

St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 20th June
3rd Sunday after Trinity

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FATHERS DAY

Dear Friends

Greetings from the Vicarage.

How wonderful the weather has been to us this past week and how it defines all of creation that we are so fortunate to have all around us.

I guess you have already heard from last Monday's announcement from the Prime Minister that we are not moving to a full removal of Covid restrictions due to other emerging variants of the virus that have appeared.

I imagine by now you will have received or seen the note sent out regarding our church services. It reinforced the invitation to everyone to attend any or all of the weekly or Wednesday mid-week communion services. This of course was assuming that the restrictions had been lifted...sadly, I'm afraid we will now have to wait for another few weeks until we can go ahead with those plans.

In the meantime we will continue as we have been, by maintaining 'invitation only' services. When the restrictions are eventually lifted - our plan is to (for a period of time) continue with our Sunday Service at 10am per week and one monthly mid-week service also at 10am.

The main reason for this is that I am currently unable to lead worship and we are at present reliant on retired or local clergy to help and support us. The situation has become a little more difficult recently as two of our regular retired ministers have now 'properly retired'. Father Roy and Canon John - both of whom have faithfully served St. Mary's Church for many years. Both are now in their 80's have decided that the time has come to step down from their ministry and spend some well deserved time with their families.

I am deeply grateful for their committed service given to us all here at St Mary's church and of all of the help and support that they have both given to me personally in my own ministry. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing them both a healthy and happy retirement.

Having spoken about the subject of clergy and services, our first reading which comes from St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians seems very appropriate.

2 Corinthians chapter 6 v. 1-13. In this letter, Paul writes out of his own personal experience of knowing God to try and help others to benefit from the great experience of hearing and believing the true message of salvation and what difference it makes to 'know' Jesus well.

Remember the complete change in Paul's character from a devout Jew who was committed to persecuting Christians then transforming into a devout Christian himself, becoming a leading light for all Christians speaking and acting in a way that would draw others to faith in Christ. In verse 4, Paul reminds us that each of us as Christians are all true 'Ministers of God', not that we can go without our licensed Vicars and Priests, but that we should all work together to promote the joy of being a Christian.

I am reminded of the letters: WWJD which stands for 'What would Jesus Do' that was popular a few years ago. It is a good phrase to reflect upon, especially to help clarify one's thoughts before one acts or speaks to others.

St Paul always gave thought to how his words and actions communicated his faith in Jesus Christ. What do your own actions or words say about you or indeed me?

Moving onto our second reading, we continue in St Mark's gospel with the account of where Jesus calms the storm. In **Mark chapter 4 v. 35-41**, we read about the Sea of Galilee (which receives its water from the River Jordan). If you saw the photograph in last week's booklet which showed the beginning point of the River Jordan, right up in the north of Israel in the

Golan Heights. From there it flows south and enters the Sea of Galilee before continuing further south into the Dead Sea.



The Sea of Galilee near Capernaum.

The Sea of Galilee is 680 feet below sea level and is surrounded by hills. It is the winds that blow down the valley that develops the waves that form on the sea. On my second visit to the area when I took my daughter Sophie, we witnessed this very occurrence on the surface of the sea.

A car is required to visit and view all of the important biblical sights which are dotted around the Sea of Galilee. We decided that due to the extreme heat that our plan would be to go out early in the morning to visit the sights we wanted to. In the afternoon, we sat by the sea. Each day the sea was calm and flat until one afternoon we witnessed and felt a wind building, which although was quite refreshing, whilst viewing the sea, small ripples built into larger waves we often see on our own coastline here in Britain which are often fierce and wild. What was amazing was how quickly small ripples on the Sea of

Galilee grew into bigger more powerful waves, highlighting the bible passage from St Mark's gospel.



***The beach on the shore of the Sea of Galilee
which we visited in the afternoons.***

Naturally, this was a physical storm on the sea, but it serves as a reminder as to how storms can present themselves taking many different forms in our own lives, where we can be thrown off course and buffeted around. Anything that concerns us personally or is 'difficult' in our lives can be likened to a personal storm. When personal storms hit, we have two choices. We can either worry about it and cry out to God asking ourselves 'Where is God when I need Him?' or we can continue to trust in Jesus who is all seeing and all-knowing safe in the knowledge that He is beside us, standing close to us as Christians in our times of trouble.

In Mark's gospel the disciples showed a lack of complete faith in Jesus' potential ability to calm the stormy sea. This resulted in them being fearful of what might happen.

He had spent time with them teaching them, but still they underestimated his awesome power.



Relaxing on a calm Sea of Galilee.

Jesus has been with us for over 20 centuries now, but we still underestimate his power and strength to help us in a crisis. The disciples didn't know enough about Jesus in the early days, we however can't make the same excuse.

