

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Fourth Sunday after Trinity** *5th July 2020*

My dear friends,

Do join us on Zoom this Sunday for our Family Eucharist at 9.45, with input from our young people and families. Ashley and Fearghus Beauchamp have recorded some lovely music for the end of the service. We also have our monthly Choral Evensong at 6.00pm.

I am delighted that we finally reach the point where we are allowed to worship as a community within our church. However, this will be quite restricted to start with and there are many new practices to get to grips with. I have enumerated some of these within the email accompanying this News Letter. If you are not on the mailing list, please email or phone Gill in the church office and she will forward it if you so wish.

This Saturday (4th) I will be leading Morning Prayer at 9.00am to mark the resumption of public worship in Holy Trinity. If you join me, please observe social distancing regulations. I have mentioned the app for Morning Prayer, but there will be printed copies also. These will be available on the chairs and single use.

Sunday will see the resumption of our 8.00am Holy Communion in church. For the time being, this will be the **only** Eucharist taking place in church. All other services will remain on Zoom until such time as we have the capacity to 'live-stream' from church, and also work out the myriad of other issues which surround the presentation of our regular worship, including inclusion of those attending online, together with the question of music within services (bearing in mind the current restrictions). Please bear with us. It will probably be several months before we see matters develop in regard to a new 'norm' as we move forward. We have been incredibly blessed to have achieved all that we have, but I know that our priority must be to enable all within the community to have the ability of participate, both within the church building and online. Please pray for our endeavours.

Let us give thanks that even in a limited way, our beautiful church will once again hear the words, '**Lift up your hearts,**' together with the response, '**We lift them to the Lord.**' I know that we all will!

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

TRINITY 4 (5th July 2020):

9.45 - The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 9

6.00 - Choral Evensong - Preacher: Kevin Carey

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Hosea 8: 1-3, 708, 12; Matthew 10: 1-7

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Hosea 11: 1, 3-4, 8-9; Matthew 10: 7-15

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity 4

Next Sunday: TRINITY 5 (12th July)

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 10

The Collect for Trinity 4

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought healing to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
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

Zechariah 9: 9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Romans 7: 15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end

Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

A thought

At first reading we may see the seeds sown of why some people find Paul so unattractive – as one who almost seems to loathe particularly the physicality of the body. However, I think to approach such a text in this way is mistaken. We should never take a Biblical text at its face value, but seek to place it in context and relationship to the rest of Scripture. In fact, it is almost certain that Paul is using his rhetorical skills at this point, and not writing auto-biographically. He calls us to place ourselves in an understanding of a before and after view of our whole being – body and soul (as the song would have it), as people who know the saving grace of Jesus Christ, of allowing the Holy Spirit to work within our lives. It is rather a passage about transformation, and Paul goes on in the next chapter of Romans to discuss the way we are drawn to live in the knowledge of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which identifies the Christian.

The hope faith provides is strongly present in the short reading from Zechariah. The image of 'the king coming; triumphant and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt,' we strongly identify with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on the days leading to his Passion and Death. It is a passage of great transformation, describing, as it does, freedom of the prisoner from the waterless pit. This imagery might describe to us so many things within our own lives. Most of us, if not all, will have some corner of our lives of which we will be ashamed or even loathe. Sometimes every now and then we might take it out of the darkness and chew over it, rather as my dog Archie does eating a hide chew! And yet, we see in our Gospel reading the full answer to the way we are to approach our failings and to deal with them.

Jesus says to us, that through his unity with the Father and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are called to know that if we lay our flaws faithfully before God, we will know true rest because Jesus will be with us every step of the way. We find our true selves by displaying the face of Christ to those we interact with – and this is bound up in the way we approach our own lives. Sometimes our journey will be costly, sometimes joyful. To do this, we must faithfully turn to the Lord continually, encouraged as Jesus says to each one of us, 'Come to me, all you that are

weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Painting: Deborah Nell (b.1959)



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**Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you feed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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: 5th Edna Liddell, Patricia Bullen, Betty Cripps, Diana Jennings, 6th Martha Dutton, Evelyn Graydon, 7th Elisabeth Dunnett, 8th Kenneth Kleinwort, 9th Brian Page, 10th Dorothy Trevitwick, 11th Selina Gray