

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The First Sunday after Trinity** *14th June 2020*

My dear friends,

Monday marks an important day for our church as we reopen the doors for private prayer. It is now nearly three months since we were ordered to close and the landscape in which we currently live is very different to the previous status quo. In order to be compliant with the social distancing many of the chairs have been removed. However, what is striking is the cross shape you see on the floor. This reminds us of the great truth of our faith: that we are drawn to the fulness of life through the power of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ—the author and perfecter of our Faith. (Hebrews 12: 2)

Please note that the church is intended to be used by individuals or family groups for prayer and meditation. Corporate worship is still not allowed other than for funerals. Hand sanitizer will be available, and the north, south and west doors will be open. We would rather you entered by the west door if you usually need to use the handrails on the north door. You are welcome to light candles on the prayer tree, but the spills are single use. We are suggesting that if you sit on a chair, you place a coloured card (by the north and west doors) on the chair after use.

All of this will seem deeply strange to all of us, but I know that you will be as thankful as I am that we are able to pray in our beautiful church once more. It may be that early in July small acts of worship will resume.

I would like to thank all who took part in our worship for Trinity Sunday. It was really great to have so many young people and families involved, and a great tribute to the expertise of our technological experts, Paul, Jonathan and David. You are all a blessing to our community.

We have now entered the Trinity Season and you will find the orders of service for both said and sung Eucharists on the website.

Please do remember that items are always welcome for the magazine. It's time for your 'lockdown-masterpiece,' or comment on the new life we lead - even recipes! Please email (in Word) to: duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

TRINITY 1 (14th June 2020):

9.45 - The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 6

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: 2 Kings 2; 1, 6-14, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Ecclesiasticus 48: 1-14, Matthew 6: 7-15.

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

Next Sunday: TRINITY 2 (21th June)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 7

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 Trinity 1

God of truth
help us to keep your law of love
and walk in the ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son
who with you and the Holy Spirit
pour your love into our hearts, one God,
now and for ever. 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,

Exodus 19: 2-8a

The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.' So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.'

Romans 5: 1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9: 35-10:8.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.'

A thought

The anger of people in the face of the senseless death of George Floyd is understandable, and it must be said that the nature of the way that most world-wide societies prioritises the well-being of citizens must be called into question. The alarming gap between the richest and poorest has led to many having no hope of escaping desperate poverty beyond our imagining. Within our own nation, refugees and migrants have become faceless commodities propping up society's life style choices. I say this not to make any political point, but there is no doubt that much is required to bring about healing and building cohesion within a deeply divided populace – divisions which exists for all sorts of reasons, including racism. I understand the frustration of those supporting BLM, although I believe that there are shadowy motives at play behind the recent protests which must be challenged. We all want a common working towards building a more equal society.

How are we to respond to this in the terms of Faith? Our readings today offer us the unique way in which Christianity approaches life and answers such questions. Our Faith is not something to dip into and remove the goodies we feel suit us at that moment, although it has become fashionable to do so. Rather it offers us a unique way of living life to its fulness with the understanding that each single person on this planet - no matter what our situation or status - is a greatly loved child of God. We are unique and cherished beyond our understanding.

This is revealed to us through Jesus Christ describe in the Nicene Creed as True God and True Man. There is a moment in the Gospel reading where Matthew profoundly captures this unity of God at one with our human state. Jesus reveals a new understanding of God as he proclaims the Good News of the Kingdom, healing and renewing

**Eternal God,
We thank you for nourishing us
with heavenly gifts;
may our communion with you
strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;**

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

people, until, Matthew tells us, *'he saw the crowds, [and] had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.'* The Greek word Matthew uses for compassion is one which means that Jesus was overwhelmed in a desire to bring the knowledge of God's love to the crowd. This is our own call too. We must not fail to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom open to all. It might get me in trouble for saying this, but for Christians, **all lives matter.**

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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Ken Taylor, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Hannah, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page, George Snashall, Carla Spear, Grace & Lucy, Leonard Robinson

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, Michael Hilton

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Niamh

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 14th Joan Humphries, 15th Gwen Gurr, Dorothy Yetton, Marjorie Bolton, Phyllis Scadden, Winifred Rollitt, 16th Ernest Malins, Montague Lowe, 17th Wendy King, Ian Waterhouse, Edna Harland, 18th Ruth Brown, Peter Pawson, 19th Kenneth Bunker, 20th Elsie Matthews, Gordon Mitchell