

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity** *9th August 2020*

My dear friends,

May I remind people that if they attend the 8.00 in church on Sunday, the Government now requires the wearing of masks. Obviously you remove them to receive Holy Communion. Thank you to all who handed their contact details to me at that service. As I explained, doing this each week is a requirement for 'track and trace.' All this obviously goes deep against the grain with many people, but we must comply in order to keep people safe.

If you were attending the 9.45 on Zoom last week, you will know of the exceptional response to the Bewbush Academy breakfast appeal. Rebecca Anderson told us that she has been greatly moved by the generosity of the community. Having spoken with Rebecca, we have decided to keep this appeal going—it is much needed, and will help a very deprived community. The church website has details of the goods required. A heartfelt thank you to all who have given thus far.

Don't forget our Online Art Festival. It is not too late to submit photos of work, and again you will find all details on the website. Thanks to Hilary and Helen, our Family Ministers, for their hard work on this front, and also for the family trails and children's quizzes they have sourced and put together. The latter are available from the north porch of the church.

As I announced last Sunday, we are delighted that the Rev. Michael Windridge is to be an associate priest within our benefice, serving largely at Bolney. Michael and his wife, Sabrina, were married in Holy Trinity, and Sabrina grew up in Cuckfield. I know that they will receive a warm welcome within our benefice once they are able to move and a date for Michael's licensing is fixed.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

TRINITY 9 (9th August 2020):

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 - The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 14—Preacher: Father John Cleaver

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10, 18-22; Matthew 18: 15-20

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Ezekiel 12: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21- 19: 1

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) **St Maximillian Kolbé** Readings Trinity 9

Next Sunday: TRINITY 10 (16 August)

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 15

**Most worship is live on Zoom: Click on the link on the front page of the church website before services and you will enter a waiting 'area' and then join everyone.
Please note that only the Sunday 8.00 is in church at present.**

The Collect for Trinity 9
Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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

I Kings 19: 9-18

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Romans 10: 5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

A thought

As a child, a great summer treat was a visit to the 'Banks' near the village in which I grew up, which overlooks an estuary of the River Fal – a very beautiful situation. My cousins and I, together with another boy, decided to take ourselves off to the Banks for a watery time. How clearly I remember being pushed in the water completely out of my depth with the sensation I had that I was utterly unable to stay above the surface and couldn't feel the bottom. Fortunately, our friend quickly realised that I was in trouble, and hauled me to the bank. It was a terrifying experience – that feeling of being unable to help one's self in a moment of danger of being out of depth in a situation. Today in our Gospel, Peter is in a similar situation, but perhaps the real point of this account is to show that seeking to deepen trust in the compassion of Jesus Christ is all-important to a person of faith. The other disciples are terrified of this figure moving towards them, but it is Peter who shows faith by asking who it is. In other words, he speaks to the Lord before seeking to do anything.

Nor did he rush to climb out of the boat, but waited for Jesus' response. Peter didn't just assume that he could walk on water, but waited to hear the voice of the Lord- and when he heard it, he immediately sought to respond. But note that it is not through his power that he is able to walk on water, but only through faith in Jesus. However, we are led further, because we see that in a moment this faith is be assailed by stormy waves, and Peter cries out to Jesus. And here is the assurance of faith.

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal spiritually with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Jesus immediately reaches out to Peter and lifts him above the waves.



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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Ken Taylor, Gracie & Lucy Neff, Roy Vicari, David Davidson, Vivien

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, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, George Snashall, Rev. Sandra Hall, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page,

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 10th Guy Nicholson, Aileen Craigen, Linda Duffy, 11th Sheila Emmens, Winifred Stevens, 12th Alexander Wallace, 13th Richard Taylor, Olive Stenning, Catherine Thurgood, Diane Ede, 14th Ronald Wadhams, 15th Mabel Clarke, Anne Lindsay