

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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



*The stoning of St Stephen - Peter Webb*

My dear friends,

We may, by Monday, have some indication of a way forward for the Nation in terms of a resumption of some elements of what we formerly regarded as normality. However, this will undoubtedly be much slower and more gradual than most will want. Undoubtedly whatever happens over the next few months will have profound consequences for places of worship and the way in which they function. You will all understand how I long to fling the doors of Holy Trinity open so that people are once more able to pray in that beautiful space!

However, I am realistic enough to know that for the foreseeable future we must find a new 'norm' for the worshipping community. In fact, I am moved and heartened by the fact that we have managed (along with many other churches) to continue worship as we have, and that so many people have been able to participate. This is a sign of the Holy Spirit at work quite as much as 'needs must.' Please pray for our outreach, particularly to those unfamiliar with or anxious about technology. As we move towards Pentecost and Trinity-tide, we remember the great riches of our Faith, together with our own call to draw others into the knowledge of God's love made known in Jesus Christ.

We will all have been lifted by the VE Day celebrations. I was emailed earlier in the week by a resident of the Cottage Homes to say that the war memorial had been cleaned. It looks wonderful. There will be the work of refilling the names around its base, but it is great to see it looking spruced up for this important commemoration.

One piece of sad news - I heard of the death of Vi Muddle early in the past week. She was a great character, and much loved not just by her family but by her many friends. Please pray for her daughters and the rest of the family. Please also pray for the Rev Sandra Hall as she prepares for an operation. Sandra - much love from Holy Trinity!

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 10th 2020):**

**9.45 - Parish Family Eucharist**

**6.00 - Choral Evensong** Preacher: The Rev. Karen Young

### **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 VI (May 17th 2020)**

**9.45 Parish Eucharist**



*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,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life;  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
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 7: 55-end

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

### 1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy..

### John 14: 1-14

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

### A thought

We live in an age when, even in the face of global pandemic, fundamentalism still blights humanity with so many awful consequences; from dreadful regimes holding people in the grip of physical and mental slavery, to the bombing of innocent people causing death and sorrow. So what of the words of the Lord: *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* Is Jesus speaking in the language of the time, or in similar mode to modern fundamentalists? Is our faithfulness to him fundamentalism? I believe that we must open our hearts to the Lord's words to see that this is absolutely not the case. **'I am the way'** - When we follow Jesus we are on a life-long journey - and are continually changed. **'I am the truth'** - Jesus is the truth who meets us where we are on the journey. The truth is not ours, but through faith in him we find out who we actually are - and his truth sets us free to allow this journey to take place. **'I am the Life'** - it is through travelling in the truth of Christ that we are enabled to grow in the fulness of life. I remember someone saying that if the way of life-giving truth causes conflict or even painful rupture, it is because the journey of truth through faith in Jesus brings to light to those things on which his light needs shedding, and this is sometimes a painful experience. If we allow ourselves to encounter the truth and journey the way of Christ, we ourselves become icons of God's love - artists of the Holy Spirit - offering true life to all we meet. The journey with Christ is open to all - the sustaining love of God. It is not an escapist's dream, but the gritty reality of knowing that the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life has walked life's journey before us. It is a call to dare ourselves to let our journey with him change who we are.

**Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
is the way, the truth, and the life;  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns,  
now and forever, Amen**



Copyrights used by permission of CCL. Licence holder number 5850 *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, Sally Cruse, Hannah, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page, George Snashall

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

**Please remember the recently departed and their families:** Robert Norris, Doreen Webster, Graham Fleet, John Humphrey, Ian Nicholson, Jean Smith, Tess Haggart, Vi Muddle, William Llewellyn

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 10th Muriel Robinson, Alice Glenister, Susan Hoad, Michael Sparshott, 11th George Anderson, Kathleen Bentley, Terence Darling, 12th Ronald Bailey, Ellen Harford, 13th Robert Brinley Codd, 14th Robert Aspinall, Dan Batchelor, 15th Peter Grimwade, Donovan Thornton, Frances Barrett, 16th Robert Goldsmith