

St. Mary's Church Cubbington

THE THIRD SUNDAY

*"And he answered him,
'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it
and put on manure, and if it bears fruit next year,
well and good and if not, you can cut it down.'"*

Luke 13:8-9

LENT



*"Come back to Me
with All your Heart"*
Joel 2:12

Sunday 7th March

Third Sunday of Lent

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Am I listening?

Dear Friends

Perhaps one of the most important human qualities is that of 'listening'. I have to confess I am not the world's best listener, I appreciate that there is a difference between listening to someone and actually 'hearing' what they are trying to tell you. Body language, use of tone and choice of words all play their part in conveying a message.

When I was a young Mum of four (back in the day) when constant chattering children and mountains of washing and household tasks were the order of the day - as well as working part-time, meant that I - like many young parents was pulled in several different directions and maybe that was the start of my reduced capacity with regard to listening, but maybe not always hearing. I assured my darling children that it wasn't on purpose and could they please repeat the question they just asked me only moments ago....

As life became busier and the children grew older, I always ensured that everyone knew the value of allowing each person to speak and have their say. Listening is such an important human quality for all of us (not just parents) and I hope that my children felt that I was always available to talk to them when they needed it...you'd have to ask them I guess.

But it got me thinking more deeply about the importance of listening and for us as Christians in particular, listening to God.

Although the pandemic has taken away a lot of what we enjoyed, I believe that we were all gifted with another life quality which was that of 'Time'. Even for those of us who were key workers and required to work through the lockdowns, a lot of us were all to a greater or lesser degree gifted with a bit more time for ourselves.

Time is a gift and it is up to us to choose how best to use our time to the greatest effect in our Christian lives.

I personally have benefitted during lockdown with an increased ability to clear my head and really listen to what God is trying to say to me.

As I unlock the church each morning, I feel the quiet presence of God within His house and I encourage you to have the opportunity to do this if you feel safe to and enjoy some solitary private prayer (between 10am-2pm each day).

Of course, we don't need to be in church to pray. We can pray anytime and anywhere, but we need to be open and in a position to listen to the Lord when he speaks to us.

In 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 we hear how the boy Samuel didn't realise at first that it was God who was trying to speak to him. It took a bit of time for him to accept that it was God's voice.

Although this is an Old Testament story, it is worth revisiting, as I guess most of us in truth might not believe at first if God is trying to speak to us. In truth we have to open our hearts to really hear what he is trying to say to each of us as Christians.

As we all prepare to work with the new Government guidelines in the future, let us all continue to take the TIME and LISTEN to God.

It might not always be what we want to hear at this point in our lives, but it serves as a reminder that true faith in God requires the ability to trust in Him. I pray that for each and every one of us, that we can keep our ears open, not only to listen, but to really hear.

Faithfully yours in Christ's love
Sam.

Isaiah 26: 3-4: 'Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—because they **trust** in you. **Trust** in the Lord forever, for in the Lord **God** you have an everlasting rock'.



Prayers for Revd. Graham

O God, who have willed
that your priests preside over your family
not by any personal merit
but only out of the abundance of your grace,
look with mercy on the ministry of
Revd. Graham
and direct the hearts of priest and people
to be so disposed
that the obedience of the flock
may never fail the shepherd,
nor the care of the shepherd be lacking for the flock.
Amen.

Father,
by the power of your Spirit
you have filled the hearts of your faithful people
with gifts of love for one another.
Hear the prayers we offer for Revd. Graham.
Give him health of mind and body
that he may do your will with perfect love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

"Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your
food and water. I will take away sickness from among you."

Exodus 23: 22

Amen.

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

There have been difficult and challenging times during the lockdowns but also great act of kindness and taking care of one another. If you would like prayers for yourself or someone you know, please let me know.

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

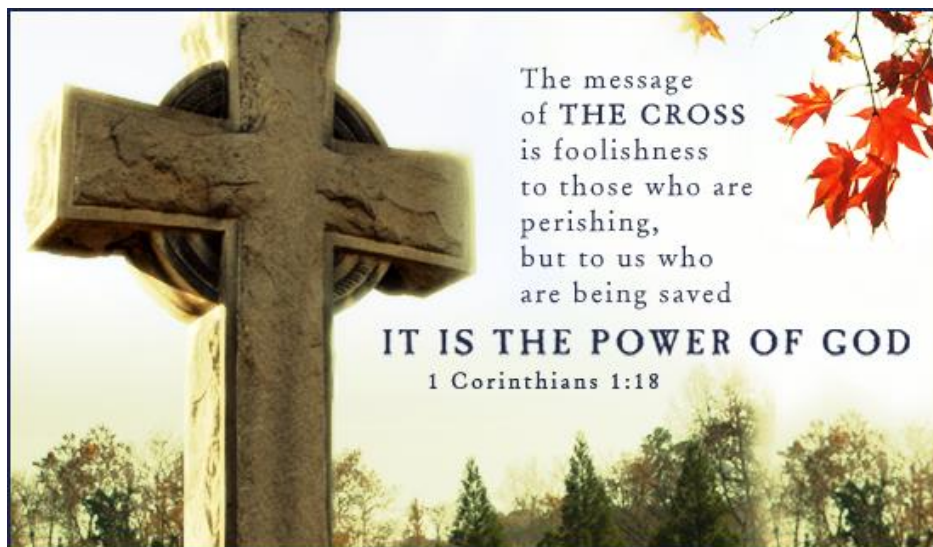
Ken Lawton - Ken will be celebrating his **90th Birthday** on **Saturday 13th March**.

As there is no visiting at the moment, we thought it would nice for Ken to receive as many birthday cards as possible. If you are able to send a card his address is Clarendon Manor Care Home, 37-41 Golf Lane, Whitnash, Leamington Spa CV31 2PZ.

Sue - Churchwarden

Third Sunday of Lent and our readings are

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25



Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand miraculous sign and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

and the Gospel reading is

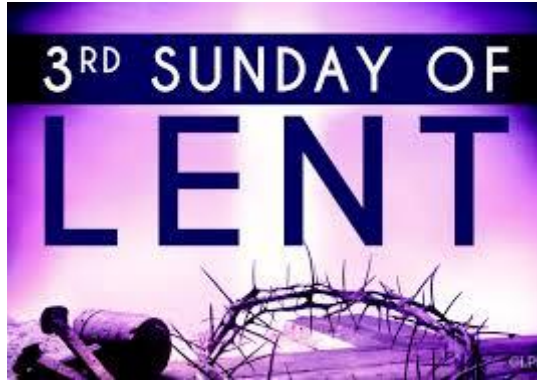
John 2: 13-22



Jesus Clears the Temple

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found men selling

LENT 3



Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through 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.

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### **Funeral for Alastair King**

The funeral service is arranged for **11th March** at **3pm** at **St Paul's Leamington Spa**. It is available online and can be accessed via [www.stpl.org.uk](http://www.stpl.org.uk) on Youtube or facebook. Donations in Alastair's memory can be made to **Cancer Research UK** directly or via A.E.Bennett & Sons, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford -upon-Avon, CV37 6EE.

We have also set up an online memorial book to Alastair for all those who knew him to share thoughts, memories and messages. This can be accessed via the following link: [www.tolbc.com/AlastairKing](http://www.tolbc.com/AlastairKing)

The boys and I have felt upheld by people's thoughts and prayers and hopefully we will be able to meet in the not too distant future.

God bless and Love

**Jo King**