

St. Mary's Church Cublington



Sunday 6th June

First Sunday after Trinity

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Greetings from the vicarage.

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying the beautiful weather that we are now having, let's hope it continues.

Our first reading takes us back to the very first book in the bible, **Genesis chapter 3 verses 8 – 15**. It sounds as if Adam and Eve were having the same lovely weather as we are at the moment because as we read the fruit was ripe and looked so delicious that Eve ate some and then gave some to her Adam. As we know this was a big mistake, this was fruit from the forbidden tree the one that God had specifically told them not to touch.

Isn't it always the case that things that look the best are the things we can't have? And when we are told not to touch something, we can't help ourselves, and have to lay a hand on them. This starts when we are very young with our parents telling us "Don't touch that" when of course as soon as their backs are turned, we go straight ahead and grab it! As we grow up, we learn right from wrong, but despite this we still can't help ourselves at times and do things which we know is wrong. Most of the time we might think we've got away with it and it's not detrimental to us or others but occasionally our sin has an effect and does hurt others.

What we often overlook is the fact that no matter how small the sin we've committed is and how pleased we are at getting away with it, God sees everything. We might think that nobody is none the wiser but we've overlooked God just as Adam and Eve did. For them He was in the garden and as soon as they sinned, He appeared, and they paid the penalty which meant they were thrown out of the Garden of Eden. We on the other hand are much more fortunate, we are not going to be banished from our land for going against God, which is just as well or else no of us would be left. God in His grace sent Jesus and allowed Him to go to the cross to pay for all of our sins.

That doesn't mean that we can go about doing exactly what we want, living a completely sinful life. It means that we have the opportunity to ask for forgiveness when we fall short of what we know is right. To say sorry to God when we have let ourselves be tempted and chosen to do what we want rather than what we should is what Christians are called to do.

This great generosity comes from God because He considers that we are all a part of His family. Jesus confirms this in our second reading from **Mark's gospel chapter 3 verses 20 to the end**. The heading from verse 31 is Jesus describing His true family. We all know Mary was His mother and Joseph was His father, but we also read in the bible about his brothers. It's not clear whether there were more children after Jesus or whether the term 'brothers' refer to cousins which was the tradition in those days.

When Jesus spoke about His family it was far more than just His physical birth family, He was referring to His spiritual family in which we are all included. God's family is all accepting where no one is left out. In our computerized, impersonal world where so many people use social media to communicate, face to face warm relationships among members of God's family are more important than ever. The church can give the loving, personal care that many people find nowhere else.



Two photos taken inside a cave on a mountain overlooking Jerusalem of a Palestinian family who have lived in the same place for generations.



One of the main influences that led me to apply for the position at St. Mary's was YOU the people. I know that there were a few difficulties at the time, and when I put in my application form, they were mentioned to me. My response was that I believe that where there are people, there will always be different thoughts and opinions and it's probably better to know about them in advance, rather than finding out about them later.

I believe that over the years we have worked hard to address some of the underlying issues here and St. Mary's is a place where newcomers are made very welcome and that is down to you all, so thank you.

Since the lockdown started, we have included many extra people in our 'Weekly Message' and several of them have been attending church each month. It will be so good when we are able to fully reopen the church with no restrictions on number to start encouraging and welcoming again even more new people into God's family.

Amen.

Faithfully Yours in Christ.
Reverend Graham.





Two more photos of the Christian family from St. Marks Syrian Orthodox Monastery that I stayed with in Jerusalem.



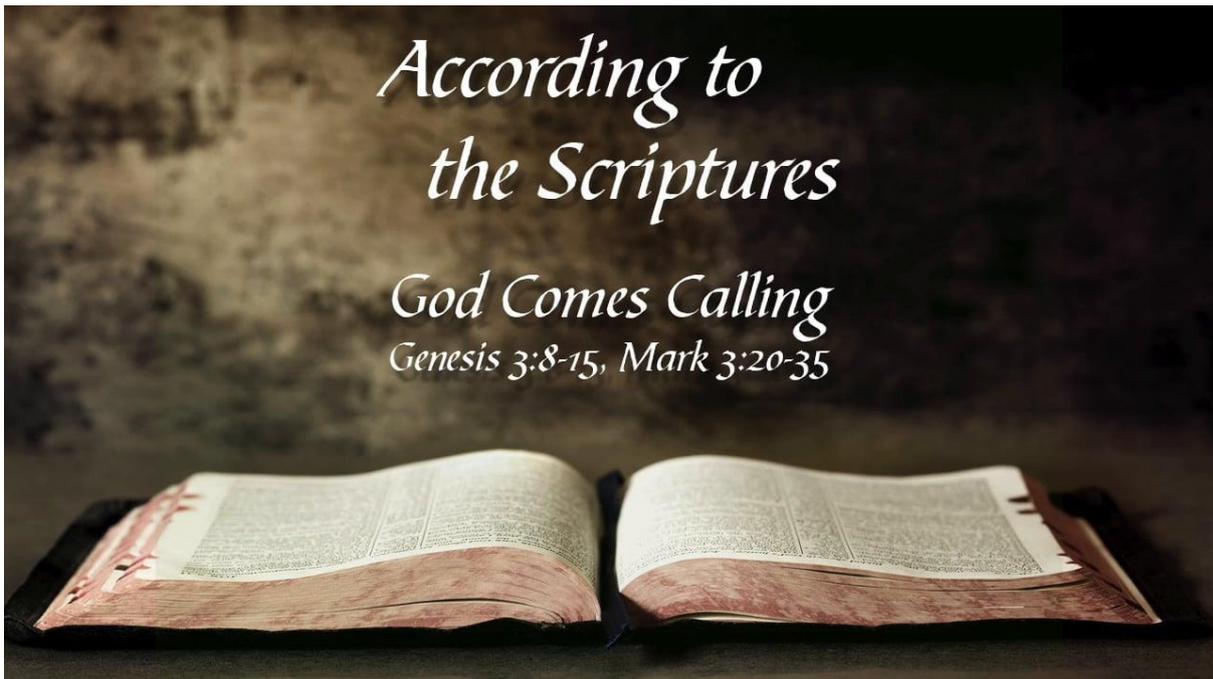
A Prayer for our family

Father, Son and Holy Spirit
we thank you for the gift of family,
the family who nurtured us and brought us up,
the family that we may have been fortunate to form,
and the extended family for whom
we have responsibilities.
Never let us forget that every family
is part of your creation,
granted to us by your grace
and precious in your sight.

Amen



**Trinity 1
and our readings are**



*According to
the Scriptures*

*God Comes Calling
Genesis 3:8-15, Mark 3:20-35*

Genesis 3: 8-15

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.
¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

and the Gospel reading is

Mark 3: 20-end

Jesus and Beelzebub

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

²³ So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. ²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

³⁰ He said this because they were saying, “He has an evil spirit.”

We Are Family

A row of colorful silhouettes representing diverse people: a purple figure, a yellow family, a green figure with a red balloon, a green baby carriage, a red family, a person in a wheelchair, an orange family, and a green figure with a red balloon.

TRINITY 1

Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal
nature

we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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 1 Sunday 6th June

Altar Flowers – Pat and Peter GAGG



**Church Flowers –
Wedding of
Christopher Stuart KIRBY
and
Charlotte Victoria LEE**

Service Today 6th June

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

Service for Sunday 13th June

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

This coming Week

Wednesday 9th June

10.00am: Book of Common Prayer
11.30am: Interment of ashes for the late
Roy **TITCOMB**