

St. Mary's Church
Cubbington



Celebrating
**ALL SAINTS' DAY
& ALL SOULS' DAY**

Sunday 1st November

Sunday Message 1st November 2020

Greetings once again from the vicarage.

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Those great words of comfort are the first words spoken at many funerals and at the start of an All Souls service.

Today is All Saints Day and tomorrow being All Souls Day.



As you know because the pattern of services in church is very different this year due to the pandemic, we are not able to hold our annual All Souls Service in the evening.

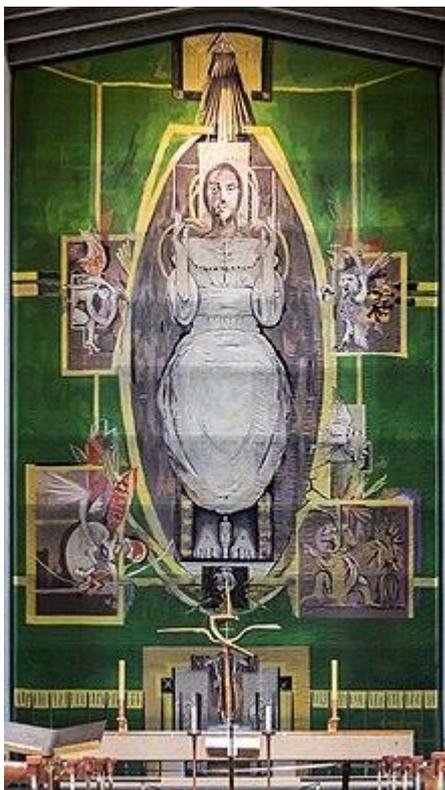
In previous years at that service we have read out the list of names of all who we have come into contact with through our funeral ministry at St. Mary's in the past year, along with our family and friends who have died in the past, and we are especially remembering.

The names of those who have died this year are listed in this month's Parish News, so please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Today's readings are from the book of **Revelation chapter 7 verses 9 to the end** and **chapter 5 in St Matthews's gospel reading verses 1 to 12.**

I can almost hear you groaning when you read or heard the word **Revelation**; I guess you were thinking ‘not that book with all those bizarre visions and strange animals again.’

Interestingly, if you’ve ever looked at the beautiful tapestry in Coventry Cathedral you will have seen the four living creatures referred to in verse 11 of today’s reading.



The creatures are a lion, a calf, a beast with a face of a man and a flying eagle.

The tapestry is named ‘Christ in Glory’ and it depicts the Risen Christ surrounded by the symbols of the four evangelists as described in the book of Revelation.

As far as I’m aware it is still the largest continually woven tapestry in the world measuring 75’ by 38,’ roughly the size of a tennis court.

It was commissioned by the cathedral architect Sir Basil Spence as part of his original design for the cathedral – and given to Graham Sutherland, an official war artist in 1951.

It was made in France by 12 women weavers and 1 foreman and contains over 900 different colours and took two years to complete.

I personally love looking at it and I've noticed over the years that wherever you sit in the cathedral, the eyes of Jesus look straight at you.

Whether you choose to sit at the front or back, left, or right, you are never out of His gaze.

I also love the book of Revelation and I find the more I read it, the greater the fascination and the more I become accustomed to the imagery.

In our passage we read of the vast crowd, some believe them to be the martyrs or saints whilst others think that they are the 144,000 mentioned earlier in the chapter – all of which have eternal life.

But we need not worry which group we will be in because God has promised to protect us and that we are guaranteed a place in His presence.

God also promises to provide for all our needs in our eternal life, where there is a big difference to this world - in that there will be no more hunger, thirst or pain and He will wipe away all tears.

In other words, it will be paradise!

Turning to our gospel reading, it is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Today there is a beautiful church on top of the hill where Jesus spoke to the people.

It is called the Church of the Beatitudes and it is built around a central section containing eight walls.



*The Church of the
Beatitudes.*

At high level on each of the walls is a plaque with the words of one of the Beatitudes.





Jesus had been followed by an ever-growing crowd of people longing to hear of His teaching.

So, He goes up onto a hillside near Capernaum and begins to speak to them.

But before He talks to the crowd, He reminds the disciples that it's not easy being a follower of Christ and a lot of what is done in His name may go unnoticed, at least in this world.

Jesus teaches using what we refer to as the Beatitudes (Christ's promise of blessings to come).

When you read them you soon realise that what He is saying is the opposite to what we might consider to be worldly.

But then we know that God's way is different to the world's way, that's why the world is in such a state.

Each Beatitude tells us how we can be blessed by God.

Being blessed is not just a way of being happy; it's far more than that.

Being blessed by God means finding the deepest joy and happiness which only comes from Him.

And when we learn to follow Jesus' words and ways, then we too can become true saints.

Amen.



*The area where Jesus taught the Beatitudes to the crowd
overlooking the Sea of Galilee.*



Prayers for All Souls

May God in His infinite love and
mercy bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus Christ,
to a joyful resurrection and
the fulfilment of His eternal Kingdom.

Amen.

May God give to each of you
His comfort and His peace,
His light and His joy in this world and the next.

Amen.

 <p>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:3</p>	<p>Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:4</p> 
 <p>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:5</p>	<p>Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:6</p>
 <p>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:7</p>	<p>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:8</p> 
 <p>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:9</p>	<p>Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:10</p>
<p>Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.</p>  <p>MATTHEW 5:11</p>	 <p>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:12</p>

The Beatitudes

Reverend Graham



Something to think about

- What are your thoughts on the Book of Revelation and why?
- What is your understanding of a seal God places on us?
- How can you wash a robe in blood and it come out white?
- What are your thoughts on the Tapestry in Coventry Cathedral?
- Do you find it helpful when worshipping?
- What saint are you particularly praying for today and why?

SUNDAY 1st November 2020

All Saints' Day

Altar Flowers

Ann and Peter JEFFS



SERVICE TODAY



Invitation only
10.00am: All Souls Common Worship

This coming Week
Thursday 5th November

12noon: Funeral for the late
George **VICKERS**

Remembrance Sunday 8th November

10.45am: Procession starts from
Ledbrook Hall
to War Memorial in Churchyard
for act of remembrance at
11.00am



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.