

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Rétire-toi Satan - James Tissot 1836-1902 Brooklyn Museum

Weekly devotions, prayers and news The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 30th August 2020

My dear friends,

This week we are fortunate to have the new Bishop of Horsham preaching at the 9.45. Bishop Ruth kindly recorded her message after I contacted her, and it has been made available to other parishes as well. I am delighted that we are to hear her so soon into her ministry.

The new term starts at our local schools this coming week. Please do remember the pupils and staff at both Holy Trinity School and Warden Park Academy in your prayers. Although excellent work was achieved during lockdown, it is great that the children and young people of our community now return to some semblance of normality.

We are exploring the question of more worship taking place within the church itself. There is much to consider, particularly in regard to enabling those who wish to continue participating from home. Livestreaming will obviously be a great boon. At the same time it will also be necessary to consider the pattern of services, particularly Sunday worship. One reason for this is that all baptisms now have to take place singly. We had a joyful service for little Morris last week, with Amber's baptism this coming Sunday. In addition, there are five during the next month. This will give us joy - a sign that we continue to be fortunate on so many fronts as a community. At the same time, ministry has to be sustainable. This will not be a radical rethink, just a rebalancing. Please hold all of these matters in your prayers.

A message from Mark Parker—Chairman of the Old School: *On behalf of The Old School Board I would like to say a big **thank you** to all those people who turned out on Wednesday to clean the Old School in order to get it ready to open. The turn out, your hard work and enthusiasm were outstanding. We are now ready to open the doors again on Tuesday 1st September. God Bless - Mark*

With love and best wishes,

Michael (Vicar)

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

TRINITY 12(30th August 2020):

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church) Preacher: The Vicar

9.45 - The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 17 Preacher: The Bishop of Horsham

12.00 - Holy Baptism - Amber Grace Humphries

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9; Luke 4: 38-end

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) **Gregory the Great** Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2: 3-8; Mark 10: 42-45

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings Trinity 12

Next Sunday: TRINITY 13 (6 September)

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church) Preacher: The Vicar

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 18

6.00 Choral Evensong - Preacher: Carol Shepherd (Reader: St Nicholas, Itchingfield)

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 12

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
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

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Romans 12: 9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

Matthew 16: 21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom

A thought

This turning point in Matthew's account tells us of the movement of Jesus towards Jerusalem and all that is to take place there - and pretty incredible it seems to the apostles. How can this person for whom they have given up their everyday lives now be saying to them, 'My life will be defined not only through what I say and do, but also through suffering, death and then resurrection.' Forget the notion of a warrior Messiah. It's no small wonder that Peter reacts in the way he does. Wouldn't all of us in the same boat! Bluff Peter tells Jesus off - the Lord seems to lose his cool with Peter. The one who has just been called 'The rock on which my church will be built,' now becomes a stumbling block. The explanation of discipleship which follows is so radical that it seems to turn the world upside down. 'If any would follow me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.' 'What will it profit a person if they gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?' We, with the hindsight of two thousand years of Christianity, know the ultimate thrust of the account; that indeed the Son of Man must suffer and die in order to rise again - and thus reveal the immensity of God's love for each of us. Peter still has a journey to make before he too grasps the wonder of this love. Abandonment of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, denial in the High Priest's courtyard, those bitter tears.....thank goodness for Peter's humanity, because it gives each one of us hope, that we, each one of us flawed as we are, can seek to deepen our life in Christ as Peter did in the face of all of his flaws! Our soul's rubble is raw material for the kingdom in the hands of God, and the Christian Faith turned **and continues** to turn the world upside down. This is our call. The divine otherness of God is made understandable to humanity in the face of Jesus Christ, and the Divine Love revealed through death and resurrection is a reality where death (both physical and spiritual) is swallowed up in victory. In Jesus we are called, in the words of Isaiah, to continually lift up our eyes, as God says to each of us, 'My salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.'



Painting: (ca. 1560-8) by Titian

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Renewed, as we have spiritually received the bread from the heavenly table, we ask you, Lord, that being the food of love, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Stuart, and for all who mourn including Molly Stuchbury

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: 30th Stuart Ingram, 31st Brian Wright, 2nd Phyllis Porter, Nelson Jones, Olive Carrington, Ronald Clark, 3rd Jonathan Ranger, Frank Marshall, 4th Cpt. Donald Bairdow, 5th James, David Neen, Nancy Pforter, Jennifer Tapp