

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 31st January



A message from Sam

Dearest Friends of St Mary's Church and our Village Community.

As the loving family of Reverend Graham, we all wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks for the kindness shown by you all with regard to your prayer support, donations, cards and messages of overwhelming love and support for him.

Reverend Graham's humility and compassionate ministry for those he serves, has truly been reflected in the phenomenal response to an appeal that began out of desperation.

Undoubtedly as a family we love our NHS. Indeed, a few of us in the family have worked for many years with pride within it... and still do, but the overwhelming demand on the service recently (due to the Covid 19 Pandemic) especially with regard to the need for Critical Care beds, meant that Revd. Graham's surgical team simply could not give him a date for his surgery, which would require an ITU bed afterwards.

As Reverend Graham's condition was deteriorating rapidly, our only option was to explore other areas where urgent surgery could be done which was within the private sector.

Fast forward to this week, where Reverend Graham has now had his surgery at Guys Hospital in London. He remains in ITU and according to his surgeons all is currently progressing well. By the time you read this, we would be hopeful that Reverend Graham might be on the wards and continuing his post operative recovery.

As a family, we continue to be humbled and heartened and hopeful for the best outcome possible to this dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and Vicar.

In love and faith, we thank each and everyone of you.

From

Sam, Tom, George, Charlie and Sophie Coles xxx

Sunday 31st January

Prayers for Revd. Graham

Heavenly Father, thank you for being with Revd. Graham while he was in surgery. Thank you for blessing the surgeons with the skill and knowledge needed to do their work and safely bringing Revd. Graham through his operation. O gracious Father, bring healing to Revd. Graham and bless him while he recovers. Help him grow in strength each day and bring him to a full recovery. **Amen.**

May you have rest and peace in your heart. May angels surround your bed through each night. May each day bring new healing as you find new strength. We pray you will soon be well, to love and live and enjoy life again. **Amen.**

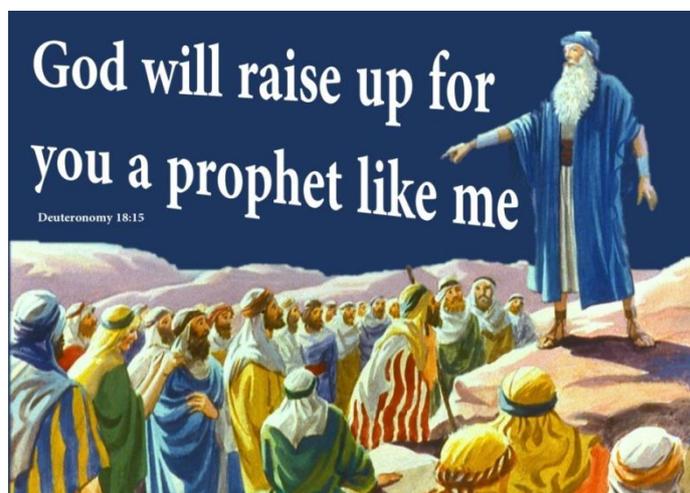
I do hope that you are all keeping well and safe.

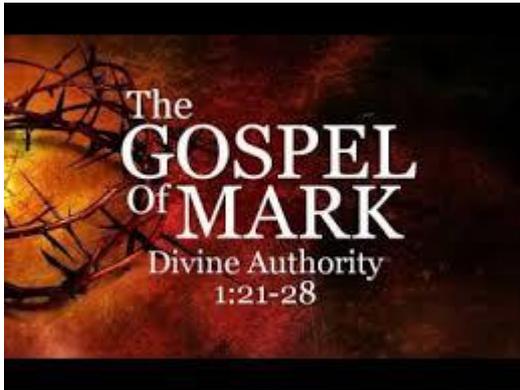
I know many of you have now received your first vaccination, so we are hopefully moving in the right direction.

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

Sue - Churchwarden

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany and our readings are **Deuteronomy 18: 15-20**





and the gospel passage is

Mark 1: 21-28.

Our first reading Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire any more, or we will die."

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 21-28

Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an



impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

So, what do we make of this event? We don’t know what Jesus said. Mark doesn’t record his message. It probably doesn’t matter, because that’s not the point. Instead, it would seem that the point here is that Jesus got up to talk and the people were amazed by what he said.

In our churches, it’s unlikely that a stranger would be allowed to simply walk into the church, enter the pulpit, and begin teaching. There are protocols and rules to be followed. There is the issue of credentials. So, churches are right to be careful about who gets to teach and preach. We might not be comfortable with Jesus getting up and preaching – especially if we didn’t have a sense of who he was (or is) beforehand. I am sure, if we knew Jesus was coming to visit, we would be glad to let him take the pulpit.

When Jesus started preaching, people recognized that he “taught with authority.”





The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



**Many Congratulations
to
Bob Griffiths
who celebrated his
100th Birthday
on
Tuesday 26th January**



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.