

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Trinity 6
Sunday July 19th

Sunday Message 19th July 2020

Hello again and greetings from the vicarage.

I mentioned last week that I was working on a programme for us to return to church.

So this is where we are so far – after measuring the church I know that we can only safely accommodate 26 people at a time.

This means that we will have to invite you to a service on a Sunday morning - 26 people at a time.

All being well, I'm hoping to begin with a first service on the second Sunday of August.

The intention is to have one service per Sunday; all services will be at the same time of 10.00am.

There will be a mixture of different types of services during the month.

These will include one Prayer Book communion service, one Family service, two Common Worship communion services and one Wednesday service.

This means that everyone will be invited to at least one service per month.

Because of this I will continue to record and send out a Sunday Message for those who are not in church.

You will receive your invitation to a service via email or it will be delivered with your Sunday Message booklet.

What I would ask is, if you are not able to attend for any reason, would you let me know so that I can invite somebody else.

Don't worry if you can't make a service that you are invited to.

You will receive an invitation to another service.

I know that it doesn't sound very much only being invited to one service a month – but we want to keep everyone safe and make it fair to all.

I'm sure there will be more information for me to give to you next week as the guidance I receive changes. But I will keep you up to date with how everything is moving along, and we should all be in church next month for a service.

Turning to our reading for this Sunday I'm using the readings for Mary Magdalene who we remember on Wednesday.

The first reading is from the book of the Song of Solomon or what is often referred to as the **Song of Songs**.

It's a few verses from **chapter 3 verses 1 to 4**.

Many believe that these few verses are from a dream that the girl had.

In this dream she is very concerned as to where her lover is – so much so that it woke her in the night to go and look for him.



Solomon and his peasant girl.

Song of Songs Chapter 3

All night long on my bed
I looked for the one my heart loves;
I looked for him but did not find him.
² I will get up now and go about the city,
through its streets and squares;
I will search for the one my heart loves.
So I looked for him but did not find him.
³ The watchmen found me
as they made their rounds in the city.
“Have you seen the one my heart loves?”
⁴ Scarcely had I passed them
when I found the one my heart loves.
I held him and would not let him go
till I had brought him to my mother’s house,
to the room of the one who conceived me.

When you love someone, you will do anything for them especially to look after them and keep them safe.

Very often it’s just small acts of kindness which when added up mean so much.

This sums up Mary Magdalene very well; she acted out of great love for Jesus and gave Him everything she had.

The Song of Solomon is not a book that we read very often, it’s only 8 chapters long, and some think it should not be in the bible.

Have I tempted you enough to read the whole book, you will be surprised!!

Give it a go.

Moving to our gospel reading this is found in **John’s gospel chapter 20 verses 1 to 2 and 11 to 18.**

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.



You will recognise these verses as they are often used on Easter Sunday.

It's the fantastic story of Mary Magdalene going to Jesus' tomb and finding it empty.

Mary, like a lot of women of the day, got her surname from where she came from.

So we know that Mary originated in Magdala, a small fishing village on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee about half way between Tiberias and Capernaum.

Jesus visited Magdala after feeding the four thousand people with the seven loaves and a few fish according to Matthews's gospel.



A view over the Sea of Galilee from the Magdala area.

We don't know when Mary became a follower of Jesus but she is mentioned along with other women as being with Him and the disciples.

We know that she followed him on His journey to the cross and stayed there at the foot until He was taken down.

Probably the most amazing fact of all is that it is Mary Magdalene that Jesus chose to appear to first.



You may recognise this picture.

*The above tapestry hangs in the lady chapel of
St. Mary Magdalene's Church in Lillington.*

Why, we'll never know, but just maybe to show us that everyone is valuable, each of us whoever or whatever we are have a part to play.

Jesus always looked to those who were the outsiders, those on the fringe of society and welcomed them.

I think a good way of looking at things when we are asked to do something that maybe we wouldn't choose to, -

Is to think of the person asking as if it were Jesus –

how much easier and quicker would we set to if it were for Him?

I have included a couple of my photos from Jerusalem which are from the Via Dolorosa the way of the cross, the way that Jesus walked carrying His cross with Mary and the others following.

*A typical street in
the walled city of
Jerusalem.*

*This is part of the
Via Dolorosa,
Jesus' way to the
cross.*



The pictures of the Church of the Sepulchre, the largest and most visited church in Jerusalem cover the site of both Jesus' crucifixion and his tomb.



The entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem.



Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre showing the stone which, it is believed that Jesus was laid on (below the lamps).



The Collect for Mary Magdalene

Almighty God,
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene
to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to His resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you
in the power of His risen life:
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reverend Graham



Something to think about

- What small things do you do for someone you love?
- If you read the book of the Song of Songs what are your thoughts?
- Do you think this book belongs in the bible?
- Mary found the tomb empty, what would your initial thoughts be?
- What sort of person do you picture Mary as?
- Why do think Jesus chose Mary to be the first to appear to?

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.