

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



**Sunday after
Ascension Day**

**Sunday 16th May
7th Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 16th May

Greetings from the vicarage, I hope that you are all keeping well and looking forward to the relaxation in the rules about meeting up and who and what you can visit, which come into place tomorrow.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held last week and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Some of you I haven't seen for about four months. For those who couldn't make it, everything went well and we appointed two churchwardens, three PCC members and one deanery synod member. The usual reports from each of the church groups were sent out in advance and if you haven't seen one and would like to have a copy, please let me know and I will make sure you receive one.

I managed to welcome everyone and say an opening prayer and then I handed over to my assistants to read out what I had written. This worked well and the whole meeting including worship lasted only twenty minutes. May be something to consider for next year!!

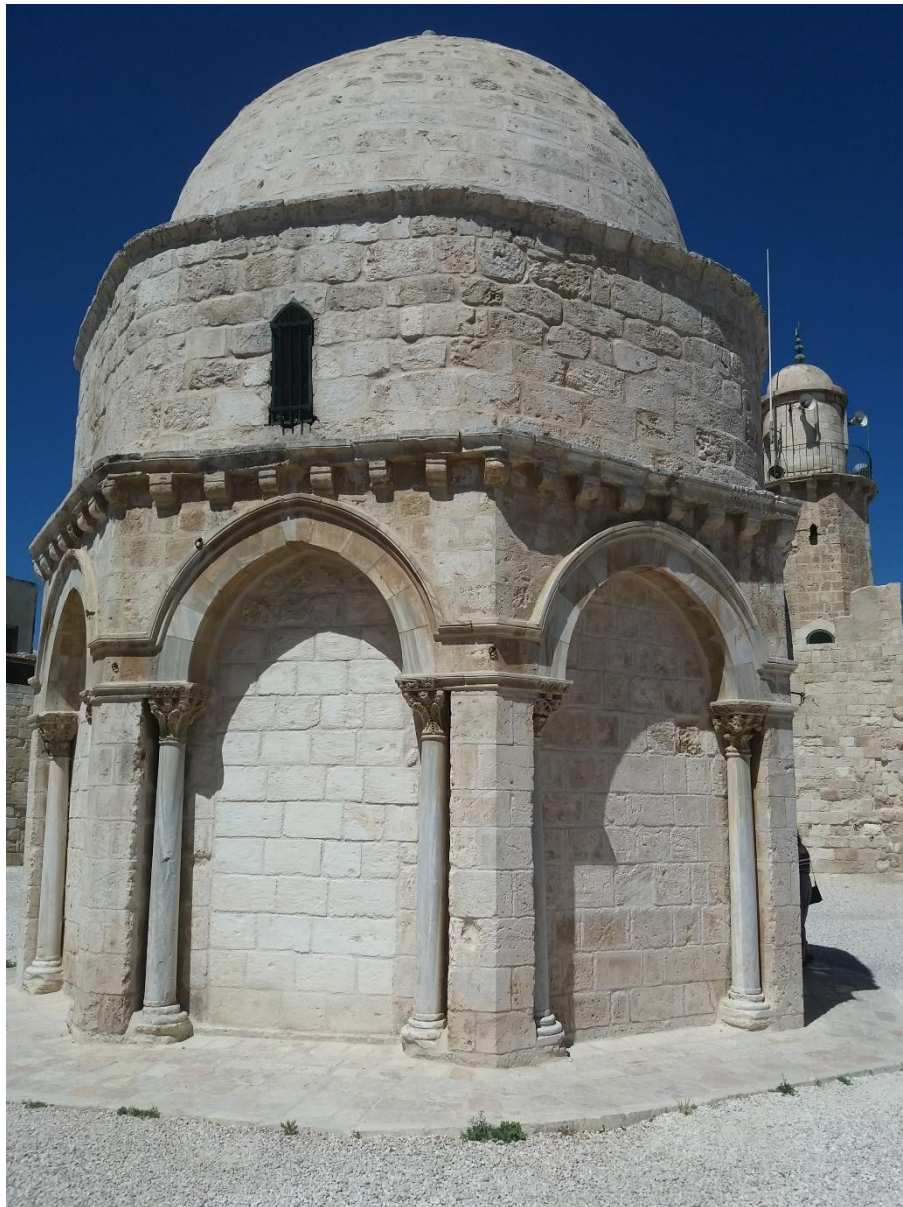
Also last week (Thursday) the church celebrated the Ascension of our Lord Jesus.

Jesus returned to Mount Olivet, The Mount of Olives, on which the village of Bethany sits. This is a short walk away from Jerusalem. He travelled with His eleven disciples (Judas had killed himself) and as we read in our passage today from Acts, his replacement had not yet been appointed. They walked to the very top of the mount and Jesus was lifted up to heaven.

According to 'The Golden Legend' a medieval manuscript, the mountain possessed some remarkable symbolism. The mountain was also known as the Mount of Three Lights, because from the west the light from the Temple fell upon it by night, for a fire burned continually on the altar. In the morning it caught the sun's rays from the east before it reached the city,

and the hill's olive trees produced a good supply of oil to feed the light.

