

# St. Mary's Church Cubbington



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

# Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April

## EYES

Isaiah 33:17

'Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold a far stretching land'.

## Dear Friends

It has now been a long time since we were required to wear face coverings/masks as part of Government Covid 19 regulations when upon entering shops and other establishments.

It was actually July 24th 2020 when the directive became law. I don't know about you, but it seems much longer than that and I think it seems likely that we will be wearing them for a long time to come yet.

People may need to wear face coverings and socially distance for several years until we return to normality, a leading epidemiologist has predicted. Mary Ramsay, the head of immunisation at Public Health England, said basic measures could be in place until other countries successfully roll out their own vaccination programmes.

Face coverings and masks reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. Currently, people in the UK are asked to wear them where social distancing is not possible and where the virus could easily pass between people - on public transport, or in shops and churches for example.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said he hopes face coverings would become the norm on public transport as a matter of "personal responsibility".

This got me thinking about all aspects of our communication with each other. I think most people would agree, that it is much more difficult to understand and appreciate both verbal and non verbal communication when our nose and mouth have a face covering and that now more than ever, EYE contact is important.

Unless one wears a clear face shield, our face masks will thankfully leave our eyes uncovered, but we still have our ears visible for which I am very grateful for. More than ever we are using our other physical senses to help with communication.

Direct eye contact is harder for some people more than others. This could be due to physical situations, for example if people have eye disorders or visual impairments, or simply if someone is much taller or shorter in height than oneself... it's hard to maintain eye contact in that instance, especially when wearing a mask.

On the flip side, there are people who suffer with social anxiety or are shy in their personality that report that they now feel more confident by wearing face masks, much more at ease with communicating. There are always two ways at LOOKING at something, whether that be a situation or an event. There are two sides to every story....maybe that's why God gave us two eyes.

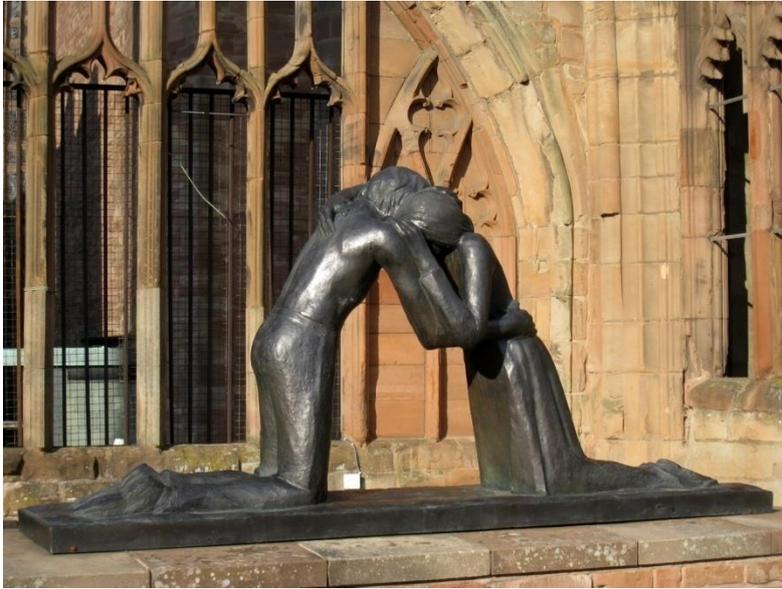
So what does the bible tell us about seeing and looking?

Well, perhaps the most obvious verse that people might recall is in Leviticus 24 where 'An eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth' is scripted. It is highlighted again in Matthew 5: 38: 'You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' Scholars describe this as retribution justice.

However, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus urges his followers to turn the other cheek: You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. Undoubtedly Jesus premise is not about revenge, but forgiveness, always forgiveness.

How good are we at forgiveness? Is it more in our nature to seek justice? This is very much for us as individuals to reflect on, but surely to always strive to follow Jesus' teachings and example for our lives.

Our Mother church Coventry Cathedral has at the very heart of its message that of Peace and Reconciliation.



Cathedral Church of  
Saint Michael,  
Coventry Cathedral

As Christians, let us all continue to work towards peace and reconciliation and continue to use our eyes to seek out injustice and suffering when we witness it and then have strength through God's Grace to offer help and support when it is needed.

Yours in Christ's love  
**Sam x**

Psalm 119: 18

'Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of your Law'



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and our readings are

Acts 4: 5-12

*Jesus*

*Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name  
under heaven given to men  
by which we must be saved.*

*Acts 4:12*

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

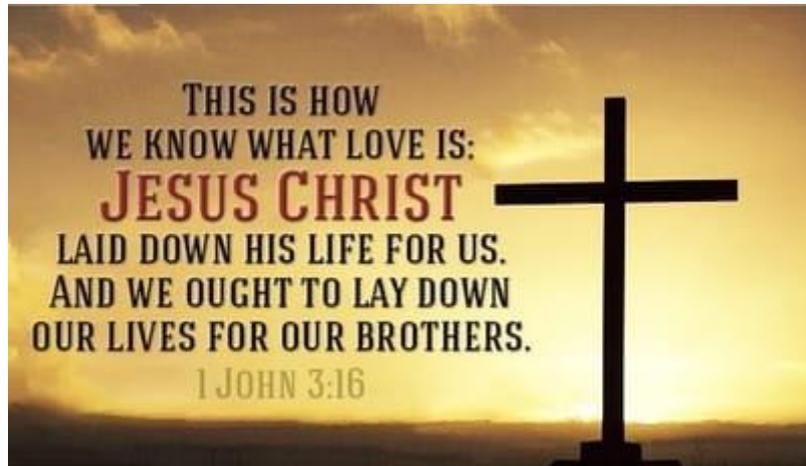
<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> He is

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

and the Gospel reading is

**1 John 3: 16-end**



<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup> when-ever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.



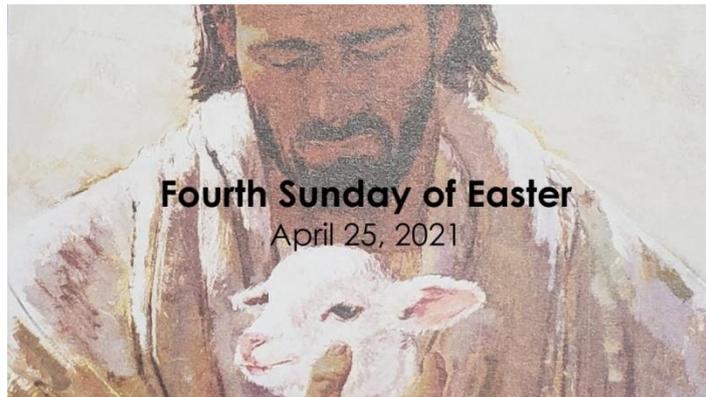
## ***Collect***

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**



# **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> April**



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## **Service Today 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Invitation only  
**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**

## **Service for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Invitation only  
**10.00am: All Age Service**

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## **Date for your Diary**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Please see APCM booklet for details.**

