

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **The First Sunday of Advent**

*29 November 2020*

*O that you would rend the heavens and come down*

Dear Friends,

It looks likely that worship will resume in church from Sunday 6th December. This will be with the previous restrictions for worshippers: details required for tack and trace together with the use of the ticketing system on the church website for the 9.45 and other special services coming up. Please check the website for further details.

This coming week will see the placing of a splendid Christmas tree in the church, which will be decorated by all those who normally participate in the tree festival. I hope this will bring joy to people disappointed by the fact that the festival is unable to take place this year. Hopefully all will be resumed next year! You will also find details of the altered pattern of worship over the Christmas period in the December magazine and on the website.

Don't forget our lovely **Service of Light** to welcome Advent this coming Saturday at **8.30am via the Zoom link**. You will have to prepare your own breakfast this year, but hopefully next year.....

All blessings,

Michael

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:  
[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **First Sunday of Advent (29 November 2020):**

**9.45 The Parish Eucharist** (livestreamed—see website for link)

*Readers: Helen Swift & Carolyn Ponder*

*Intercessor: Jane Coan*

#### **Services during the week:**

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship)** Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Matthew 15: 29-37

**Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Francis Xavier;** Readings: Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

**Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: First Sunday of Advent

### **Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent (6 December 2020)**

**8.00: Holy Communion (in church)**

**9.45 Family Eucharist** (in church and livestreamed—see website for link)

**6.00 Advent Carol Service** (in church and livestreamed—see website for link)

**All services 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 First Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
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:**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming  
of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

### I Corinthians 1: 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

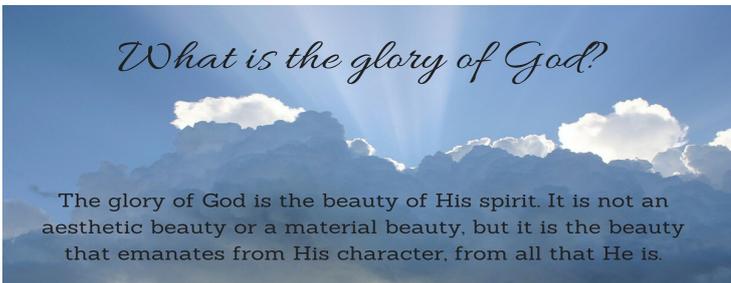
### Mark 13: 24-end

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

### A thought

Bearing in mind we have had pretty apocalyptic reading over the Sundays since All Saints’ Day, nothing much seems to have changed this Advent Sunday when we not only start the new church year, but the Gospel focus (on Sundays) moves from Matthew to Mark. Today’s Gospel actually forms the opener to our Advent journey - a whole season when we reflect of the coming of the Lord which we celebrate on Christmas Day, together with the opportunity to think about the radical call of our Faith. Again we have the urgency of our Christian Discipleship placed before us. The Lord says to each of us, ‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’ This sounds like hair-raising stuff, complete with a parable about alertness; something we have also considered in previous weeks. Isaiah bears this theme also with that great call: ‘O that you would TEAR open the heavens and come down!’ It seems to me that we should always read such Scriptures in the light of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. This opens the door to knowledge that we must, as I have said previously, live in expectation of the further joy and felicity we shall enjoy, the close we move towards God. In this sense, our faith journey is always an adventure, although it is up to us to seek the path made known through Jesus Christ. It is a two-way process! Paul gives us a flavour of the life we find in Christ in the passage from I Corinthians. Wonderful grace is ours through Jesus - gift to pass on to others which is beyond compare - and the deepest security in these strange times.

**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, Jenny, Clare, The Smith Family, Barbara Booth

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Jo Kells, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd, Ryan and his mother Katherine

**Those in Care Homes:** Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Diana Hoile

### Please remember the recently departed and their families: Marilyn Archbold, David Elliott, Guy Berkeley, Ashley Guest

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 29th Joseph Millband, Tom Dawson, 30th Madge King, Douglas Candfield, Julie Sears, 1st Angela Fox, 2nd Jack Upton, Nigel Lloyd, Ronald Nye, 3rd Peter Bravo, Dr. Christine Bratt, Susan Jones, Jack Vass, 5th Athalie Nye, Joan Pye, Leonora McGuire