

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*John the Baptist - Francesco Solimena 1657-1747*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

**6 December 2020**

*O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come!*

Dear Friends,

We continue our Advent journey of preparation, longing and expectation for the enrichment of our faith journey. As the hymn puts it, *The Lord will come and not be slow!* Although many of us are weary with the situation regarding the pandemic, our Faith offers us the opportunity to know that we celebrate the birth of Jesus every year to shake us from complacency, and to remind us what he brings and offers to each of us, every moment of every day, pandemic or not! The abiding of God with humanity is made known in the face of Jesus Christ.

On Sunday we hear the cry of John the Baptist - the great forerunner, last of the great prophets, greater than Elijah.

John is the one always pointing away from himself towards the Lamb of God. This is our call too. Living in and through Jesus Christ leads us to find our true selves in following the example of the Lord and becoming his light in the world. John calls to us here and now. He stands on the banks of the River Jordan hailing you and me, saying, 'He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' Pointing away from ourselves as John does reveals to others the fulness of life to be found in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you, my friends,

Michael

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

[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

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

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church) Reader: Gerry Larnar

**9.45 The Family Eucharist** (in Church—see website to book)

**6.00 Advent Carol Service** (in Church—see website to book)

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

**Monday : 10.00am** Funeral - Guy Berkeley

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Isaiah 40: 25-end; Matthew 11: 28-end

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Isaiah 41: 13-20; Matthew 11: 11-15

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

### **Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (13 December 2020)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in Church—see website to book)

**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 of Advent**

Almighty and merciful God,  
May no earthly undertaking  
hinder those who set out in haste  
to meet your Son.  
But may our learning of holy wisdom  
gain us joyful admittance to his company,  
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:**

Replenished by the food  
of spiritual nourishment,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that through our partaking in this mystery,  
you may teach us to judge wisely  
the things of earth  
and hold firm to the things of heaven.  
Though Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

## Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

## Mark 1: 1-8

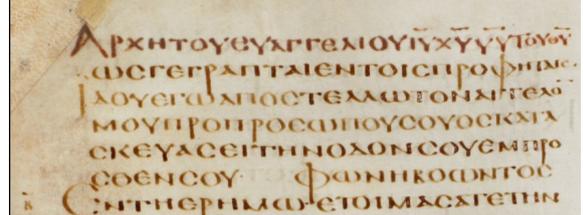
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

## A thought

We heard an Apocalyptic passage last week as we entered the Year of Mark. Today we hear the opening of his Gospel. In some ways these words are as apocalyptic yet in a different way. They take us to the heart of our Faith. Knowing Jesus Christ within one's life is not merely some 'feel-good' experience, but to know that wherever we are on life's journey, we know the abiding of God's love - revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. This is not just good news, but THE good news.

If I have a single suggestion for you in the lead up to Christmas, it is to take your Bible and read Mark's Gospel in one go. Notice the quickfire way in which he pushes the story along. Mark crams things into days. We read of teachings, miracles and interactions and we are almost exhausted by the pace of his account. Then, after the passage we heard last week, the Passion unfolds and everything is stretched out like real time. We can identify with the disciples' journey alongside Jesus. We become part of the story, until we, too stand with the women at the tomb and run away afraid. Yet this is the reaction to the fact that the Death and Resurrection of Jesus changes not just you and me, but the whole of creation. Through Christ, God offers everything to draw us to understand that we are part of a new heaven and a new earth.

Codex Alexandrinus - Mark 1:1-3



## A prayer for this time of anxiety:

**God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquility 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:** 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: Guy Berkeley, Ashley Guest

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 6th Lady Marie Loder, Winifred Wiseman, 7th George Smith, Frank James, Jean Notrums, 8th Eleanor Flux-Dundas, Victor Newnham, Honor Griffin, 9th Michael Batterbee, James Platt, 10th Gladys Defrates, Robert Tidmarsh, 12th Edith Read, Brian Shrod