

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 13th June
2nd Sunday after Trinity

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Greetings once again from the vicarage. I hope you have been able to enjoy the sunshine; I've spent most of the days out in the garden, as you know there is always plenty to do at this time of the year. Nothing like a bit of sunshine to bring on all the plants and flowers not to mention the grass and of course the weeds.

I spent nearly three hours sitting on the mower cutting the top churchyard, what used to be the Glebe Land the other evening and I filled seven of the green bins with grass cuttings. It was a lovely evening and I managed to see and speak to several people including a couple of families who were making the most of a glorious evening and were out for a walk. On a good day it's a beautiful setting overlooking the churchyard and watching the people tending to their relations graves. The only hard part is emptying the grass cuttings into the bin, otherwise I just ride up and down in a world of my own.

In both of our today's readings there is mention about planting seeds and trees. Our Old Testament passage is from the prophet **Ezekiel chapter 17 verses 22 – 24** and we read about the hope that God gives to His people when they put their trust in Him. He tells them that He will plant a tender shoot; God is referring to the Messiah and whose kingdom will grow and become a shelter for everyone who comes to Him.

The site for this shoot is on the top of the highest mountain in Israel. This is the biblical Mount Hermon situated in the Golan Heights in the far north of the country. This cluster of mountains contain three summits and form the border between Israel, Lebanon and Syria. Most of Mount Hermon is within the Israeli controlled area and constitutes the Hermon Nature reserve.

The Park is a beautiful area full of fruit trees, flowers and shrubs. It also has the beginning of the river Jordan flowing through it. The lower part of the mountain was the meeting and worship site for many pagan religions and today there is evidence of the caves that were carved into the rock.



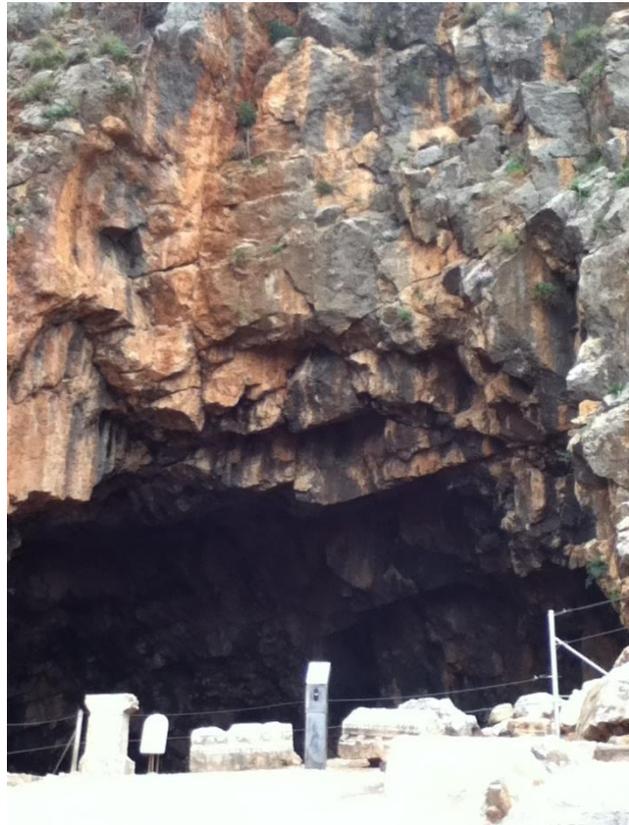
*An orange tree in the
Hermon Nature
Reserve*



The beginning of the River Jordan in the Hermon Nature reserve.

It is here that when Jesus visited with His disciples and looked at the people worshipping the false idols, He asked His disciples two particularly important questions. “Who do the people say I am?” followed by “But who do you say that I am?” **Matt.16: 13-15 & Mark 8: 27 & Luke 9: 18-20.**

