

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

Dear friends,

***Gaudete - Rejoice in the Lord always!***

In this slightly surreal year, we nevertheless know the great joy in knowing Jesus Christ in our lives. This is cause for us to 'rejoice in the Lord always,' as we celebrate this Gaudete Sunday. Next week our celebrations begin with the Family Nativity and Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Please note that the Eucharist next week will be at 8.30 (livestreamed) for those who wish to attend before the Nativity.

### Christmas Eve

A reading of '*The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*' by me at **2.30** and **4.00pm** (ticketed and livestreamed)  
We hope to have a live Nativity Scene (with animals) between the two readings of this lovely story.

**11.15pm Midnight Mass**

### Christmas Day

**8.00** Holy Communion

**9.45** Family Eucharist

### Sunday 28th St John the Evangelist

**8.00** Holy Communion

**9.45** Parish Eucharist (preacher: Father John Cleaver)

Blessings,

Michael

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

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

*The splendid photograph above was taken by Clive Simmonds recently in Cuckfield Park*

## Third Sunday of Advent (13 December 2020)

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

*Reader: Charles Solomon*

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

*Readers: Jane Haughton & Kate Berry; Intercessor: James Sanders*

### Services during the week:

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (CW) Readings: Isaiah 45 6b-8, 18, 21b-end; Luke 7: 18b-23

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Matthew 1: 1-17

**11.15am** Funeral - Ashley Guest

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

## Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent (20 December 2020)

**8.30 Holy Communion** (in church) (*Livestreamed—note change of time for this service*)

**9.45 Family Nativity** (in church and online - see website to book)

**6.00 A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** (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 Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with 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:

We give you thanks, O Lord,  
for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine  
as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns  
now and for ever.

### Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

### I Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### A thought

We hear John's account of the great forerunner, John the Baptist, preparing people to receive the Messiah; two passages, one from the great Prologue, and then into the action of the Gospel itself. Both John the Gospel writer, and John the Baptist urge us to consider the necessity of always being open to the call of Jesus within our lives through the inward working of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah gives us a wonderful sense of this call. We are 'to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. Our Faith teaches us to that the clause about vengeance is now redundant because of Jesus Christ. He overturns the wickedness of this world through the self-giving love he reveals on the cross—

something we are called to do through faith. This is why we are called to REJOICE; rejoice even when things get tough, when problems seem insurmountable; because at the end of the day, we are to know God's presence with us every moment of every day. The Saviour's Love causes us, on this Gaudete Sunday - and indeed every day - to contemplate the words from Philippians:

**Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be made known to everyone. The Lord is near!** (Philippians 4: 4-5)

### 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

### Please remember the recently departed and their families: Guy Berkeley, Ashley Guest

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 13th Dora Horn, Joan Sowter, 14th Nicholas Martin, Patrick Ancombe, 15th Bill Ridley, 16th Alison Quick, Jack Moulding, Lauren Silverlock, Christopher Bartlett, 17th Michelle Frenzell, Daina Allison, 18th Dorothy Beard, Daisy Kent, 19th Jack Fleming