

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

16 May 2021

My dear friends,

A veritable avalanche of items flowed into my computer mailbox very recently, including: my charge to be the electoral officer for the diocesan synod election for the house of laity within the deanery, a new scheme for covenants between churches and church schools, details of the national consultation 'Living in Faith and Love' of which I am to be the person providing feedback from our area, and (last, but not least) the urgent diocesan scheme for the drawing up of mission action plans for each deanery which will define clergy numbers (and much else) in regard to the onward work of the parishes in our deanery.

I know.....I signed up as Rural Dean, yet I can't help wondering what the apostles would have thought of all this when one reads the somewhat curious way in which Matthias was chosen to fill the gap created by Judas Iscariot - a little like a very odd by-election! At this point they are moving towards a Spirit-led mission, but have yet to experience the joyful Pentecostal call to proclaiming the Lord—our call also.

Although we have to abide by the expectations of modern life, let us never forget the love God shows us through his son - and always try to display this in all we do. This is our primary purpose!

With love and prayers, Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for more details
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Seventh Sunday of Easter (16 May 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church) Reader: Ralph Colbran

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (in church and online - see website to book)

Readers: Jane Haughton & Isobel Simmonds; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

4.30 IGNITE—Grill the Vicar!

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury*

Readings: Exodus 31: 1-5; 2 Corinthians 5: 1-10; Matthew 24: 42-46

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Alcuin of York, Abbot of Tours;*

Readings: Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3; Colossians 3: 12-16; John 4: 19-24

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Next Sunday: Pentecost (23 May 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church and online - see website to book)

11.30 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (on Zoom)

Most 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth
with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
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:

Eternal God,
giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ
has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live
the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

1 John 5: 9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17: 6-19

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

A thought

We have spent over forty days celebrating the Resurrection - a season of Alleluias. That season is not yet over, although on Thursday we gathered to celebrate the festival of Ascension of the Lord. As I said then, the Ascension completes a circular motion in God's physical presence and identification with humanity in the most tangible way possible: Jesus is born – just like you and me, he lives a life – just like you and me – and experiences death – again, the one certainty in life for each of us.

However, one of the great truths of our faith is Resurrection Hope, and the Ascension, is a sign, not of God's hoovering Jesus up to heavenly places beyond our reach (!), but an upward movement for humanity. Christ's Ascension is a sign that we are all called to be part of the Divine Love. Paul captures it in his great hymn of praise at the start of his letter to the Ephesians:

He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight, the mystery of his will according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ. A plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him – things in heaven and things on earth. (Eph:1: 8-10)

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: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Wendy Hibling, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby, Ros Thunder, Shirley Lewis, Rodney and Peta Pratt,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Becky Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, **Those in Care Homes:** Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Catherine Dunnage, Michael Hilton, Diana Hoile

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 16th Robert Goldsmith, 18th Christina Watling, 19th Mary Baker, Eleanor Kingdon, 20th Ethel Carter, Raymond Marchant, 21st Olive Martin, Pauline Wallace, 22nd Harold Getcliffe, Len Philipson, Margaret Nye