

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity** *6 September 2020*

My dear friends,

As I mentioned last Sunday, it really was wonderful to hear the bells ringing again after all these months of silence. Many thanks to our ringers for their commitment—the calling of people to worship. May I thank, too, all who are beginning to take up their various roles within church life, as well as those contributing in other ways. Please do join us for Choral Evensong on Zoom this week. Our good friend Carol Shepherd will be preaching. Carol is Sandra's reader at Itchingfield, and has joined us often for worship during lockdown. She was also able to keep us informed about Sandra's progress.

You will also see that next Sunday we have Vicky Peattie preaching. Vicky is a reader at St Mary's Willingdon, who has also joined us regularly for our online worship. As I have previously mentioned, we have been greatly blessed to hear other preachers during this strange time and I do hope it will be possible to continue this as we move forward.

We hope to resume the 9.45 in church from Sunday 20th September. This will be a challenge for us. There are many things to consider, not least the fact that we will have to ticket the service because of the limited seating. However, we will still livestream as we currently do so no one will be excluded. There will be more details from me about this next week, but I would ask you to hold our church community in your prayers as we seek God's will in moving forward. Ours is a wonderful Community of Faith. Let us unite in continuing to serve the Lord joyfully.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

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

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

TRINITY 13 (6th September 2020):

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

9.45 - The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 18

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

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: 1 Corinthians 7: 25-31; Luke 6: 20-26
6.30pm Space for Grace (resuming in church)

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-7, 7-11; Luke 6: 27-38

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings Trinity 13

Saturday: 2.00 Holy Matrimony—Bobby McAdam and Amber Thorne

Next Sunday: TRINITY 14 (13 September)

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 19 - Preacher: Vicky Peattie (Reader: Willingdon)

1.00 - Holy Baptism - Rosemary and Arno Dale

All services (other than those indicated) 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 13

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
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

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Romans 13: 8-end

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18: 15-20

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

A thought

When we look at the world, we are sometimes given to despair at the many situations we hear about, not least the current pandemic. From the ravages of war, conflict and disaster to those many situations which baffle us, from cyber bullying to the unimaginable treatment of children, the elderly and the disadvantaged we hear about. Our first two readings offer us (in vivid language) an understanding of God's constant presence with us, even in the darkest on situations. Paul turns the negatives of the Ten Commandments into the positive of loving one's neighbour as oneself. Our Gospel reading is a clarion call to each of us. We, as members of the Body of Christ, have the responsibility to generously care for each other, sometimes even to the point of being honest where we see failings. The Church is not primarily a hierarchical system - even if it sometimes seems that way! It is the sign of God at work within the world—and you and I are part of it; we bring our gifts to it. In Jesus we see the divine compassion revealed in its full beauty, a love open to all – ever present - the healing for broken humanity. This is OUR call, our vocation - to proclaim the Kingdom of God's Love made known in Jesus Christ. Today's Gospel is a reminder that we are also called to encourage one another, sometime even by pointing out failures in order that we might grow as people of faith in Jesus Christ.



God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Roy Viccari, Stuart

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 6th Ivor Owen, Annie Voller, Albert Smith, 7th Bob Rowley, Emily Bone, 8th Gerald Honeysett, 9th James Taylor, 10th Tony Osborne, Dorothy Bumpus, 11th Sybil Eaton, 12th Lilian Wilson, Anne Allemand, John Cuxson, Margaret Brooker