

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD



Joyfully serving Jesus

Weekly devotions, prayers and news

EASTER DAY



Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

My dear friends,

In the extraordinary times in which we live, it is easy to become despondent, particularly when we hear news of the large number of people losing their lives to Covid-19. The news at the start of the week that the Prime minister was in intensive care will have brought home to many just how vulnerable everyone is. Please pray for all who are suffering, those who care for them together with those suffering from loss.

Into this rather grim scenario, the light of Easter breaks forth. What does this mean? It reveals a God so loving that Jesus Christ gave himself on the cross to draw all people to knowledge not just of this love, but to new life - resurrection life; a call to love God and all those we interact with within our lives. In doing so, we become ever more the people God calls us to be. Life in Jesus Christ is the fulness of life—there is nothing better.

As this crisis continues, let us seek to show the joy of the Risen Life of Jesus Christ in whatever way we can.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all who have so generously enabled our worship to continue to prosper, and particularly those who have contributed to Holy Week, thus leading us to Easter Day. I would like particularly to thank those who involved with the technology, for readers, responders, and our preachers; Jonathan Berry, Clive Simmonds and the Very Rev. Nicholas Frayling. We are so grateful.

Please remember that if there is anything I can do, do contact me. The details are on the website.

With my love and prayers for you all for a very happy and blessed Easter,

Michael (*Vicar*)

EASTER DAY: 9.45 - Parish Family Eucharist Services for Easter 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 II - Low Sunday 9.45am Parish Eucharist for Eastertide

Please check the church website for details of services etc.: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

All services live on Zoom: Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2471610099?pwd=SWVlQWVxYkk4VjkzRkdxMm1WMEljQT09> Just click on the link (also on the front page of the church website) before services and you will be admitted—you enter a waiting room and then join everyone.

The Collect for Easter Day

Lord of all life and power
Who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
Overcame the old order of sin and death
To make all things new in him;
Grant that we, being dead to sin
And alive to you in Jesus Christ,
May reign with him in glory;
To whom with you and the Holy Spirit
Be praise and honour, glory and might,
Now and in all eternity. 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

John 20: 1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

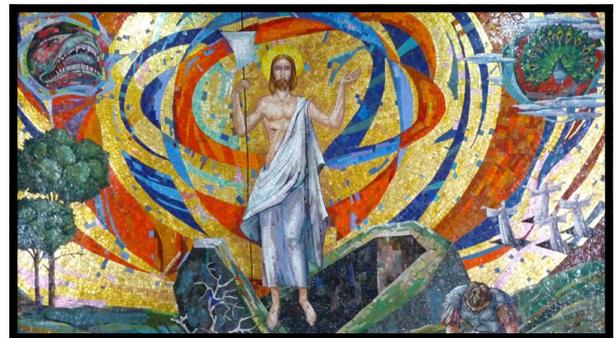
A thought

The various Gospel accounts of the Resurrection are all designed to give us some understanding of the momentous nature of an event that shapes not just our Faith, but the relationship between God and humanity and thus the whole of creation. With the major concerns over the environment, we now have a much clearer idea about the consequences of the way we live our lives. In some ways, the present pandemic affords us the opportunity to focus on what really counts. Relationships are to the fore. Sometimes this will be painful (particularly in those which are abusive or destructive), but we are also seeing the best of people in many avenues of life - much of these examples are exceedingly moving. Here we see the Resurrection Life of Christ being played out in the everyday lives of humanity. Although many would not profess to holding faith in an orthodox way, nevertheless God works through them—this is the love of God in creation at work. Jesus displays the fulness of such life, at one point quoting from the prophet Isaiah: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are bruised; to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.* (Luke 4: 18-19) although the true fulness of Christ's call to life is only achieved by his Passion, Death and Resurrection. As part of the Body of Christ we are always to seek this life found in him. In doing so; in following him through Word and Sacrament, we allow God to renew not just us, but *through us the 'face of the earth.'* Psalm 104: 30)

John's beautiful scene in the garden between the Lord and Mary Magdalene is moving in its sense of emotion and connection. As Jesus calls Mary by her name, so he calls each one of us. But he says, 'Do not hold on to the physicality of my presence. Be Spirit filled and led. Be part of the new Creation of Love, transforming the world.' Well, those are **my** words, reflecting on the gift of one who keeps giving! Our Easter Life is true life - the fulness of life - bound in the one who endured the cross in order to lead us to share in the Divine Life itself - the greatest gift anyone can receive.

God of Life

Who gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy;
grant us so to die daily to sin
that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Archdeacon Fiona, Susan Arnaouti, Ken Taylor, Robert Norris, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Michael Hilton

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: Anne Atkinson, Audrey Selby and Jenny Hudd

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 12th Marian, 13th Willimina McKenzie, 14th Betty Elphinstone, Dan Batchelor, Frederick Bayfield, 15th Albert Jones, Keith Shakespeare, 16th Ann Lacey, 17th Ian Todd, 18th Clive Rees