

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news Second Sunday before Advent 15 November 2020

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we have our annual **Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration**, remembering the departed both over the past year, together with other dear people who have helped form who we are. Alas, this year we are unable to meet in church, although I will be taking the service from Holy Trinity and will light candles in people's memory and read out those names sent in to us. There will be music for reflection and a chance to be together, albeit on line. The service starts on **Sunday at 4.00pm** on the church Zoom link.

Next Sunday (22nd November) we hope to resume livestreaming from the church for the 9.45, although we are unable to have a congregation present. Next Sunday, too, we have our new worship IGNITE at 4.30 to which all are welcome.

With all blessings,

Michael

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

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday before Advent (15 November 2020):

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

Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

4.00 Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving (livestreamed—see website for link)

Services during the week:

Monday: 2.00 Funeral - Dr Keith Rogers (Graveside)

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Elizabeth of Hungary

Readings: Proverbs 31: 10-end; Matthew 25: 31-end

3.00 Funeral - Barbara Wiseman

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Hilda Abbess of Whitby

Readings: Isaiah 61: 10-62: 5; Luke 19: 41-44

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Twenty Third Sunday after Trinity

12.30 Funeral - Chris Smith

Next Sunday: Christ the King (22 November 2020)

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

4.30 IGNITE— our new online worship, aimed at the young and young at heart

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 Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in 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:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life
for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus said, 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

A thought

As we approach the end of the church year (one Sunday to go), we have the strong flavour of the way in which the readings on these Sundays draw us to consider the nature of discipleship. Coupled with this is the call to live in expectation of our unity with God through Jesus Christ. Both the New Testament and Gospel readings communicate the strong sense of this vital part of our calling; conveying to those we meet the joy and fulfilment at the heart of our faith in Jesus Christ and living Gospel focussed lives. In the current circumstances, the world needs the good news of Jesus Christ more than ever. We will all sometimes struggle when things seem dark, yet ours is the knowledge that Jesus is the Light of the World. In him is no darkness at all - reassurance beyond compare.

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, Carla Spear, Clare, The Smith Family, Ryan and his mother Katherine

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, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley, Yvonne Godsmark, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, David Dennis, Jo Kells, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd, Eileen Knight

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Chris Smith, Barbara Wiseman, Rosetta Massey, Annie Hatswell, Dr. Keith Rogers, Marilyn Archbold

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 15th John Levett, 16th Gordon Stuart, Derek Titheradge, 17th Jean Doublebeiss, Phil Goodwin, Anthony (Tony) Giles, 18th Enid, Sheila Sanchez, Phyllis Brinley-Codd, 19th Cicely Selby, Roderic James, David Pardey, Cyril Carter, Juliet Pegler, 20th Elsie Dean, Gertrude Grainger, 21st Phyllis Smale, Alfred Humphries, Brian Gehlcken