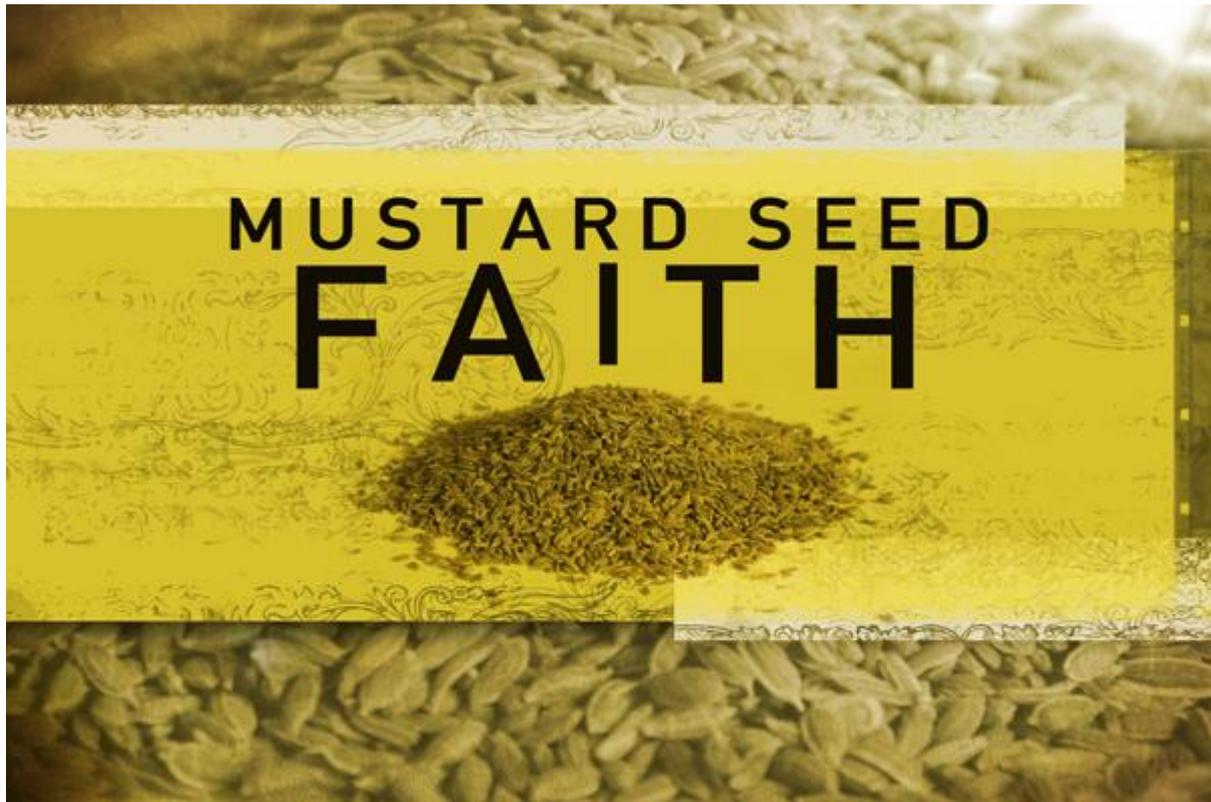
Cave at the base of Mount Hermon used for worshipping false Gods.



This is a question that I often think about because it is at the heart of our Christian faith, who is Jesus? Simon Peter’s answer was “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

What would be your answer? Personally, Jesus is my rock, I know that it’s a familiar Christian term, but I think it describes Jesus very well. Rocks are firm, stable, and make for a good foundation; they are unique and reliable and last forever, all the characteristics that we find in Jesus. There is of course much more to be found in Jesus, the love and trust that only comes from Him and all through His grace. None of us deserve the sort of favour that He offers to us, but with Jesus there is no deserving or not, just affection because we are all part of His family. It might help you to write down all the words that express Jesus and pick out the ones that especially speak to you.

In Mark's gospel we read in chapter 4 verses 26 – 34 about what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus uses two parables the first about growing a seed and then about a mustard seed.



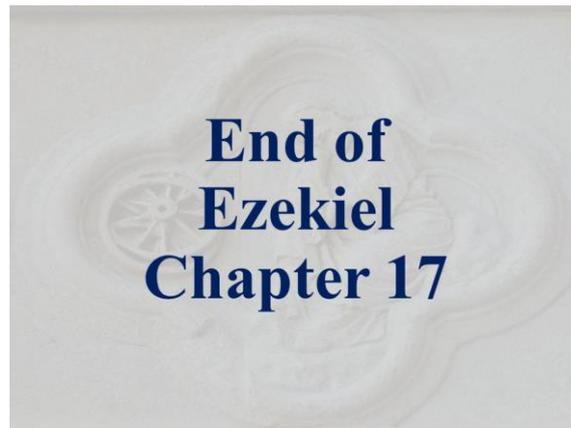
In these two stories Jesus likens our growth of faith to that of seeds that take a little to time to grow to full maturity. Our faith starts very small but in time will grow larger and stronger as we come to know God deeper. The Christian faith started very small in the Holy Land after Jesus' death and resurrection but has grown and spread throughout the world.

If ever you feel small or alone, think of how God is building a worldwide Kingdom of believers to which you belong. He has faithful followers in all parts of the world, and no matter how small your faith may be, you can join in with everyone else and accomplish great things.

Amen.

Faithfully Yours in Christ.
Reverend Graham.

Trinity 2 and our readings are



Ezekiel 17: 22-end

²² “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴ All the trees of the field will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

and the Gospel reading is

Mark 4: 26-34



The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

Collect

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is
counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
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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## **Trinity 2 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Altar Flowers – Sue, Anthony and Adam SIMMONS**

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Service Today 13th June

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

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### **Service for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

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

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