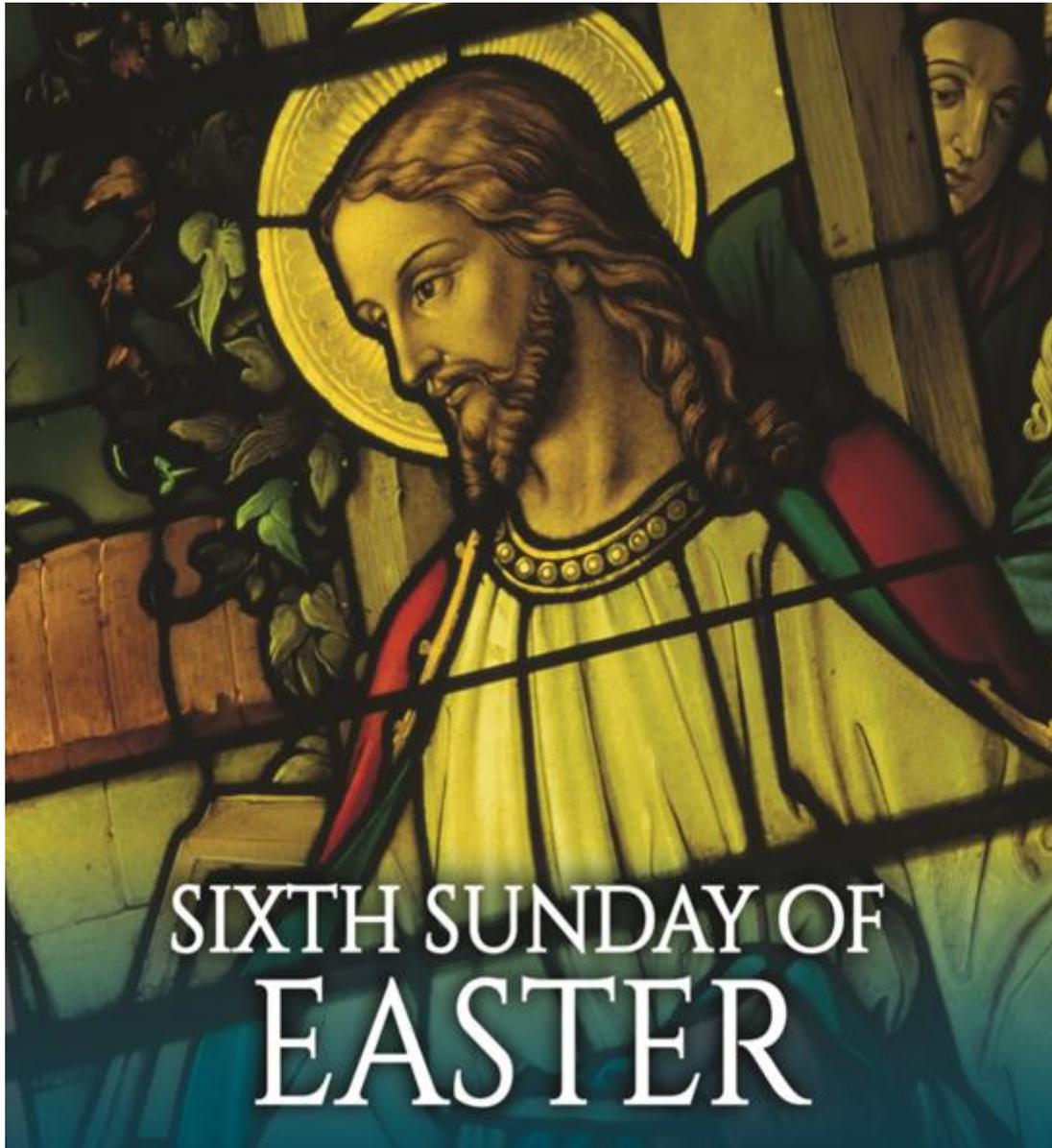


St. Mary's Church
Cubbington



Sunday 9th May
6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 9th May

Dear Friends

This will be my last letter to you all, as Reverend Graham has now recovered well enough to be taking on a lot more of his Parish work, albeit work not requiring verbal communication.

