

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

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



My dear friends,

Today we have the beautiful imagery of the Good Shepherd, and you will find some thoughts about this on the reverse of this sheet. In spite of the consequences of the current crisis (and on so many unfolding fronts) ours is a faith which teaches us to know the abiding love of God, knowing that Jesus walks with us in every situation.

Some news: On Thursday we will be trying a new venture on Zoom called 'Grill the Vicar - Honest questions, honest answers.' This is a desire to reach out to the wider community, so please pray that it will draw others to explore our Faith. Hopefully I won't end up charred! Jonathan Berry is moderating the session which starts at 7.00pm and will be over in time for the clapping at 8.00pm.

Please may I remind people who are participating in services - reading, interceding or responding - that it would be very helpful if they would log on well before the service starts to help those running the technology.

The Rev. Sandra Hall: Sandra's operation has been postponed to next week. Please hold both her and her parishes in your prayers at this time. She is most grateful for our support, but please don't overwhelm her with contact.

I heard from Canon James Clarke at All Saints' Lindfield that he is retiring. This was planned for July, but now deferred until the present situation on lockdown is clearer. Please pray for James, his wife Chris, and the parish of Lindfield. James has had a distinguished ministry and will be greatly missed.

Jane Haughton is singing at Ensemble Reza's lunchtime online concert next Tuesday (5th May). You can view the concert live on their YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp-fenf137J\\_J4rCM620tqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp-fenf137J_J4rCM620tqw)

The scammers are at work again. Please ignore anything purporting to be from me (other than this newsletter!)

With my love and prayers for you at this Eastertide,  
Michael (*Vicar*)

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

### **The Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 3rd 2020):**

**9.45 - Family Service**

**11.00 - Parish Eucharist (CW)**

### **Services during the week**

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

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

**Friday: 10.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)**

### **Next Sunday: Easter V (May 10th 2020)**

**9.45 Parish Eucharist**

**6.00pm Choral Evensong for Eastertide (BCP)**



*Noli Me Tangere - Graham Sutherland, Chichester Cathedral*

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

*The Collect for Easter III*

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your father's sheep;  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all you people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things,  
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

### Acts 2: 42-end

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### 1 Peter 2: 19- end

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. *'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'* When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

### John 10: 1-10

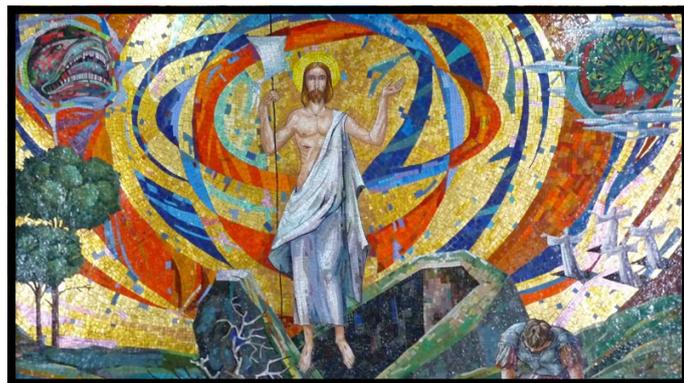
Amen, amen, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

### A thought

Many will know that I have a bit of a bee in my bonnet about the translation of John's Gospel where it concerns the highlighting the Lord's sayings. John prefaces these moments with a double Amen, so you know something important is about to be uttered. The King James translated this as 'Verily, verily,' (which is okay in its way) whilst the NRSV uses the feeble, 'Very truly.' I have 'invisibly mended' John 10. Do read it again and note what is being said. Note, too, that Jesus is responding to a question by some Pharisees. If you want to see the full flow of this, read from 9: 35, and then on to 10: 18. The imagery of the Good Shepherd is a powerful one within the history of Christianity, and represents the way in which the world of the time relied on agrarian culture, hence the analogy. We actually still do of course, but it is less obvious in our globalised culture (even though the present crisis will have certainly made many think). The importance of the image is the care of the shepherd and sense of connection with the sheep. The shepherds of first century Palestine were at the bottom of the pile in terms of social standing, and yet they provided an example of devoted care which Jesus draws upon.

You may think that the shepherd analogy doesn't fit with the modern mindset as an example, yet we see such care being shown on many fronts within our current situation. The person fighting for their life in a hospital bed is totally reliant on the action of those caring for them. In faith terms, we have an example of God whose love is so great for us that his Son is prepared to give up even life itself to bring us to full health - abundant life through the power of the Holy Spirit. As the shepherd accompanies the sheep, so we are journeyed with every step of the way by the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his friends - you and I. Peter puts this most movingly in today's reading from his First Letter: *'By his wounds you have been healed, for you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.'* (1 Peter 2: 24-25) Sometimes we might feel far from confident, yet his love for us never fails.

**Merciful Father,  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the Good Shepherd,  
And in love for us to lay down his life and rise again;  
Keep us always under his protection,  
And give us grace to follow in his steps;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



Mosaic of the Risen Christ - Congregation of the Resurrection, Chicago

### 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, Hannah, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page

**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, Graham Fleet, John Humphrey, Ian Nicholson, Jean Smith

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 3rd Eileen Hall, 4th Iris Simmons, Irene Garley, John Williams, 5th Peter Irving, 6th Angela Turner, Richard Beddington, 7th Dicky Brigden, 8th Wyn Capelin, Peg Goddard, Peggy Shortt, Thomas Coke, 9th John Randtoul