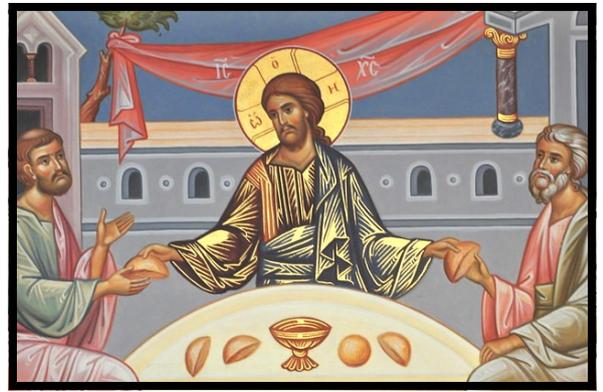


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## The Third Sunday of Easter



My dear friends,

Amidst the continuing lockdown, there are increasing signs that we have a flattening curve in the terrible morbidity rates - each death a human soul to mourn. At the same time we see pressures growing for the opening up of societal contact, yet this will surely be a necessarily slow action on many fronts. In the meantime, we seem united and connected in many ways not experienced for some time within our society, particularly at a local level. This is positive. As I mentioned at the end of the service last Sunday, one of the worrying aspects of the lockdown is mental health. Please do remember those who suffer. We will all have moments when we feel less positive than normal. Yet our Faith is about connectedness at the very deepest level: The creator God of all, whose **is** love; Jesus Christ - who gives himself in love to us to draw us to fulness of life; and the Holy Spirit - the fire of Divine Love longing for our interior response.

I am reading Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' latest book - '*Morality - restoring the Common Good in Divided Times.*' It's not a preach-fest, but an excellent exploration of what it means to belong, numbering the facets of life which should bind us together as a society. His fundamental message is that we should think more of 'we' than 'I' - something fundamentally at the heart of the Christian Faith, rooted as it is in Judaism. This is surely the way forward for a society which seems in many ways to have lost its roots. We, as members of the Body of Christ, are called to reveal this love and concern for the other before ourselves. Indeed, it is how we find our true selves. I think I might have said that before!

One sad piece of news. I heard at the beginning of the week of the death of Robert Norris from cancer. Robert has been a blessing in many aspects of church life for many years. Please do pray for Caroline and David, his daughter and son, who continue the care for their mother, Anne.

With my love and prayers for you all at this Eastertide,

Michael (*Vicar*)

Please check the church website for details of services  
etc.: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

## The Third Sunday of Easter: 9.45 - Parish Family Eucharist Services during the week

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (*Common Worship*)

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (*Iona/Celtic*)

**Friday: 11.00am** Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

### Next Sunday: Easter IV

**9.45 Family Service**

**11.00 Parish Eucharist for Eastertide** (*Common Worship*)

**All services live on Zoom: Click on the link on the front page of the church website before services and you will be admitted—you enter a waiting 'area' and then join everyone.**



*The Collect for Easter III*  
**Almighty Father,**  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciple  
with the sight of the risen Lord;  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his  
risen life and serve you continually in righteousness  
and truth; 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 forever. Amen.

*A prayer for this time of anxiety:*  
**God of all compassion, your love never fails.**  
Help us to listen to the tranquillity  
of your presence within our lives,  
so that we may grow in the knowledge  
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,  
and your Holy Spirit comforts us  
at the heart of our being;  
for you are One God,  
world without end. Amen

## Luke 24: 13-35

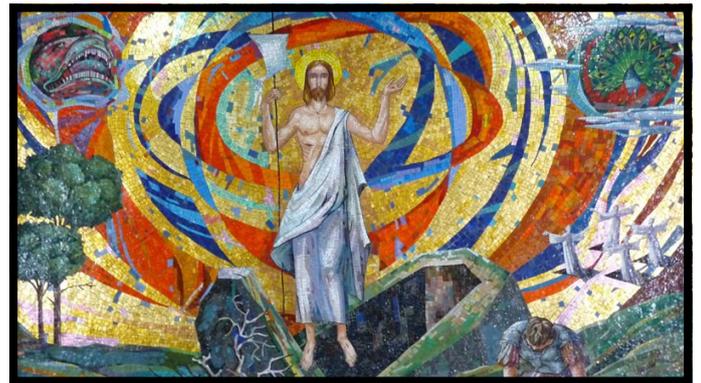
<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup> He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>[d]</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## A thought

Today Luke leads us on a journey along the Road to Emmaus, and all that follows after it - a supper and hurried journey back to Jerusalem. It is, perhaps the most moving passage in the whole of Luke's writings and, like John's account of Resurrection, full of vivid imagery. Again, we experience the sense that there is almost a divine game of hide-and-seek going on. As Mary Magdalene initially doesn't recognise the Lord until he calls her name, and Thomas won't accept the resurrection until he sees the wounds, so too Cleopas and his friend are in the dark as to the Lord's presence with them until that moment when he is made known to them in the breaking of the bread. The divine game of hide-and-seek is over for them, and their lives are transformed through the breaking of that bread. Can you imagine that journey back to Jerusalem, and the flood of joy they brought with them - 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?' Luke 24 v32.

As it was for Cleopas and his friend, so it is for us and all God's people. In every time and in every country, Jesus is made known to the faithful in the breaking of the bread. Through the grace of Holy Communion, the Lord seeks to make his presence a strengthening reality within our lives. When we bless and break the bread, we are united with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout all ages and places. Through receiving, we have true life in him, because we are drawn into the divine story through the dynamic of his love. In this time of physical separation there will be an inevitable deep sorrow that virtually no one is able to take part in the physicality of Communion - the fulness of participation. Yet the Holy Spirit works within during our Spiritual Communion, and although this is not the same as the act of receiving the Lord in bread and wine, nevertheless, God still seeks our relationship in allowing the Divine will to work within that *'which is well pleasing in his sight,'* - the dynamic of Jesus's love in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit calling us to proclaim his death and resurrection as the path to the fulness of life itself. Heb. 13: 21

Living God,  
Your Son made himself known  
in the breaking of the bread;  
Open the eyes of our faith,  
That we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
Who is alive and reigns, now and forever. Amen



### Please remember those for whom we pray:

**Immediate Need:** Archdeacon Fiona, Susan Arnaouti, Ken Taylor, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Michael Hilton, Yvonne Godsmark, Sally Cruse

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Vi Muddle, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Jane Terry, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Marilyn Archbold, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley

### Please remember the recently departed and their families: Robert Norris, Doreen Webster

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 26th Charles & Oliver Woodcock, Dr. Timothy Carter, Christine Hawkes, Maxine Lower, 27th Violet Wachett, Edith Packham, Michael Gerrish, 28th Barbara Cheal, Trevor Penfold, Edith Gathercole, Olive Lyall, 29th Raymond Hookham, Patrick Toseland, Jonathan Cavender, 1st Isabel Durham, 2nd John Wilcox, Gerald Leaney, Derek Wood, Robert Buckle, Douglas Simpson