I am thanking God for all he has done for my husband, but the human side of me obviously prays for a great deal more healing that speech and swallowing can be further improved upon. With everything, we continue to give our prayer requests to God and keep trusting in our hearts....easier said than done...

Anyhow, we are blessed to have enjoyed a few days away in sunny Wales, where the mountains and sea never fail to lift the human spirit.

Upon returning to Cubbington – always a joy to see the village signs welcoming us home, it struck me how much has changed in the village since we as a family moved here from Lillington back in 2012.

I guess the most obvious changes to behold within the church are the incredible achievements Reverend Graham has actioned during his Vicariate here....Firstly, the completion after many, many years of the new St Mary's church room, a wonderful addition for the church and village and a venue we can hopefully all embrace and enjoy again once Covid 19 restrictions are over.

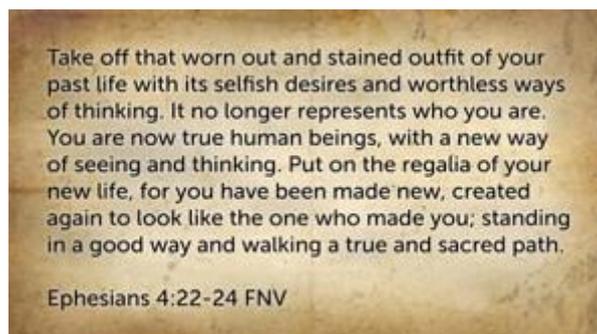
Secondly, working with the Diocese, the clearing and legitimate acquisition of the churchyard extension – formerly Glebe Land which has enabled more land to be used for burials and interments. This was a wonderful development for the church as many churchyards are now closed. Both of these changes are positive and a wonderful testament to team working here in Cubbington.

Sadly, not all change is seen as positive and we continue to witness the impact of HS2 on our beautiful surrounding countryside, our trees and fields. I am not here to politicize, but I can feel the emotion of how change can impact on the human soul when trees need to be cut down and fields utilised for transport development.

There are other changes, such as the new builds on Coventry Road, which are very much needed by local people. For some, housing development remains a political hot potato. During the pandemic, building sites have remained open allowing the construction sector to keep moving and house building in particular is an important part of getting the UK's economy back on track. The government plans to 'build, build, build' and the delivery of more housing will hopefully meet the growing demand and help rectify the current housing shortage.

Undeniably, all major builds change the shape and personality of familiar local geography, but similarly in our own Christian lives, change is part of life and virtually impossible to stop. We all need to work as individuals to evolve and find our own way to deal with changes in our own lives. In the bible, the apostle Paul talks extensively about transformational change and how by coming to know God better, through a personal relationship with Jesus, that our lives can change and be transformed for the better. And how as a church community, we can make change happen in our own communities for the better.

In Ephesians 4: 20-24 highlighted here we can read the following verses:

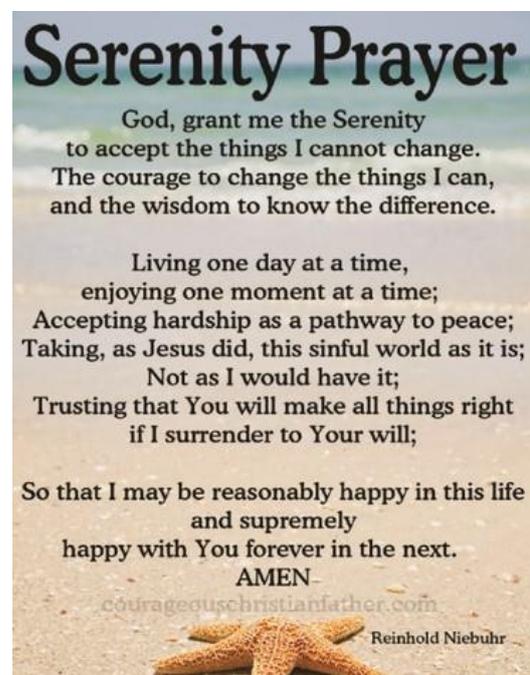


I (like many other people) do not always like change, but as a Christian, when change beckons, I am required to put all my trust in God and wait for him to show me the way.

