

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 30th May
Trinity Sunday

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Hello again and greetings from the vicarage.

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

A small reminder, please could you fill in a Gift Aid form if you are a taxpayer. Following on from the brilliant job of claiming the tax back that Alastair did for us for many years I am attempting to do the same. It is not that straightforward, and everything must be recoded correctly.

I have got as far as filling in the claim form, but I need to confirm exactly who is a taxpayer and if they have filled in and signed a form. Whilst I have many completed forms, some go back as far as 2000! However, there are many regular givers whom I don't have a form for.

St. Mary's benefits greatly from the money that we receive from the government in the form of Gift Aid, so please help by completing a form. At present I am claiming for last year 2020, but until I have your form, I can't go any further.



Many thanks Revd. Graham



Today is Trinity Sunday and our readings are from the prophet **Isaiah chapter 6 verses 1-8** and from **John's gospel chapter 3 verses 1-17**.

What are your thoughts of the Holy Trinity? We know that it refers to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, but how do we relate the three persons into one and how do you picture them on their own and together?

I find it easier to begin with by thinking of the three persons separately. God the Father is the head of the family; He is the creator and sustains us and the Almighty one who sits in heaven.

God the Son is Jesus and the Father's only Son. He also sits alongside His Father in heaven. But as we know He was sent by the Father to walk as a human man on this earth a couple of thousand years ago, before dying for us and returning to His Father.

God the Holy Spirit is a little harder to imagine. He is the gift that Jesus gave to us all when He returned to Heaven.

I hope you are with me so far... that's the easy bit. But having explained that they are three persons, they are also one!

I think that this is really beyond our earthly comprehension. I have seen all sorts of different examples to try and explain the three in one and one in three, for example water, steam and ice - but none can truly equate to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit because they are subject to change (as the state of their physicality can be altered via temperature changes), whereas the Divine Trinity is unchanging.

When it comes to our faith in the Trinity, I believe we don't have to fully understand it. It is at this point that our faith comes in. We can't prove that there is a God any more than we can prove that there isn't a God, but we have faith that there is and so we believe.

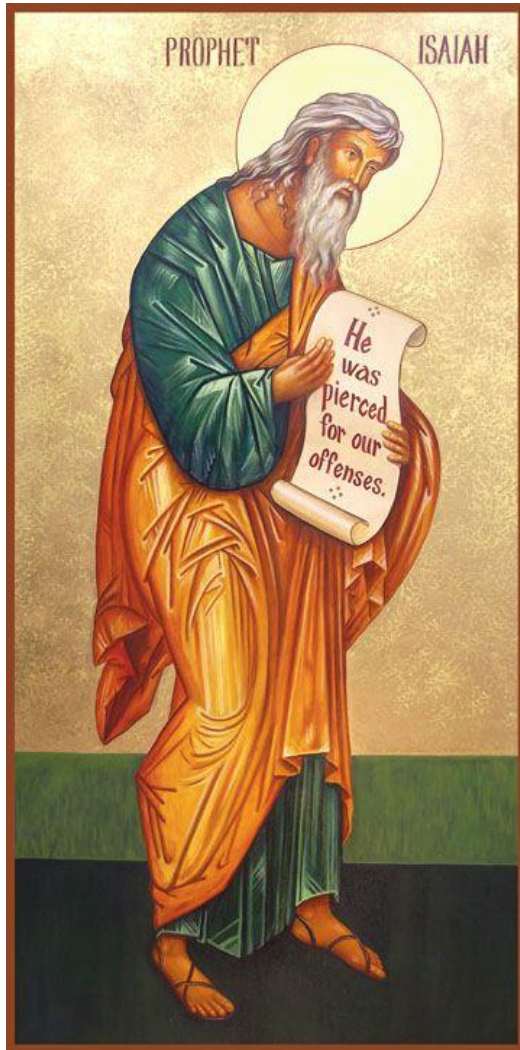
When we first come to church we begin as an inquirer, not knowing for sure quite what we are entering into and we continue to learn more about God and Jesus and then we make a decision to either believe and continue or not. The decision to continue can be down to many factors but ultimately it is the relationship we have formed with Jesus. We have put our trust in Him. It is often said that at this point we have a 'simple faith'. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having a simple faith, in fact at times I think we can over complicate our faith by trying to answer questions that really, we do not need to concern ourselves with.

