

St. Mary's Church
Cubbington



Sunday 2nd May
5th Sunday of Easter

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Dear Friends.

Hello again. How are you all?

It is my turn to write to you this week.

Some of you may have seen me walking around the village recently as I am trying to reconnect with the Parish whilst also getting some exercise.

So far, I have sat in during one service and it was lovely to be back in our beautiful church worshipping God, albeit in a new way.

I am limiting my attendance in church to some degree - especially with visiting clergy unknown to me, as it may prove off-putting to them, with me as St Mary's Vicar, sitting at the back of the building watching their every move! I want all clergy and laity working with us to know how much we value each and every one of them.

My wife Sam recently took me to Wales for some convalescence for 10 days which was very relaxing, allowing time for healing and reflection. We were blessed with stunningly beautiful countryside and glorious sunny weather.

Days were spent walking - often to the beach, where our lovely Labrador dog Ruby enjoyed swimming in the sea- typical Labrador, whereby water is always a great attraction.

I read many books which have been sitting patiently in my study for a while which was wonderful. There was also an opportunity for uninterrupted sleep, which my doctors all agree is healing in itself.

Two books that I read were about the two World Wars. One of them was written by a Padre during World War One, which detailed his experiences as a practical down to earth Cleric. He was attached to several battalions and when they were required to be sent forward to the front, he went with them to the trenches. His accounts were therefore descriptive with regard to the daily horrors faced by the soldiers which were dire and desperate.

In the past, I have read many books about both World Wars and have visited the places highlighted by photographs in those books many times.

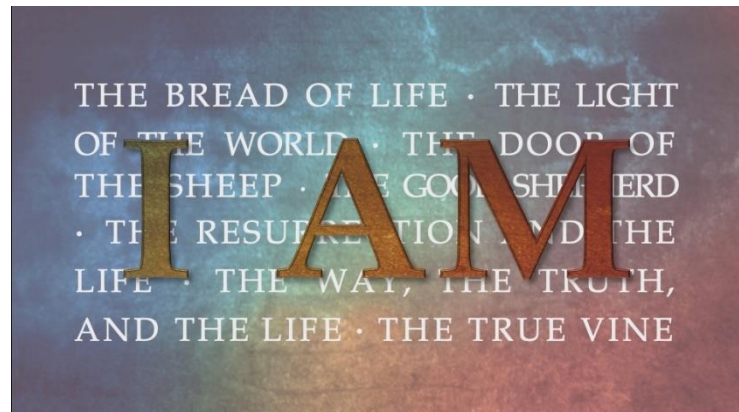
To read a daily account of a soldier's suffering was humbling in the extreme and gave me time to reflect on how fortunate I am, despite my own health battles.

What I found to be so very encouraging and heartening was reading about the amount of soldiers who were already Christians and looked forward to the Padre's services. There were many accounts also of men who came to know Christ as their saviour and were baptised and confirmed in and around the battlefields.

Today's gospel reading begins with the season of Jesus' I AM.

'I am the King. I am the bread of life. I am the light of the world. I am the door. I am the resurrection and the life....

Words of Jesus, all of which would have brought great comfort to those soldiers facing grave danger, surviving rather than living.



We don't have to wait until we are in a desperate situation to get to know and remember Jesus' words.

His words of comfort, hope and protection are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Sometimes the enemy can be within us, a concern or a worry. Give these to God in prayer, set them aside and set yourself free. Jesus went to the cross to set us all free should we choose to follow him.

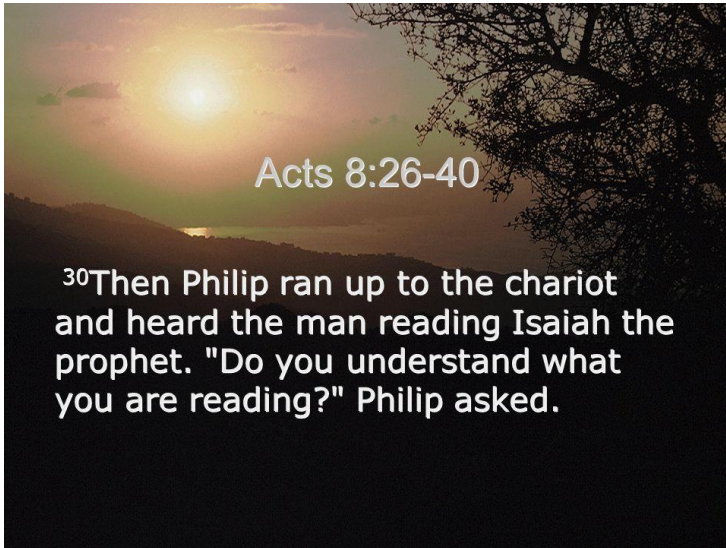
We are Easter people with the promise that we are not abandoned or left alone. We can be confident of the Lord's continued presence as he walks alongside us for ever and always.

