

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 7th February

Hope in times of trouble

Much is written through poetry, song and personal testimony by people from all walks of life when times are tough.

All of us are challenged in our lives in many different ways, by many different issues and it's easy to make comparisons with others....'Why does this keep happening to me/us?'....Life is not fair....what have I done to deserve this?'

But take a moment or two to look around you and there will always be those whose life circumstances are far more misfortunate than one's own. People or families where pain and suffering seems to be a regular part of their lives, but where hope and love can still be found.

It is when we witness the sufferings of others that we become humbled, grateful for what we have and reminded how blessed we are. In these difficult times during the pandemic it is easy to become focused on our own challenges and trials.

What does the bible have to say about what we perceive to be unfair? There are parables that talk about injustice. For example: **The Prodigal Son in Luke: Chapter 15: v. 11-32**, or **The Vineyard Workers: Matthew: Chapter 20: v. 1-16**.

As Christians, whatever happens to us in our lives, we always have the promise of hope in our future.

As a family, we give thanks that Reverend Graham will soon be returning home to us from hospital and whilst he begins his recovery and rehabilitation we give thanks for God's grace and mercy working around us.

The song Faithful One by Brian Doerksen, highlights some of God's teachings from the Psalms and reminds us of the promise of Hope.

**'You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm, Your love is
The anchor, My hope is in You alone'**

In God's love

Sam Coles and family x

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Sunday 7th February

Prayers for Revd. Graham

You came with unconditional love to leave an imprint of grace upon us.

You promise your presence – with us strong and still in each moment that we live.

You touch our lives with heavenly praise, risen hope and redeeming truth.

You heal with the wings of your spirit that enfold us, bringing new life, new hope and new freedom into our lives.

Thank You.

Amen.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41: 10**

But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord. **Jeremiah 30: 17**

Amen.

I do hope that you are all keeping well and safe.

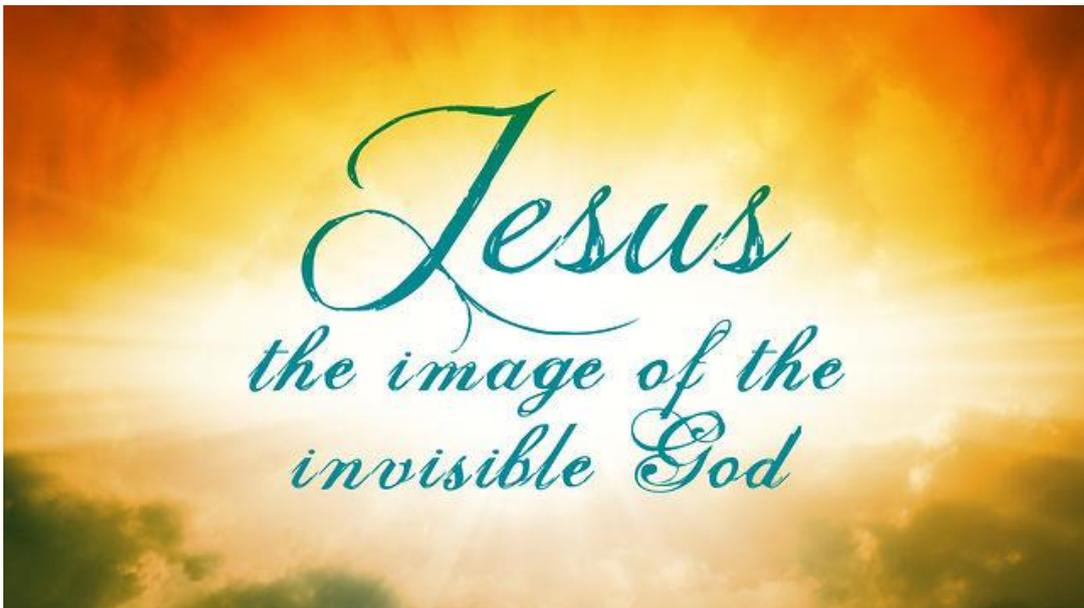
Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations towards Revd. Graham's treatment. The love shown for Revd. Graham and his family has been tremendous. The total raised from the church family, the village and others has now risen to **£20,895.00.**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting the nation to join them in prayer every evening at **6.00pm** during **February** amid Covid-19 pandemic.

St. Mary's is open each day from **10am until 2pm** for Individual Private Individual Prayer as usual.

