

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

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Greetings from the Vicarage, I hope that you are keeping well and you all have had a wonderful Easter.

What a beautiful day Easter Sunday was, God really smiled on us with His bright sunshine. In the early evening I walked down to the churchyard and followed the Stations of the Cross, which were all excellent and very moving. By the time I reached the final station which was in the church porch the sun was just going down. On one side of the porch was the beautiful spring flower arrangement still lit with sunlight and on the other the Easter Garden with the stone rolled away revealing the empty tomb. A fantastic visual reminder of what God did for us all those years ago.

Easter is one, if not the most important festival in the Christian calendar. For me it is always extra special since visiting The Holy Land because although I didn't visit at Easter time (one of the busiest times of the year) I followed The Way of the Cross (the path Jesus walked carrying His cross) on both occasions I was there.

Today the Old City of Jerusalem is much extended from the time of Jesus which means although we read in the bible that Jesus was taken out of the city walls to be crucified, today all of the Stations of the Cross are actually inside the walls of the Old City.

Each of the stations are marked with a sign which allows you to follow His path and understand what happened at each place. I walked it once early in the morning and once late in the afternoon to avoid the crowds. The first time I made the journey I was struck by how noisy it was and the way in which everyone around me seemed to be going about their business as usual with no reverence or thought for where they were. After thinking about this I realised that this would have been the same as when Jesus walked the route.

To walk in the footsteps of Jesus on His way to the cross is humbling and moving and something that will stay with me always. Walking around St. Mary's churchyard visiting the stations brought back to me walking through the cobbled streets of Jerusalem.

The final stations are now found inside the large Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The place where Jesus' cross was placed is marked by an altar in one of the many chapels. To touch the rock where it was mounted you kneel under the altar and put your hand through the floor.

The final station the tomb where Jesus was laid is close and directly in the centre of the Church. You may have seen a recent documentary about the refurbishment of the tomb following fire damage to its outer walls. The tomb is entered by crouching down and squeezing through a small entrance, there is only room for two or three people inside the tomb. Time in the tomb is limited to a couple of minutes because of the amount of people wishing to visit and is monitored by a local priest.

I can't explain the experience of being in the small tomb, able to touch the place where Jesus was laid until it was time for Him to be resurrected but those couple of minutes were very precious and reminded me of what we read in our second letter from John.

Jesus endured Holy Week including the cross following His Heavenly Fathers will, (not my will but yours). Why, because God was prepared to sacrifice His only Son to save us all for our sins, He paid the price for everything we have done wrong and will do wrong.

He was resurrected to life and established as the Son of God and lives for evermore.

To sum up what God and Jesus did for us in one simple word- it would have to be LOVE.

Revd. Graham





What I like about the Stations of the Cross is that we can walk along with Jesus understanding all that He endured for us through pictures and a few chosen words.

Here are some of the photo's I took in Jerusalem.



At many of the stations there is a chapel, sometimes very small with a painting or a sculpture showing what happened to Jesus at this point of His walk to the cross.

Station two Jesus carries His cross.

Station three Jesus falls for the first time.



Station six is where Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



Station seven Jesus falls for the second time.

A street along the Via Dolorosa,  
The Way of the Cross.



Station number nine is where  
Jesus fell for a third time.  
The crosses are there for  
you to carry with  
you along the way.





Station twelve marks the position where Jesus died on the cross. You can see the stones through the glass and to touch them you crawl under the altar to the right.

Kneeling under the altar to touch the stones where the cross was positioned.



Station thirteen, the stone on which Jesus was anointed. Each lantern represents a different Christian denomination

who have a chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



The final Station, number fourteen Jesus is laid in the tomb.

The front and entrance to the tomb. People queue all the way around it and at times out onto the street.