Yours faithfully in Christ.

Reverend Graham

5th Sunday of Easter and our readings are

Acts 8: 26-end



Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip

began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptised?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

and the Gospel reading is

John 15: 1-8

The Vine and the Branches

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



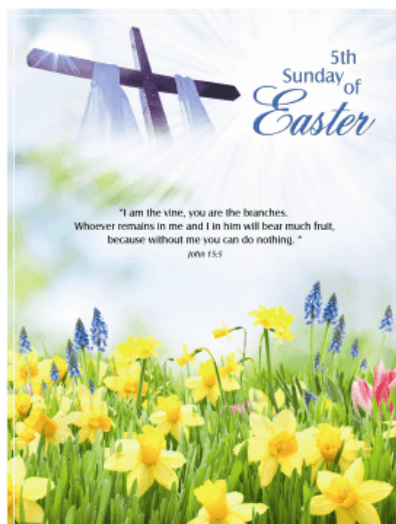


Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



SUNDAY 2nd May



Altar Flowers: **FLAVELL FAMILY** and **Jean FLETCHER**

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## Service Today 2<sup>nd</sup> May

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

## Service for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

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

## Service for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May

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

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Congratulations to
Pat FLETCHER
who celebrated her
90th Birthday
on **Saturday 1st May.**

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Dear All.

Just a short note to thank you all for your prayers, good thoughts and lovely flowers which helped to carry me through many weeks. I am progressing back to recovery now. All praise and glory to God.

Lots of love and humble gratitude to you all.

Tricia xxx

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Monday 10th May 2021

A Message from Bishop Christopher

The Bishop's House, 23 Davenport Road, Coventry CV5 6PW

THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY
The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth

telephone: (024) 7667 2244
bishop@bishop-coventry.org

23rd April 2021

To all the Parishes and Church Communities of the Diocese of Coventry

Dear Friends,

It impossible to express the full extent of my appreciation for the depth and breadth of the work that has been carried out across this diocese in what has been the most extraordinary year.

I extend my thanks to everyone – clergy and laity – who have worked tirelessly in the midst of adversity. Because of you, empowered by the grace of God, we have been able to live out our shared purpose of worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities.

I also extend my thanks to each and every one of you who has financially supported the work of the Church in this diocese in whatever way you have been able to do so. I know that many people are facing financial hardship or have seen a drop in their household income. Many churches have also lost income from hall rentals and wedding fees – these are indeed challenging times.

The diocesan accounts for 2020 are still being audited. However, I can tell you that the Diocesan Board of Finance received 90% of the Parish Share contributions that were budgeted for 2020. I am hugely grateful for all the contributions that were received - thank you!

Broadly speaking, Parish Share accounts for about two-thirds of our diocesan income. It is used to pay for the cost of parish ministry for everyone in this diocese, no matter where they live. The costs of bishops and cathedral ministry are funded centrally by the Church of England, and the diocesan office team is funded in a separate way. So your precious gifts of money are there to ensure that our dedicated clergy are trained, receive their stipends and have somewhere to live.

In this year, which has seen such loss and suffering, I find it quite amazing that so much has been achieved. It has been wonderful to see churches, supported by diocesan staff, re-adjusting and re-imagining their mission and ministry. There has been a remarkable movement to delivering much of Church life online, and there are wonderful examples of reaching out through Christian social action to our communities in their need.

To give thanks to God's work among us and through us, a Day of Prayer is being planned in the Cathedral on 25th September. There is much more to be done, and the journey forward will not be without its challenges, but we have much to look forward to, and with our faith rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we thank God for all that is still to come.

Thank you for the part that you are playing in the life of God's kingdom

With every blessing,
As ever, yours,

+ Christopher