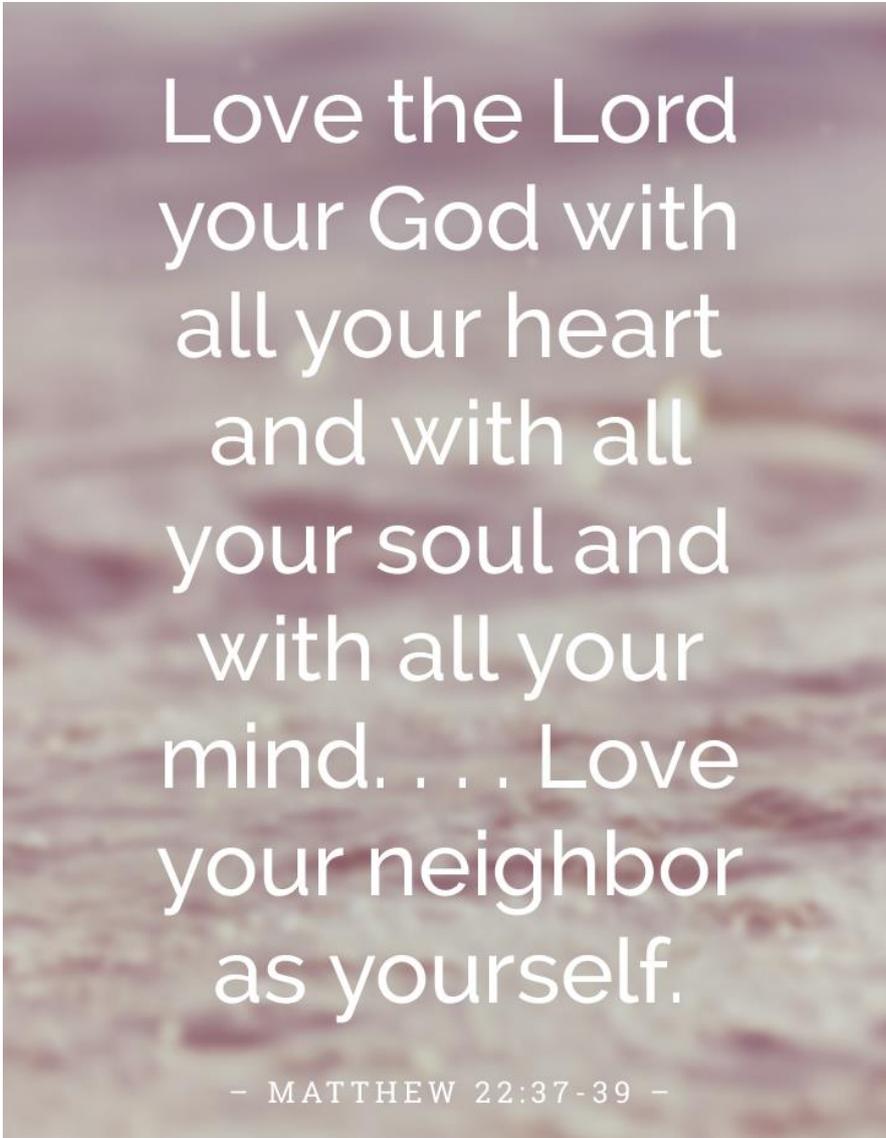
Finally, you may have heard of a touchstone, a dark stone of Jasper that is used to test for gold in alloys.

You can tell the quality of the gold by the colour of the mark that the touchstone makes when rubbed across it.

When Jesus said that the two greatest commandments were all about **love**, He gave us a kind of touchstone which we can use in our lives.

Take some time over this coming week to think about how your actions might show that you **love** God, and that you **love** people around you as much as yourself.

**Amen.**



Love the Lord  
your God with  
all your heart  
and with all  
your soul and  
with all your  
mind. . . . Love  
your neighbor  
as yourself.

- MATTHEW 22:37-39 -



## **A prayer to help us to love**

God of all love

show us how the love we have heard about here  
may be lived out in our lives,  
in your name.

**Amen.**



# Reverend Graham



## Something to think about

- Why do you think the Sadducees and Pharisees were so intent on catching Jesus out?
- How appropriate do you think the 10 Commandments are today?
- Do you agree that the two Commandments summarise all the others?
- Why can't you love God without others?
- If you were asked to write a modern version of the 10 Commandments what would you write?
- How do your actions show that you love God and those you meet?

# SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Trinity 14

Altar Flowers – Foundation Governors

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## SERVICE TODAY

Invitation only  
10.00am: All Age Service

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Invitation only  
10.00am: Common Worship

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## This coming week

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am: Book of Common Prayer  
11.00am: Interment of ashes for the late  
Margaret **MacDonald**  
2.00pm: Funeral for the late Joan **FAKEY**

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September

11.00am: Graveside Funeral for the late  
Meynell **JENKINS**

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Ride & Stride took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September and is a national, sponsored event involving all the Historic Churches County Trusts.

Money raised is divided 50% between the participant's chosen church and the Warwickshire & Coventry Historic Churches Trust.

**Mike Young** again this year decided to bike ride for St. Mary's church. A sponsorship form is in church or you can sponsor Mike by emailing him on [mike.young.barn@gmail.com](mailto:mike.young.barn@gmail.com).

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.