

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Second Sunday after Trinity** *21st June 2020*

My dear friends,

It has been good to see a small yet steady number of people visiting the church this week—more or less the numbers one would expect (without tourists). It has also been so lovely also to catch up (at a distance) with several members of the congregation. It is our intention to carry on with this as the new 'norm' until we have some idea of what is proposed next in regard to worship within church buildings. Watch this space.

One thing I would draw to your attention is a petition on the government website regarding weddings. We have, of course, been experiencing an unprecedented crisis, but it must surely be the case that as funerals may now take place in churches, so too should marriages, albeit with restricted numbers. Marriage is one of the building blocks of society, and it has been a sad part of my ministry telling couples whose weddings were booked this summer, that I had no idea when they might take place. It would be great to see some light at the end of the tunnel in this regard. Baptism next! The link is: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/315627>

At a couple of services this week, we have reflected on those who have been important in our own faith journeys. I was telling people about my lovely grandmother, Frances Harris née Andrewartha - a good Cornish name! Enrolling officer for the MU, sacristan and assistant organist of our little church in Devoran, my cousin Canon Rebecca Swyer reminded me of the smell of starch when Granny was ironing the church linen. Now her grandson is doing the same. It is no hardship, I promise, but here is the proof!



Don't forget the opportunity to write for the parish magazine. The 'lockdown-masterpiece,' news about family, community or comment on the new life we lead - even recipes! Please email (in Word) to: duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org We will resume printing a small number of magazines for those unable to access the website version. Please phone Gill in the church office about availability at the start of the month.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

TRINITY 2 (21st June 2020):

9.45 - The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 7

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) **The Nativity of John the Baptist**

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11, Galatians 3: 23-end, Luke: 57-66, 80

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: 2 Kings 24: 8-17, Matthew 7: 21-end.

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity 2

Next Sunday: TRINITY 3 (28th June)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 8

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 2

Grant, O Lord, that we may always
revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive your guidance from those
you set firm on the foundation of your love.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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,

Jeremiah 20: 7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Romans 6: 1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10: 24-39

Jesus said, 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

A thought

Jeremiah's heartfelt lament (a poem in the original Hebrew) leads us to consider the depths to which the human soul can plunge, together with the way in which we sometimes seem to 'scapegoat' or blame God when things go wrong. We have to find some reason for whatever is assailing us, so we imagine that God must be punishing us. The Bible is full of such imagery, yet this is more to do with the human heart than understanding that ultimately God is Love beyond understanding and accompanies us within every situation. We know this because we are called to view all Scripture in the light of our knowledge of the life we experience through Jesus, whose birth, ministry, passion and death takes place in unity with our humanity. Ultimately, our understanding is transfigured by the Resurrection Life he opens to all believers. Paul captures the sense of the unique way in which we are caught up into the very **life** of God through knowing Jesus as Lord. The passage from Romans talks to us of the importance our baptismal journey as members of the Body of Christ; the new life brought about through the Lord's death and resurrection. We pass through the waters of baptism as the Children of Israel passed through the Red Sea from slavery to freedom. The vivid way in which Paul writes throughout his letters draws us to know his understanding of being caught up living **in** and **through** Jesus. He points out that we find our true selves in following the Lord's call to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. This is a life-long journey. We are not made perfect in Baptism. Indeed baptismal life is reliant on a

Loving God

**we thank you for nurturing us
through the love of your Son;
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth,
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

desire of that person to seek to constantly learn and grow through life. In this, we - as the baptised of the Lord - are to understand that we are caught up in God's Love through the Holy Spirit as we seek to allow our faith to shape who we are. In terms of dealing with every aspect of life - the highs, the lows, the sorrows, the joys, the worries, the desolations - Jesus is the answer!

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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, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Leonard Robinson, Andrew Squires

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: 21st Mary Walton, 22nd Alfred Thurston, Connor Mahoney, Rene King, Jessica Beecher, Eileen McNeill, 23rd Ian Ross, Merrill, 24th Mary Goddard, Marie Atmore, 26th Alan Fellows, Alastair Murray, 27th Constance Salter, James Perkins