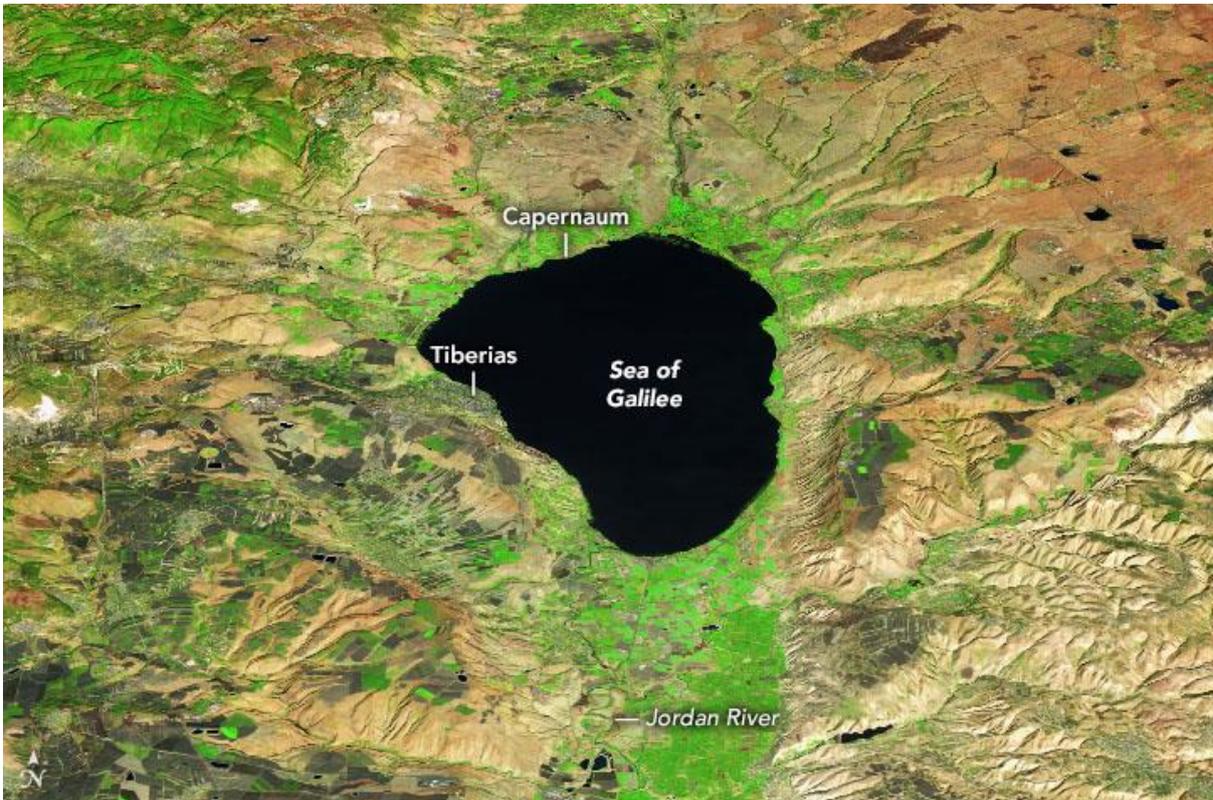
Amen.

Faithfully yours in Christ.

Reverend Graham.



The Sea of Galilee at Tiberias.



Trinity 3 and our readings are

As God's Fellow Workers
We Urge You Not To
Receive God's Grace In
Vain.
2 Corinthians 6-1

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

6 As God's fellow-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

“In the time of my favour I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

Paul's Hardships

³ We put no stumbling-block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³ As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

and the Gospel reading is

Mark 4: 35-41



Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”



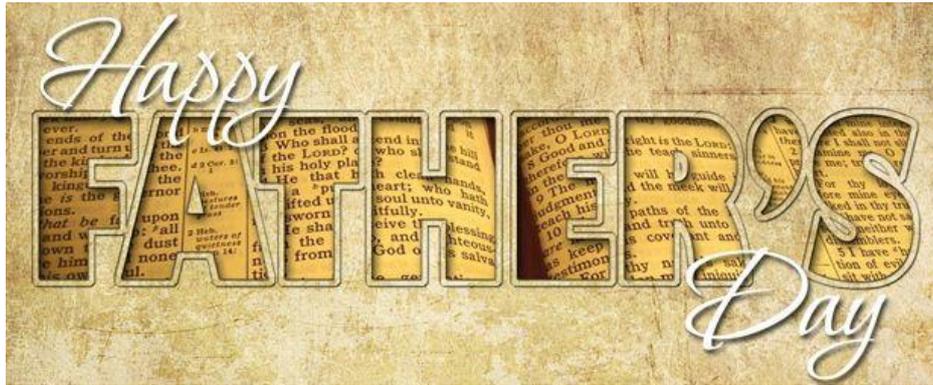
Jesus Calms the Storm



Collect

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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.

Trinity 3
Sunday 20th June



Altar Flowers – In memory of George VICKERS

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**Service Today 20<sup>th</sup> June**

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

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**Service for
Sunday 27th June**

Invitation only
10.00am: All Age Service

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**This coming Week**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June**



**2.00pm: Wedding**  
**Ian TINGLING**  
and  
**Helen Isobel WALDRAM**