

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



The Charge of Peter - Reubens (Wallace Collection)

Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity** *23rd August 2020*

My dear friends,

This week I paid a visit to Hampton Court Palace - a place I have always longed to see. It was fascinating to enter the Great Kitchen with its vast Tudor fire-places. Much of this area was only uncovered from the late 1970s, after a three storied 'grace and favour' apartment formerly lived in by Lady Baden-Powell was dismantled from within its shell!

Sometimes we are capable of filling the 'open spaces' of our lives with all sorts of other distractions. In doing so, we sometimes limit our ability to grow spiritually. Perhaps one of the great benefits of the new *modus operandi* thrust upon us by the pandemic is the opportunity to recover such space and realise just how greatly we are loved by the God of all grace. Each one of us, as Paul comments, has great and individual gifts to bring to the Body of Christ - signs of the Kingdom life open to all.

You will see that we have the first baptism this week since February. This will be a great day for little Morris (David Davidson's great-grandson), but also for the Church. It is closely followed by Amber Humphries' baptism next week. Please pray for these children at the start of their journey of faith, and also for their parents and Godparents as they undertake their responsibilities for these children's spiritual welfare and growth.

Please also hold in your prayers the families of Joy Wyatt and Vivien Butterworth, whose respective funerals take place on Thursday and Friday.

Many thanks to Canon John Twistleton who has covered for me for these past two weeks. I am most grateful.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

TRINITY 11 - 23rd August 2020:

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 - The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 16

12.00 - Holy Baptism - Morris David McLellan-Hansen

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C.W.) Readings: 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-10, 16-end; Matthew 23: 27-32

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) **Saint Monica** Readings: 1 Timothy 5: 3-5; Luke 7: 11-17

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) **Saint Augustine** Readings Trinity 11

Next Sunday: TRINITY 12 (30 August)

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 17

12.00 - Holy Baptism - Amber Grace Humphries

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 11

God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside all that prevents us
from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through 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

Isaiah 51: 1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Romans 12: 1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

A thought

'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah'. This is the only beatitude in the Gospel which Jesus names the recipient of His blessing. But as befits the all-creative Word of God, this blessing brings about a new reality indicated by Simon's new name of Peter, the 'rock'. The so-called kings of this world build a pagan city and temples on the rocky slopes of Mount Hermon, but Jesus builds a church, a new people, on the rock of his apostle. It's an extraordinary contrast, between one type of power, one type of building, and a very different power manifest in a very different foundation. We know that a wobble is coming up on Peter's part - we shall hear that next week. However, the Church of God - the Body of Christ - is made up of ordinary people. You and I are part of a direct line from that disparate group of disciples. This means that the Church is never perfect because we are all flawed in some way or other!



Yet the first thing we hear about the Church is that not even the gates of Hades can hold firm against it. Jesus as the Christ must struggle with the very forces of death and himself be killed before rising to new life. His Church is caught up in that same struggle, will know persecution, suffering and death. She suffers now terribly in Iran and Syria, in China and North Korea; is gravely restricted in Turkey and Iraq; but the Church, too, overcomes death to share in the risen life of Jesus. Peter bears the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What does this mean? When we hear of these keys, we may think first of the pearly gates from Revelation, the city gates of the New Jerusalem. And that's not wrong. As John's Gospel teaches, Jesus is the door of the sheepfold, the way into His Father's life and kingdom. If Peter is entrusted with the keys of heaven, it is because the Church has as its fundamental mission to bring people into the knowledge and love of Christ as their redeemer. It does this by revealing the Christ's love for them. Peter's gift of naming who Jesus really is, of articulating the Church's Faith will pass to the bishops of the Church, but such authority is always at the service of the People of God through enabling prayer and communicating something of the infinite grace of God which feeds us and enables us to pass this treasure on to those we meet within our everyday lives - the greatest treasure people may ever possess.

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our spiritual communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Molly Stuchbury (mourning the loss of her son, Chris)

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky and Mark 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, Rev. Sandra Hall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page, George Snashall,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Joy Wyatt, Vivien Butterworth, Chris Stuchbury

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 23rd Max Laing, Ann Berry, Margaret Williams, 26th Richard Lindsey, 27th Peggy Higginson, Barry Heath, Marjorie Church, John Knight, Nicholas Bennett, Wendy Grover, 28th Hilda Saunders, 29th Jessie Punnett