Today after crossing the main road that runs around the Holy city of Jerusalem, you walk up a very steep narrow road to reach the top of the mount. The site where Jesus ascended is marked with a 12m octagonal building which is all that is left from the last church built on the site. It was taken over many years ago by Muslims who maintain it and charge a fee to walk around it or to venture inside the tiny space.





Whilst I mention the Holy City of Jerusalem, I was very saddened to see on the news the fighting that has broken out between the Israelis and the Palestinians. We know that there has been conflict and tensions between these people for many years and for many different reasons, the most prominent being the ownership of the land.

On the television report last night one of the places that they had filmed was the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Temple Mount. This is the site where in Jesus' time the Temple stood.

On my last visit there I walked around the huge site with Sophie, spending most of the day there. To think that same most holy of places is now a battle ground is shocking.



May I urge you to hold the Holy Land in your prayers. Praying for peace and for a way forward for all who live in and around Jerusalem. I watched a very short interview with a Palestinian man who said, “We are being driven out of our homes, it’s no wonder the young people are moving away from this country”. That is exactly what I was told in Bethlehem by a member of the Syrian Orthodox Church over a cup of coffee after the service in his church back in 2012. How terrible that people can’t find a solution to their difficulties and allow each other to live peacefully.

My daily readings for this week are from Romans chapters 12 and 13 and they speak all about living a better way – living in Christ. The opening title in my bible notes is a verse from John’s Gospel ‘Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’

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BE
Joyful
IN HOPE,
Patient
IN AFFLICTION,
Faithful
IN PRAYER.
ROMANS 12:12
—

Now we know that love is at the centre of our faith in Jesus and yet we can still fall out with one another. We also know that this is not right and at these times love is not easy and we maybe don't feel like turning the other cheek.

But there is another way to deal with the situation. St. Paul suggests that by loving that person points us to God in whom we put our trust. And who knows? In our loving, faithful obedience to Him, the heart of the person who has upset us might be turned towards God.

To pick up on today's Gospel reading from John chapter 17: verses 6-19 Jesus prays for His disciples, I'm sure we all pray for our family and friends, but what about praying for those we've fallen out with or have done something we don't like. Praying for those who have disappointed us removes a great burden; all the thoughts that keep running through your head disappear. It's a bit like forgiving someone, you have a choice to forgive and free yourself or continue to hold a grudge and go over and over the wrong in your mind. Who is actually hurting you or has upset you? The chances are they don't even know.

Pray for your family and friends, pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, pray especially for those who, you don't really like and pray for God's peace for our world.

And finally-

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.



*and this is
eternal life*

that they should know you,
the only true God,
and the one whom you sent,
Jesus Christ.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7th Sunday of Easter and our readings are

Therefore It Is Necessary To
Choose One Of The Men
Who Have Been With Us
The Whole Time The Lord
Jesus Went In And Out
Among Us,

Acts 1-21

Acts 1: 15-17 & 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David

concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus - ¹⁷ he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

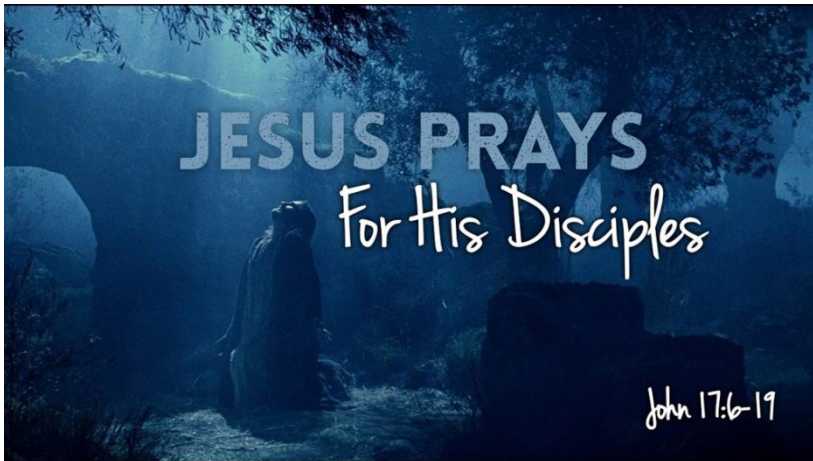
²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

MATTHIAS



Apostle

and the Gospel reading is



John 17: 6-19


Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were

yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-the name you gave me-so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.



I am
with
You
Always

Matthew 28:20



Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

SUNDAY 16th May

Altar Flowers:

Joyce DAVIES, Brenda NICHOLSON and June CLEAVER

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## **Service Today 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Common Worship  
Holy Communion**

### **Service for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**

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Announcement

It is with great sadness that we announce the
death of our dear friend and faithful servant

JILL COUTTS

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At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The following were elected as

**Churchwardens:**

**Sam COLES**

**Sue SIMMONS**

**Lay Member of the Deanery Synod:**

**Jo KING**

**Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council:**

**Christine FOSTER**

**Stanley IRELAND**

**Judith SHARPE**

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