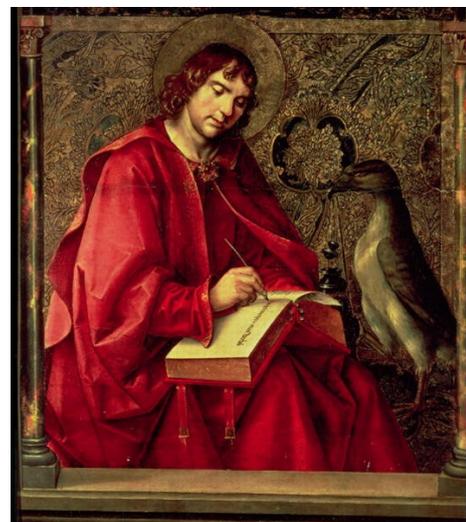


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
27 December 2020

*This is John, the blessed apostle, to whom heavenly joy was revealed
and who spread the words of life through all the world*

My dear friends,

This Sunday we celebrate the ancient commemoration of St John the Apostle and Evangelist—part of a sequence of Feast Days which follow Christmas itself: St Stephen, St John, the Holy Innocents, and then St Thomas Becket. From the tradition of John comes the remarkable Gospel and Letters - written with the radiance of the knowledge of the profound love at the heart of our Faith, revealed in Jesus Christ - the true vine.

In him we find the sap of true life. What could be better than this knowledge? Let us give thanks for the imagery John gives us, and, like him, know that ours is the wondrous call, like John, to rest on the Lord's breast and to know ultimate peace through him.

With love to you at this season of joy,

Michael

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (First Sunday of Christmas) (27 December 2020)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (Preacher: Father John Cleaver) *(in Church and online - see website to book)*

Readers: Jane Haughton & Helen Swift; Intercessor: Revd. Stephen Caple

There are no weekday services this week although the church is of course open for private prayer.

Next Sunday: Epiphany (Second Sunday of Christmas) (3 January 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online - 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 for John, Apostle & Evangelist

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist St. John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son 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:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Exodus 33: 7-11a

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tents. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

1 John Chapter 1

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

John 21: 19b-end

Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

A thought

Let us be glad in the Lord, dearly-beloved, and rejoice with spiritual joy that there has dawned for us the day of ever-new redemption, of ancient preparation, of eternal bliss. For as the year rolls round, there recurs for us the commemoration of our salvation, which promised from the beginning, accomplished in the fullness of time will endure for ever; on which we are bound with hearts up-lifted to adore the divine mystery: so that what is the effect of God's great gift may be celebrated by the Church's great rejoicings. In the whole and perfect nature of true man was true God born, complete in what was His own, complete in what was ours. And ours we call what the Creator formed in us from the beginning.



These words of Leo the Great lead us to contemplate the words of the Prologue of St John's Gospel. **Rejoice, dear friends!** The Word was made flesh, and we beheld his glory; the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

For us, John reveals the ultimate place of our eternal dwelling in the heart of Divine Love, revealed through the richness of our Trinitarian faith - God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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: Clare, Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear

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. The Smith Family, Ryan and his mother Katherine, Stuart,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Maureen Butcher

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 27th Doreen Shrapnell, Muriel Wheeler, George Flower, 28th Ann Carr, Eileen Gerrish, 29th Peter Burrowes, Kathleen Knight, Margaret Hall, Matthew Gallagher, 30th John Fisher, Harry Grieve, Rosemarie Cruse,, John Tomkins, Alan Searle, Anthony Harris, 31st Dennis Bennett, Ernest Palmer, Margaret Page, Phyllis Bowring, Florence Martin, Darryl McIlvride, John Skeldon, 1st Amy Tutton, Jack Small, Ronald Lower, Vivian Stevens, 2nd Charles Armistead, Ronald Nye