Having a simple faith means that even without all of our questions being answered, or by us not having a full understanding and knowledge of God and scripture, we are still prepared to believe and put our trust in God. I think there is something quite special about that.

In our fast-paced modern world where everything needs to be 'proved' and double checked in order to be accepted, it is quite refreshing to be able to say "Yes, I believe in God even though I can't see Him or prove that He exists. I simply believe in Him and put my trust in Him. And in doing so I feel His presence and see signs of what He has done and continues to do all around me."

Isaiah, the author of our first reading is in my mind without question one of the greatest prophets of all time. Trees and prophets share at least one important characteristic – they are

both planted for the future. Yet seedlings are often overlooked, and prophets ignored. Isaiah is one of the best examples of this. The people of his time could have been rescued by his words. Instead, they refused to believe him. With the passing of many centuries however, Isaiah's words have cast a shadow on all of history.



Isaiah had faith, maybe it was a simple faith, but he trusted God even though the people ignored his words. God compared the people to a tree that would have to be cut down so that a new tree could grow from its stump (Isaiah 6:13). We are all part of the future that can see many of the promises that God gave through Isaiah that have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We also have the hope that God is active in all of history, including our own.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Faithfully Yours in Christ.
Reverend Graham.

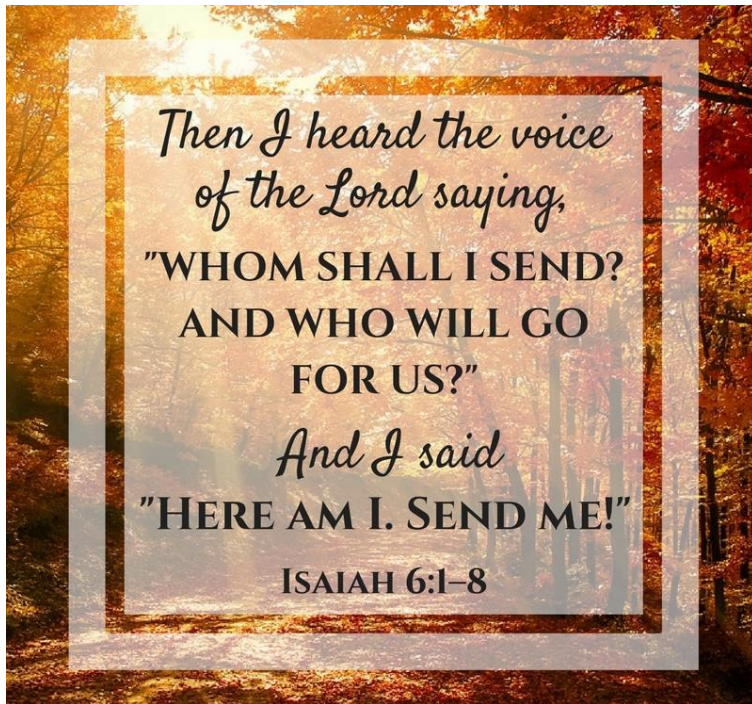
As the church celebrated the life of St. Augustine, the first Bishop of Canterbury in the year 605 last Wednesday, here below is one of his prayers:



*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard
me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.*

Amen.