Sue - Churchwarden

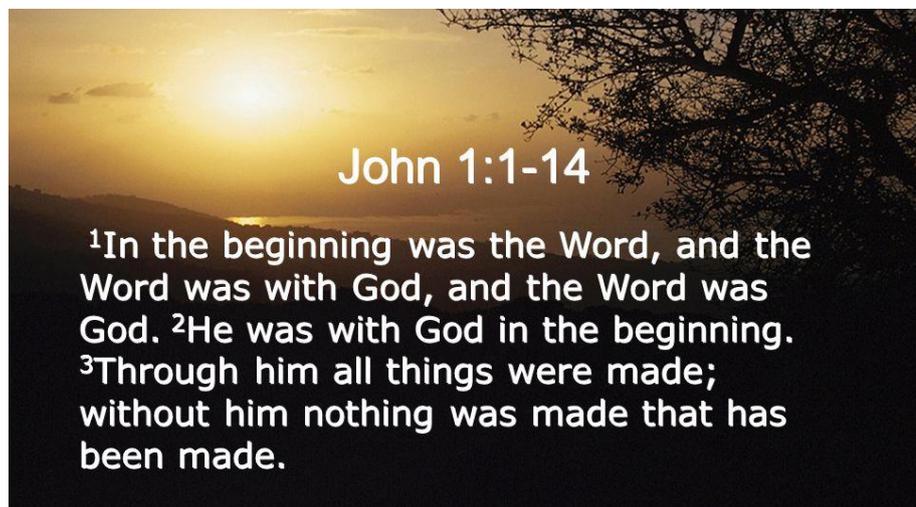
Today is the 2nd Sunday before Lent and our readings
Colossians 1: 15-20



The Supremacy of the Son of God

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

and the
Gospel
reading is
John 1: 1-14.



The Word Became Flesh

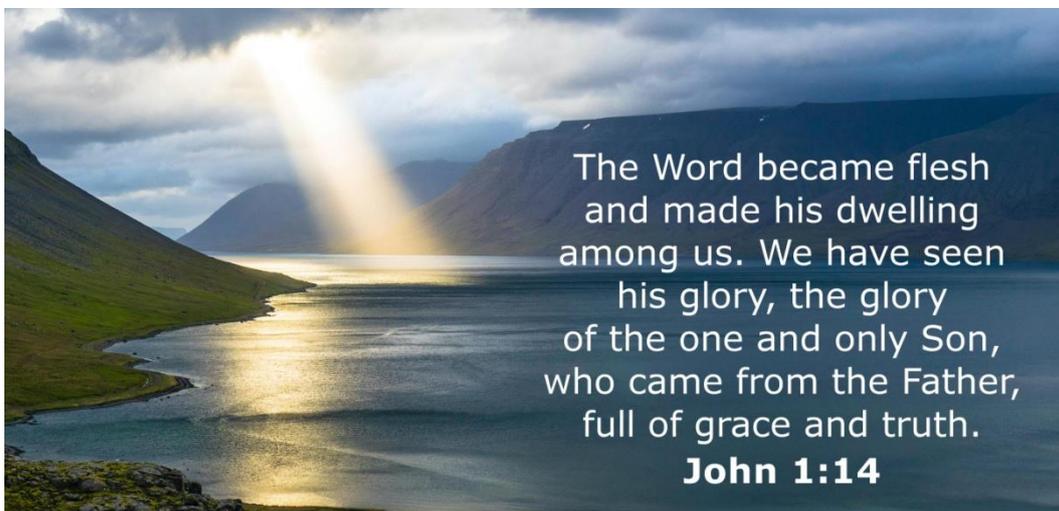
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of man. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

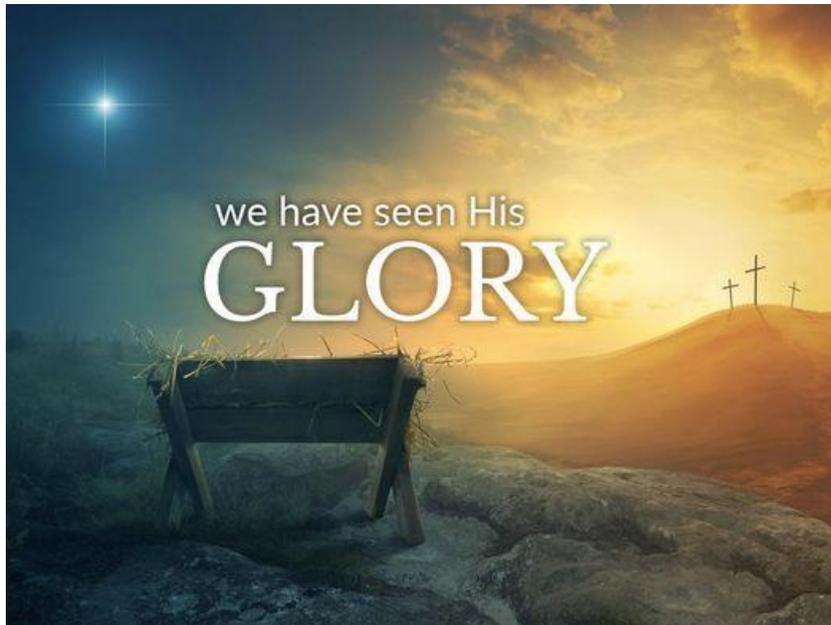
Amen.



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John 1:14

2nd Sunday before LENT



Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Parish has sent Get Well wishes to Revd. Graham with the help of Pete Smith (PSL Distribution Ltd) who illuminated the Church on Monday Evening and produced a number of photos, some of which are included in this week's booklet.



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.