

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Edward Burne-Jones - St Martin's, Brampton

Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Second Sunday of Epiphany
17 January 2021

Speak Lord, your servant is listening!

Please note that all worship is online at present although the church remains open for private prayer

Dear Friends,

It was lovely to see so many people online with us last Sunday. Please do invite others to share in our worship. Although we are restricted in so many ways, the boon of technology means that we are still able to connect and worship together. At the same time we are mindful of those unable or unwilling to use technology, so please let's do our very best to keep in touch using every means possible. In particular, I am always available on the phone if you want a chat or to discuss any matters you wish to share. My mobile number is 07595 415143 or the land line 01444 454007.

With love,

Michael (Vicar)

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

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday of Epiphany (17 January 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only) Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Helen Swift; Intercessor: David Jamieson

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17; Mark 3: 1-6

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) **Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome**

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 51: 1-3; Revelation 7: 13-17; Matthew 18: 1-7

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

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Epiphany (24 January 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

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 Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
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:

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

I Samuel 3: 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Revelation 5: 1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

John 1: 43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

A thought

We have another interesting pairing of Old Testament and Gospel readings this week. The beautiful account of the call of Samuel beautifully balances the way in which Nathaniel is called by Philip - one might say the divine call in the first account made known through human agency in the second. Our own journeying in faith is a very personal matter. Many of us would point to the knowledge of God's presence within our lives as something always apparent - 'something understood.' George Herbert described the mysterious nature of prayer - one of the engines of faith - in his poem of the same name.

A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

This seems to me to point to the essence of faith in Christ. For many it seems to be an unbridgeable chasm. Yet faith in Jesus Christ is nothing airy-fairy. It is utterly rooted in every aspect of our humanity, and is ours to share; it is the knowledge of the fact that we are treasured by God - and faith in Jesus Christ is also OUR treasure to share.

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: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Tony Hibling

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, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd

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: Ruth Scott, David Clarke

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 17th Jane Annells, 18th Alan Graydon, 19th Isabel Bravo, 20th Elsie Laker, John Upton, 21st Sally Adams, Kenneth Hilton, William Wilkes, 22nd Alistair White, Valerie Hollinghurst, Dorothy Cox, Hilary Ruddock, 23rd Anthony Seabrook, Reg Burdett, Reg Rapley, Doug Maude, Enid Saunders