

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Trinity 12  
Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

## Sunday Message 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Once again, greetings from the vicarage.

Today is the last service of the month which means we have now held at least one service of each kind and invited everyone into church.

It's been lovely seeing so many of you even if it has taken me a while to work out exactly who you are with your face covered up.

We will be inviting you to another service this next month, again if you are **not able** or feel for any reason that it is still too early to return please let me know.

Today in church it is the All Age service. Normally this would be a very interactive service where I try and include the children to make it a little more interesting. With the restrictions this will be very different to what they have been used to. I have chosen the theme 'Sitting Down with Jesus' as everyone will have to stay sat down. During the service we will look at who Jesus sat down with.

The bible passage is from **Matthew's gospel chapter 9 verses 9 to 13** and has the title The Calling of Matthew.

If we were to list the twelve disciples according to what society thought of them, at the very bottom, lower than the fishermen, would be the Gospel writer Matthew.

He ran a tollbooth in the fishing village of Capernaum, collecting taxes from the locals as well as the people transporting fish and other goods to and from the area.

*The entrance to Capernaum today.*



He would have collected a fee, paid a part of it to the Roman officials and kept the rest for himself. Tax collectors were known to be corrupt and were treated almost as unclean as lepers by the Jews.

Much to the disgust of those living in Capernaum, Jesus called Matthew to follow Him.

Matthew jumped up and followed, leaving behind a very lucrative business.



*Capernaum today with the ruins of the synagogue in the background.*

When God calls us to do something, how quick do we react? Are we like Matthew and do it immediately, or do we have to think about first?

I wonder how often we do as we are being asked?

It maybe that we doubt it is God who is asking – telling ourselves that we are imagining it's God and so we hold back, hoping that if it really is Him – He will ask again?

My experience is sometimes to wait and see, but I think when it is Gods call, I know deep down. The question is do I want to risk losing something about my life that I enjoy to please Him?

Sometimes the decision to follow Christ requires difficult and painful choices.

Each of us needs to decide for ourselves, but when we do allow ourselves to change and follow God's call – it is always for the best.

Jesus went for dinner with Matthew and the other tax collectors.

I imagine if we were to be put into a situation like that we would have to decide would mixing with these sorts of people ruin our reputation, but then if we're doing it for Jesus what is more important – our earthly reputation or knowing that we were following God's will.

Time and again Jesus sat down with and helped the outcasts of society. He said that they were the people who needed Him.

I am reminded how all people are loved by and cared for by God, even those who maybe we would rather not usually associate with.

During today's All Age service, I will also be telling the story of another tax collector who caught Jesus attention. His name was Zacchaeus and you can read about his meeting with Jesus in **Luke's gospel chapter 19 verses1 – 9.**

I have included a painting of Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, this is from a card that I was given many years ago and it was painted by a woman from Seoul in Korea.

I like the expressions on all the faces, Zacchaeus looks rather sad and embarrassed, the crowds looked shocked and Jesus looks caring and sympathetic.

It's a similar story to Matthew's except Zacchaeus lived and collected taxes in Jericho. He heard that Jesus was passing through his town and he wanted to see Him, being short he climbed up a tree for a better view.



As Jesus passed by, He looked up and called Zacchaeus by name and like Matthew told him to come, Zacchaeus obeyed immediately and took Jesus to his home.

***When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,  
“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down;  
for I must stay at your house today.”  
Luke 19:5***

The crowds were angered, “Why is He going to the sinner’s home?”

I think it was a fair question to ask; after all they had come specially to see Jesus who they had heard so much about –

And who is He interested in – probably one of the biggest sinners in the town.

I guess we could compare that today to Jesus returning to earth and visiting a prison before He set foot in a church!

It’s not an easy message to appreciate, but as Jesus said “you don’t go to a doctor if you are in good health, it’s only the sick who need a doctor.”

My way of thinking is, for those of us have been privileged to be brought up or encouraged to get to know God – we have carried that joy for however long we’ve known Him.

For others who for whatever reason have not had the pleasure of hearing the gospel and knowing the Lord – if God is going to reach out to anyone – He needs to start with these people, surely.

It does seem to be contrary to how we live in society but then everything Jesus did was also controversial which is why He was always being confronted.

Living life as a Christian is not always easy but think about the pleasure in knowing that the God of the entire universe loves you that much that He is always willing to sit down with YOU.

**Amen**



Remains of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century synagogue.

Below are the remains of a synagogue from the time of Jesus.





A modern church built over the excavations of what are thought to have been the house of St. Peter.



## **A Prayer for these times.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in our comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**



# Reverend Graham



## Something to think about

- What are your thoughts on the service that you have attended in church this month?
- How quickly do you react to God's call?
- How do you know it is God who is calling you?
- Is there anything you wouldn't give up for God?
- What is more important your reputation or doing God's work?
- Do you have a favourite biblical picture/artist/card, if so why?
- How easy/hard do you find living as a Christian?

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Trinity 12**

**Altar Flowers  
Thompson Family  
and**

**In celebration of the  
Wedding of  
Ian Andrew Hunt &  
Rosemary Lunt**



**SERVICE TODAY**

Invitation only  
10.00am: All Age Service

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Invitation only  
10.00am: Patronal Common Worship



**This coming week**

*God Bless  
Your Wedding Day*



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

3.00pm: Wedding  
**Michael Declan Cleary &  
Michelle Louise Hope**



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.