I hope you are able to draw on your own faith when times get tough... which they inevitably do and know that to change is to grow in ourselves and in our own understanding.

Mahatma Ghandi said that; 'You must be the change to see in the world'. In other words, although life changes are inevitable, we can also initiate personal change so we can rise to the challenge and become a better person for it.

I sign off this letter by referring to words from the American theologian and commentator Reinhold Niebuhr often referred to as the Serenity Prayer:



Take care dear friends. I look forward to seeing you all soon either at church or in the wider village and beyond.

P.S. Thanks ever so much for all your kind feedback with regard to my weekly letter contributions over the last few months. It has been a privilege and in a strange way, quite therapeutic.

Signing off with blessings...

Sam xxx

6th Sunday of Easter and our readings are



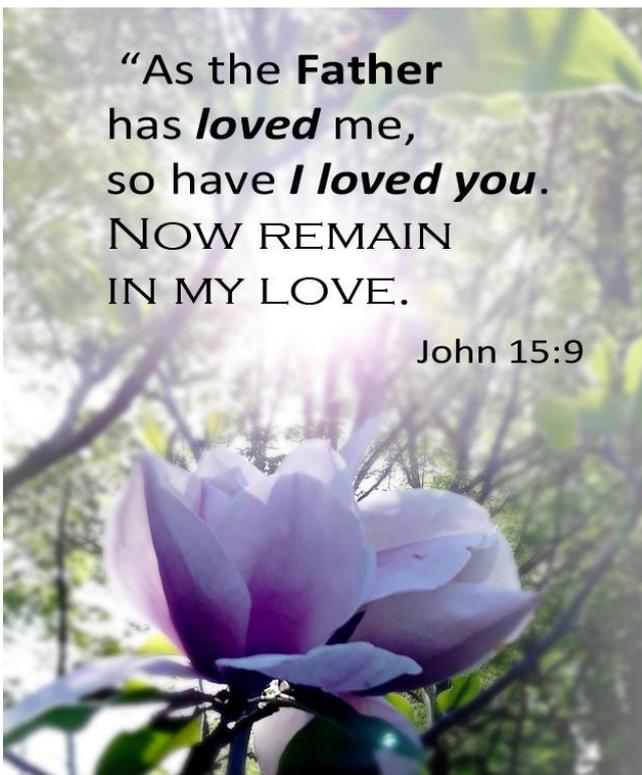
Acts 10: 44-end

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who

had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

and the Gospel reading is



John 15: 9-17

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved

you. ¹³ Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

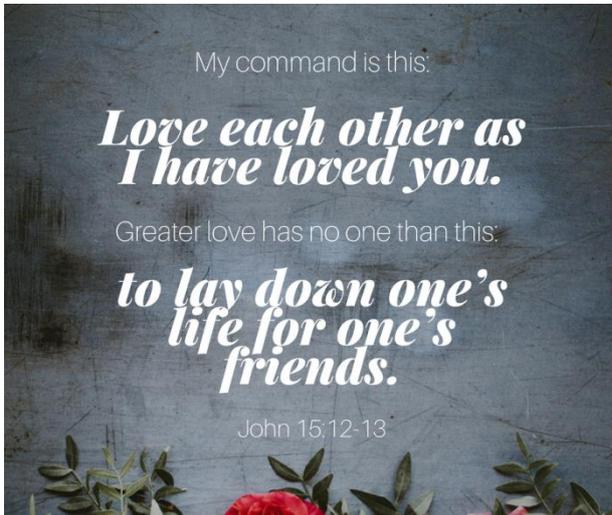




Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
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.



SUNDAY 9th May

Altar Flowers:
Betty STALLARD

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**Service Today 9<sup>th</sup> May**

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

**Service for**  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

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

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This Week

Monday 10th May 2021

7.30pm: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
In Church



Thursday 13th May
ASCENSION DAY