

St. Mary's Church
Cublington



Sunday 28th February

Second Sunday of Lent

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Using our God given Gifts

As Christians, each of us has the knowledge that we are made in God's image and we value a shared belief in His teachings. This gives us confidence that we are working together towards a common purpose, to help our community and beyond for the common good.

But what about us as individuals? Each and everyone of us is unique. We have different personalities and attributes and whilst we can be similar, we are also unique.

This is valuable for the communities in which we live, as it means that we can each bring something different to the table in terms of helping each other as well as ourselves.

Since my husband (Revd Graham) has been ill, I have witnessed firsthand the many incredible 'gifts' that have been given to us in so many ways. Not only the practical useful gifts (which have undoubtedly been useful and lovely), but moreover I am thinking about individual God given gifts and talents from people known and not known to us.

So what would you recognise from within yourself that comes from God? Perhaps your 'gift' is striving to protect our world, by working to support environmentally friendly and eco issues (which are represented well by many individuals in our own church). We give thanks for the work they do on our behalf.

Perhaps it's your willingness to check in on others (albeit safely following Covid 19 guidelines) - a phone call can mean a great deal to a person experiencing loneliness. You might be gifted with story writing or story telling... and what about prayer and praying for someone or something. Prayer from all sorts of different places, individuals and organisations have been revealed to us, from all across the country and beyond- All very humbling indeed.

I like to read emails, that is my own preferred means of communication during these lockdown times. But the gift of the written word - whether it be on a pretty card or a simple blank piece of paper means so much to so many people. Revd. Graham has certainly been blessed with these in abundance and it has helped to lift his own spirit.

Every single one of us has something to give. Even a smile or a kind word to a stranger can change somebody's day in an instant and if this is freely given we can be sure of God's blessing upon us.

As we move through Lent, many people continue to be denied precious time with loved ones. The situation within Nursing Care Homes continues to challenge the Government in terms of how families can meet the needs of elderly vulnerable people (some with Alzheimer's or Dementia) denied the human touch from their loved ones.

It has been and continues to be heartbreaking. Whilst walking my dog past a local Care Home in Cubbington, I witness children's drawings of hearts hung proudly at residents windows and it gladdens my heart that children are taking the time to think about and care for the elderly and vulnerable in our community.

Keeping us all safe is both the Government's and our own responsibility and now more than ever if we are able to use our 'God given gifts' to help each other, well there has been no greater time to use them.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, **strength**, knowledge, **reverence ... undoubtedly there will be many more you can identify**. Some folk understand them 'merely as examples of the Holy Spirit's work through the faithful'.

Reverend Graham is working hard in his recovery, but many of you know how serious his condition is and the impact of the major surgery he required. At the moment we continue to pray that he will get to where he needs to be, but I want to assure

you all that through his own suffering, he continues to give thanks to God and pray for each and everyone of you. This is achieved through the love and Grace from a God he has been called by to serve.

You can read about God's gifts in more detail through God's word in the Bible. The Books of 1 Peter and 1 Corinthians are good reference points.

As we move through Lent, let us all continue to uphold each other by using our own unique spiritual gifts in the best way we can.

Yours in Christ's love
Sam x

1 Peter: Chapter 4: 10-11

'As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen'.



Up Date on Revd. Graham.

Revd Graham continues to make slow but steady progress at home. He is being supported with his Speech and swallowing from a couple of therapists. He is currently being tube fed completely as of yet unable to eat and drink.

Facial wounds are healing quite well and we have some degree of improvement with speech. Reverend Graham appreciates your prayer support and blesses you all.

Prayers for Revd. Graham

“Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sick-bed and restore him from his bed of illness”. **Psalm 41: 1-3**

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. **Psalm 103: 2-5**

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. **Psalm 107: 19-20**

And the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them. **Luke 6: 19**

But the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. **Luke 9: 11**

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” **Luke 22: 42**

Amen.

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

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England’s Coronavirus Recovery Group, has responded following the Prime Minister’s statement to Parliament.

“As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope.”

We are awaiting further details from the Dioceses regarding any planned opening of churches.

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

Sue - Churchwarden

Second Sunday of Lent and our readings are

Romans 4: 13 - 25



¹³ It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

and the Gospel reading is

Mark 8: 31-38



Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

TAKE A LOOK

Pay a visit to the churchyard and **Take a Look** at **The Stations of the Cross**. You will find 4 crosses tracing the last days of Jesus' life as he makes the journey to Calvary.

Station 1

Starting at the War Memorial

Station 2

Under the Yew trees

Station 3

The wall by the funeral gates

Station 4

Outside the Parish Room



Our fifth and final **Station of the Cross** will be in the Church Porch on **Easter Sunday**

The Resurrection of Jesus.

LENT 2

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Message from Jo King

Jo would like to thank everyone for their love and support shown to her and the family following the sudden death of Alastair. She is very grateful for your cards, messages and prayers. The Funeral will be Live Streamed and the details for joining the service will be available shortly.

The Funeral will be on **Thursday 11th March at 3.00pm** and taking place at **St. Paul's Church Leamington.**

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## **Prayer Group**

A weekly Prayer Group was started last month to enable the St Mary's congregation to come together to share prayer for Graham. The scope has now widened, including prayers for Alastair & Jo, as well as other needs where known. Either Jo or Richard have led these sessions on Zoom, and feedback from participants demonstrates that the fellowship is valued.

*Matthew 21:22 "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."*

We are keen to include as many people as possible who want to join this initiative, Zoom has proven to be a safe and effective way of reaching out to each other from our own homes. Some may perceive that technology can be an inhibitor, however that need not be the case. With experience and support confidence can grow quickly. The ages of people at our prayer meeting range from those in their 50s to their 80s. Anyone with an email address and access to a smartphone/laptop/tablet etc, can easily join the meeting via a simple click on a Zoom link from email. Zoom is like other 'Apps' such as WhatsApp or Skype, which you may already use to keep in touch with family.

I've been involved with 4 other groups over the last year who now use Zoom regularly, where some individuals were initially wary, they are now fully engaged and really appreciate the way we've been able to communicate and share fellowship through these difficult times. Just seeing each other's faces has been wonderful, we've learnt to embrace our new hairstyles!

If you are unsure or need help, I can support you. I can talk you through the steps and run a test meeting together to improve confidence.

If you'd like to join the **6pm Wednesday** sessions via Zoom  
please contact me:

email: [liz.young.barn@gmail.com](mailto:liz.young.barn@gmail.com) phone: 07857 416215

**A message from Churches together:-  
Your Neighbour**

Your neighbour [www.yourneighbour.org](http://www.yourneighbour.org) focuses on blessing and helping our neighbours recover from the pandemic.

When the UK locked down, local churches stepped up to face the needs thrust on their communities by the pandemic. Right now, churches across the county are carrying the hope of Jesus to those who are hurting, isolated and vulnerable.

But to keep meeting the ever changing, constantly evolving needs of their communities, they need your help. That's why, in the weeks leading up to Easter, we'll look at six ways local churches are supporting Covid recovery, and how you can play your part by supporting the vaccine rollout, vulnerable children, debt relief, employability, mental wellbeing, and young people.

**Stand with local churches through prayer.**

Transforming our communities with the hope of Jesus begins with prayer. Join Christians across the country in praying for local churches to give the hope of Jesus in the midst of crisis.



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.