Trinity Sunday and our readings are



Isaiah 6: 1-8

Isaiah's Commission

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they

covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

and the Gospel reading is

John 3: 1-17



Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

³ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no-one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

⁴ “How can man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

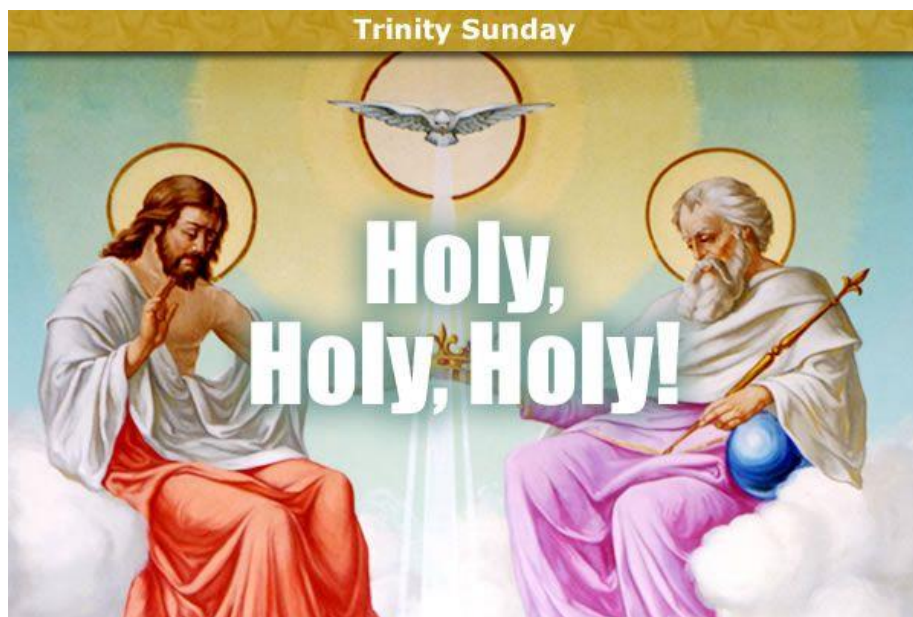
⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth, we speak of

what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No-one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

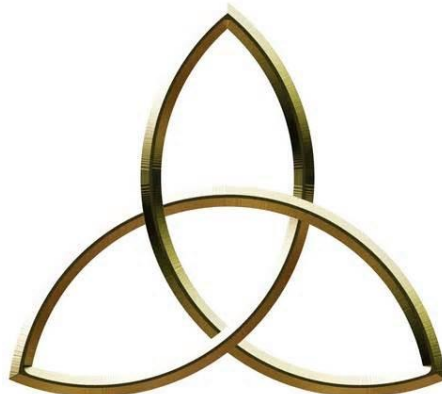
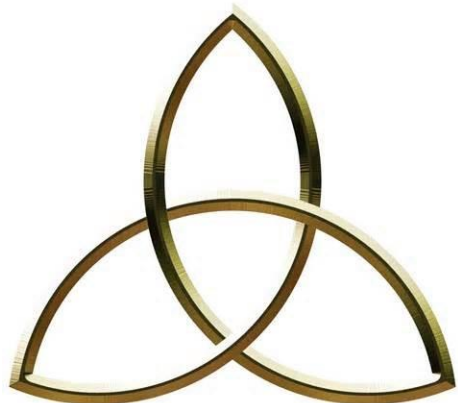
FOR
God
SO
loved
the world
that he gave his only begotten
son so that whosoever believeth
in him
shall
not
perish
but
have
eternal
life
John 3:16



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
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.



Father

ONE GOD

and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:6

Son

THE WORD

became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Holy Spirit

THE ADVOCATE,

the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name ~ he will teach
you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

John 14:26

THE HOLY TRINITY

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SUNDAY 30th May



Service Today 30th May

Invitation only
10.00am: All Age Service

Service for Sunday 6th June

Invitation only
**10.00am: Holy Communion
Common Worship**

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## This coming Week

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

**10.00am:** Interment of ashes for the late  
Gordon Harold **SIMMS**

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June



**1.30pm: Wedding**  
Christopher Stuart **KIRBY**  
and  
Charlotte Victoria **LEE**