

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus

Weekly devotions, prayers and news



6th century Mosaic - Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

My dear friends,

We are remembering and supporting the work of Christian Aid this year with a **Zoom Big Brekkie!** Please find details attached, but basically, if you log on from about 8.50 on Sunday to the church link, you are welcoming to enjoy your breakfast with others members of our online community. You will find details of how to give to Christian Aid on the attachment. As with all other charities, Christian Aid very much needs our support at this time. Do join us if you can.

Ascension Day falls on Thursday - a great day of celebration in the Church Year, and there will be a **6.00pm** Eucharist. Please do join us if you can. Clive will be preaching for us. Please note the time - you will be able to put the potatoes on to boil for later!

The period from Ascension to Pentecost is an opportunity to strengthen faith and spread the word about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Bishop Martin will be offering daily reflections at 12 noon online. Further details are on our website. Other resources can be found on the website: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

On Sunday week (24th May) I am delighted to tell you that the Bishop of Dover (The Right Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin) is preaching at our 9.45 Eucharist. Bishop Rose was until 2019 Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and I know that we will greatly enjoy her joining us via Zoom and hearing her message.

Several people have asked about the possibilities of further homegroups (online) in addition to the successful current one. Jonathan Berry has booked **2.00pm on Wednesday** on the church link to Zoom. Homegroups offer the opportunity to explore the Bible and grow in fellowship through interaction and prayer. Anything you say is valued and counts! Join Jonathan to explore the possibilities.

With my love and prayers for you all on our journey through Eastertide,

Michael (Vicar)

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

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 17th 2020):

9.45 - Parish Family Eucharist

Services during the week

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Thursday: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

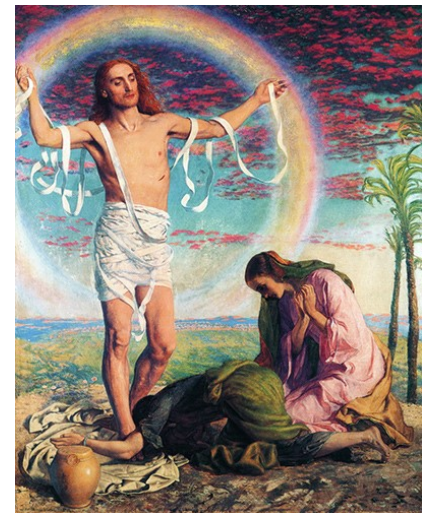
9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) 6.00pm Parish Eucharist

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

Next Sunday: Easter VII (May 24th 2020)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist

Preacher: The Bishop of Dover



The Risen Christ with the two Marys—W Holman Hunt

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 VI

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call
to your disciples
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme in love 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 17: 22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

1 Peter 3: 13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14: 15-22

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

A thought

There is a strong sense in our Gospel reading this week of our call (as St Richard's prayer puts it) to know the Lord more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly. This desire is one bounded in our lives seeking the inward-working of the Holy Spirit - the Advocate - on whom the focus falls at the Feast of Pentecost. Don't be put off by that word 'advocate.' This is not some adversarial legal relationship, but the very dynamic of God's love present within us all, and longing for us to grow in the knowledge of the vibrancy of the divine call and our task in making this a present reality in other people's lives. In this strange new world we now inhabit, it is needed more than ever. With the Ascension celebrated on Thursday, we have the opportunity to prayer with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world to bring others to know the great riches and blessing we find in following Jesus Christ. Look at Paul in our first reading! Standing on the Areopagus opposite the great compound of Temples in Athens, he challenges people to look beyond graven images to find true life through following the example of Jesus, who gives us the example of freedom in washing the disciples feet - self-giving - true Kingdom life. In the current situation where the world has suddenly grown smaller, our call is to enable others to look beyond the 'graven images' they themselves erect within their lives, and hear that simple message: You are loved beyond all measure. Find your full potential in following Jesus Christ and allowing the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide you to all truth.

**God, our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ
gives the water of eternal life;
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
Through him who is alive and reigns,
now and forever, Amen**



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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: 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, Vi Muddle, William Llewelin

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 18th Christina Watling, 19th Mary Baker, Eleanor Kingdon, 20th Ethel Carter, Raymond Marchant, 21st Olive Martin, Pauline Wallace, 22nd Harold Getliffe, Len Philipson, Margaret Nye, 23rd Riah Gill, Margaret Fraser, Margaret Pamplin, Merrill Beveridge, Winifred Dant,