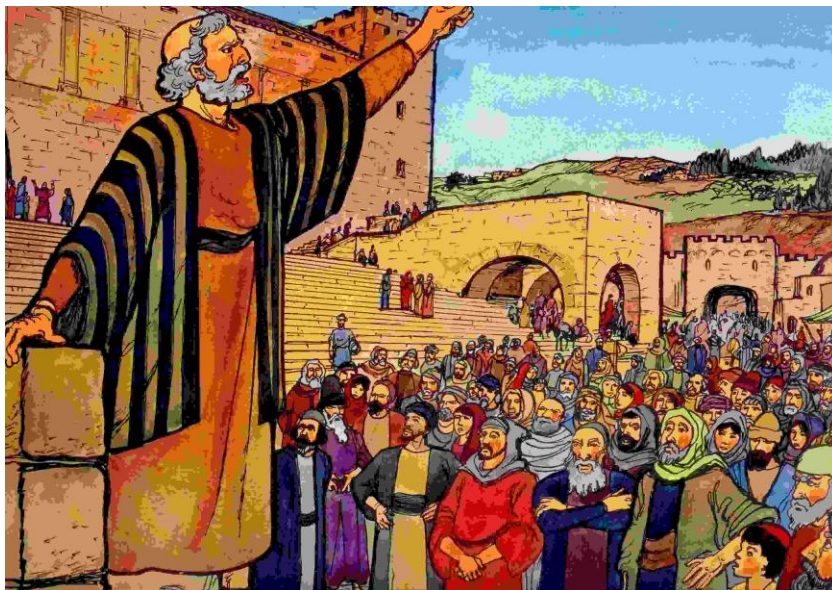
## Low Sunday and our readings are

Acts 4: 32-35

### The Believers Share Their Possessions

all the  
BELIEVERS  
WERE OF  
ONE HEART  
AND MIND  
AND THEY  
SHARED  
EVERYTHING  
THEY HAD

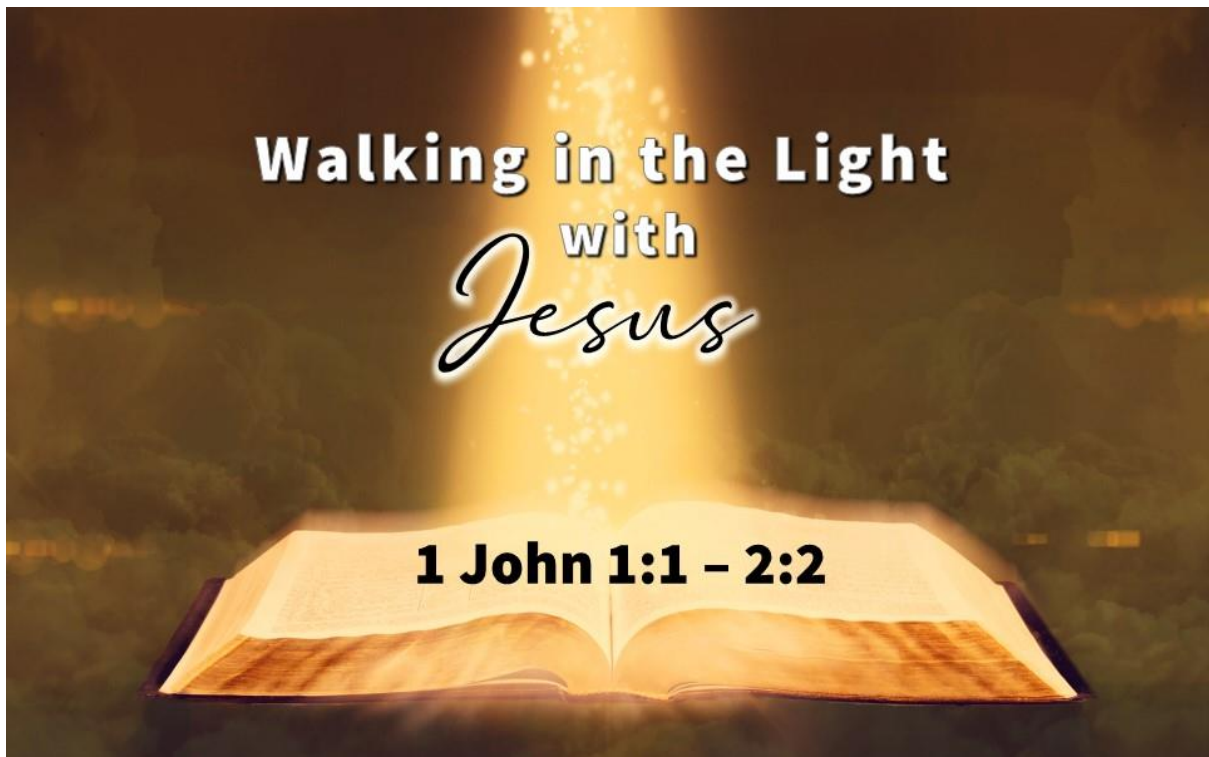
<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.





and the Gospel reading is

**1 John 1:1 - 2:2**



## **The Word of Life**

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We write this to make our joy complete.

## **Walking in the Light**

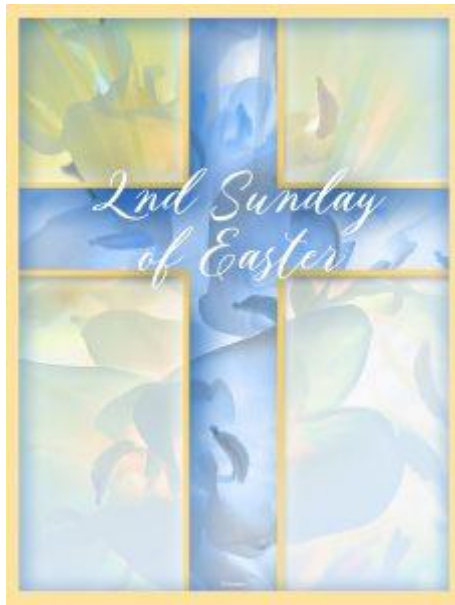
<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

BUT IF WE WALK IN  
THE LIGHT,  
AS HE IS IN THE  
**LIGHT,**  
WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER,  
& THE BLOOD OF JESUS,  
**HIS SON,**  
PURIFIES US FROM ALL SIN.  
**- 1 JOHN 1:7**





## ***Collect***

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# **SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**Low Sunday**



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## **SERVICE TODAY**

Invitation only

**10.00am: All Age Service**

## **Service for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Common Worship**

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## **This coming Week**

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

Many Congratulations to  
**Colin and Christine Daly**  
who celebrate their

**Golden Wedding Anniversary today**



### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**12.30pm: Burial of the late Michael GOVERN**

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## **Date for your Diary**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Please see APCM booklet for details.**