

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

The Last Sunday after Trinity 25 October 2020

Dear Friends,

Herewith the details for Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday - 8th November 2020:

9.00: Parish Eucharist with hymns (please note that there will be no 8.00)

10.50: Annual Service of Remembrance (please note later start) This will take place entirely in the churchyard around the war memorial - an abbreviated service lasting about 25 mins. - weather permitting. The main elements of the service will all take place: the laying of wreaths, the silence and the roll of honour. Our MP Mims Davies will be in attendance and lay a wreath. Should it rain, the service will be further curtailed. It is most important that people socially distance even outside and please note that only members of the choir may sing. Please wear warm clothes and appropriate footwear for standing on the grassed areas.

With best wishes,

Michael (Vicar)

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

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

The Last Sunday after Trinity (25 October 2020):

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 The Parish Eucharist and Holy Baptism CW Proper 25 (in church—see website to book)

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Helen Swift; Intercessor: David Jamieson. The Baptism of Alice Elizabeth Grace Middleton

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Simon & Jude Apostles:

Readings: Isaiah 28: 14-16; Ephesians 2: 19-end; John 15: 17-end

6.30pm Space for Grace (in church)

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Ephesians 6: 10-20; Luke 13: 31-end

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity 20

Next Sunday: All Saints Day (1 November 2020)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist Proper for the day (in church and livestreamed—see website to book)

11.30 Holy Baptism

6.00pm Choral Evensong (in church and livestreamed)

All services (other than the 8.00) live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.

The Collect Last Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of 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

The Post Communion Prayer:

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

I Thessalonians 2: 1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the Gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22: 34-end

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

A thought

This week's Gospel reading seems to be somewhat negative in the way we see the Lord's interaction taking place with people. Jesus is presented as silencing first the Sadducees and then the Pharisees - the 'trend-setters' and guardians of the Torah - God's Law. The radical nature of the Greatest Commandment of Torah is something we should never forget as coming from the mouth of the Lord. Jesus binds up the central understanding of the great prayer, the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:5) - a passage Jesus would have said every single day of his life - to the scriptural command to 'love your neighbour as yourself.' (Leviticus 19: 18) Why radical? It is the fact that Jesus gives equal weight to the concept of loving one's neighbour to that of loving God. Matthew has already given us a flavour of this radical love earlier in the Gospel. In the Sermon on the Mount, we are enjoined to love (not hate) our enemies. In chapter 19 he has listed 'loving your neighbour as yourself' in a sequence of commandments to a rich young man who asked how he might earn eternal life. However, here Jesus distils understanding and interpreting the whole Biblical Law into these two commands. This great teaching calls us to know that loving God with all one's heart and soul (that is, in understanding our whole being and life are bound up in the creative Love of God) is inseparable from our living lives which are active in demonstrating that we acknowledge this same grace in the face of all we meet. Our love is called to be compassionate and full of grace even to those who are hostile to us.

Matthew leaves this section of the Gospel in giving us the answer to the question hanging over the identity of Jesus, who has just entered Jerusalem acknowledged by the crowds as the long-awaited Messiah. In all the posturings by those in authority to this carpenter (who seems to turn understanding of God upside-down) Jesus is revealed as David's son - yet more than this - as the Son of God - the one who enables those who follow him to know that in 'loving God and neighbour,' they too



'Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees.'

James Tissot
Brooklyn Museum

are drawing closer to understanding the grace of God at work within their own lives.

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

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Stuart, Reg Ruddock, Jenny, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd

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, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley, Yvonne Godsmark, Michael Hilton, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, David Dennis, Marilyn Archbold, Jane Terry, Jo Kells, Rev Sandra Hall

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 25th Jim Burtenshaw, Margaret Simmonds, 26th Alfred Amer, Kenneth Walder, Amalia Guest, 28th James Jourdain, Theodore Wynne, 29th Vera Watts, 30th Linda Kruse