

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity** *26th July 2020*

My dear friends,

The mundane first. Beware! The scammers are back at work. Please DO NOT respond to emails purporting to be from me or others at church asking for help. Ring first. It is highly unlikely that anyone would ask for money or vouchers, so do be careful.

Sunday's Cool met last Sunday on Zoom and had a great time together. Many thanks to Hilary and all involved. It is wonderful that we are finding new ways of sharing the Good News in these strange times. Please do pray for our outreach to the community—we ask that God will bless all our endeavours.

On Wednesday morning we explored the use of the newly installed technology in church. The camera has an impressive range, with the ability to focus on different areas of the building with great clarity. Once we know how to integrate the sound adequately, we will have a great tool for mission, with the possibilities of streaming worship, etc. We thank God for the generosity of those who have brought about this installation.

You will see in my thought this week that I have explored cooking with yeast. It really did take me back to childhood and the smell of my grandmother's kitchen, Sunday School treats, et al! I remember one to Newquay when it rained (heavily) all day. We were each given the customary pasty and large saffron bun, and my mother, in desperation because of the weather, took those of us in her group to the cinema. The film was the Beatles' 'Help!'. That dates me.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

P.S. It was a *terrible* film!

**Please check the church website for details of services, etc:**

**[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)**

### **TRINITY 7 (26th July 2020):**

8.00 - *Holy Communion (in church)*

**9.45 - The Parish Eucharist** CW Proper 12

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

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (Common Worship) **Martha, Mary and Lazarus—Companions of the Lord**

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9; Hebrews 2: 10-15; John 12: 1-8

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Jeremiah 18: 1-6; Matthew 13: 47-53

**Friday: 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings Trinity 7

#### **Next Sunday: TRINITY 8 (2 August)**

8.00 - *Holy Communion (in church)*

**9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist** CW Proper 13

6.00 Choral Evensong Preacher - The Vicar

**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 7*

**Generous God,**  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
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

### **1 Kings 3: 5-12**

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

### **Romans 8: 26-39**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52**

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

### **A thought**

I recently had a triumph in the kitchen, making one of those great Cornish dishes of my childhood...saffron buns. Using fresh yeast it almost seems like a miracle. A teaspoon of sugar, yeast, a cup of warm flour and liquid—onwards and upwards! In the Spirit-filled humanity of the risen Christ, God gives us the opportunity to share his very life through the yeast of the Kingdom, and that is a reality more real than anything a world without faith can ever dream of offering us. In seeking to explore the life of the Kingdom, we are never alone. Today, Paul gives us that wonderful image of the Holy Spirit at work within our lives. We ALL have the Spirit of God within – everyone does, but God's grace can only work through our lives with our cooperation. He says, *'The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.'* What an amazing thought! We are the saints, who like the shrewd

**Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

businessperson seeking that wondrous pearl in today's gospel account, are called to invest in the life of the Kingdom. If we do, we will live joyful, quality lives because we will be doing God's will and living lives of real value not just ourselves but for the whole of humanity. We are each called to be like God's pearl of great price.



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### **Please remember those for whom we pray:**

**Immediate Need:** Ken Taylor, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page, George Snashall, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Sally Williams

**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: Greville Goad**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 26<sup>th</sup> Brian Cooper, Gillian Coventry, 27<sup>th</sup> Alan Cruse, Fred Capelin, Alan Virgin, 28<sup>th</sup> Aileen Morrison, Barbara Galbraith, 29<sup>th</sup> Robert Capp, Eric Hayden (Priest), Shirley Beard, 30<sup>th</sup> Lilian Bourne, Mina Bushby, 31<sup>st</sup> Kenneth Viles, Francis Grainger, Graham Hardwick, Peter Anderson,