

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news The Fifth Sunday after Trinity 12th July 2020

My dear friends,

It was most moving to return to Holy Trinity for our first 8.00am Sunday Communion since March. Obviously we are taking small steps towards the changed situation in which we find ourselves, but we are blessed on so many fronts. Excellent news to report is that the camera and much of the equipment is now installed in church which will enable us to livestream our worship. We are hugely indebted to the kind anonymous donor who has enabled this to take place.

It is worth saying that we will be gradually undertaking our new approach in a measured and careful manner to ensure that we continue to enable our worship to be not just a worthy offering, but open to all. Please remember that for the moment **other than the Sunday 8.00 in church, all worship remains on Zoom.**

Last week I appended an appeal on my email from Rebecca Anderson for breakfast goods for children at The Bewbush Academy. Please do support this great cause. You will find the details on the parish website. Bewbush serves one of the most deprived areas in West Sussex. Don't forget, either, our ongoing commitment to Family Support Work. Again, contact details appear on our website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

Our school breaks up this coming Friday. Please hold both pupils and staff in your prayers. Under the leadership of our headteacher, Ann McGregor, the school has provide unbroken education and care for the children of key workers, and then for other pupils returning as allowed by government regulation and advice. The staff deserve the greatest praise for their efforts. Please note that the **Friday Eucharist** this week will be at **10.00am** to enable me to be present at the Leaver's Assembly at 11.00. We also give thanks for the efforts of staff at Warden Park Academy for their similar work.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

### **TRINITY 5 (12th July 2020):**

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

**9.45 - The Parish Eucharist** CW Proper 10 - Preacher: Father Clive Woodward

### **Services during the week:**

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13-16; Matthew 11: 25-27

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Isaiah 26: 7-9, 16-19; Matthew 11: 28-end.

**Friday: 10.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity 5 **Please note time change**

### **Next Sunday: TRINITY 6 (19th July)**

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

**9.45 The Parish Eucharist** CW Proper 11

**All services (other than Sunday 8.00) 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 4*

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
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,  
world without end. Amen

### Isaiah 55: 10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

### Romans 8: 1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!' 'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

### A thought

We are mid-point in Matthew's Gospel - and the Gospel writer has presented a great body of gathered teaching by Jesus as the Sermon on the Mount. Healing of the afflicted has followed, together with the call and sending out of the Disciples. Immediately before this parable, Jesus, knowing that his mother and brothers want to see him, calls all who follow him his mother and brothers – a seemingly difficult teaching, but one which actually talks of the inclusivity of Faith in Jesus – he is not casting aside his own family, but reminds us that **all** are called into relationship with him. As we move into the telling of parables, note that Jesus preaches from a boat – he is on the same level as the people. Matthew may even want us to see the boat as the subsequent Church, treasuring the mission of the Lord. The Church (you and I) are in the here-and-now. How are we going to choose to live our lives? Paul talks of the Spirit of God working within us, and it is this which grows the seeds of the knowledge of God's Love made known in Jesus. Engaging with our Faith; reading the Bible; seeking to deepen our knowledge of Jesus walking beside us; discerning God's will and purpose within our lives – all these are signs of growing those seeds. I can't tell you how you will do this, because the parable can only make sense in your hearing. It is only you, in the context of your life, who can open the secret of its meaning and discover how to allow the kingdom to yield an hundredfold. At the end of the day, Jesus did not leave us with all the answers, he left us with a parable. But the seeds which are falling upon your life here and now, also fall on the lives of those around you who are very different. Ultimately though, Jesus IS the



Annie Henrie Nader - The Sower

**Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world  
may be so peaceably ordered  
by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you  
in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

answer! The Sower Christ, sows His seeds of love in our hearts, and enables us to know the words of Isaiah in their fulness: *You shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you, and all of the trees of the field will clap their hands.* This is not other than our Gospel call!

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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,

**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: Archie Cowan

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 12<sup>th</sup> Margaret Willcocks, Robert Hickman, 13<sup>th</sup> Samuel Dods, Billy, Edward Wardle, 14<sup>th</sup> Dulcie Tidey, Jean Hammond, 15<sup>th</sup> Gladys Cranefield, 16<sup>th</sup> Frank Knight, 17<sup>th</sup> Sally Mitchell, 18<sup>th</sup> Peter Kapff