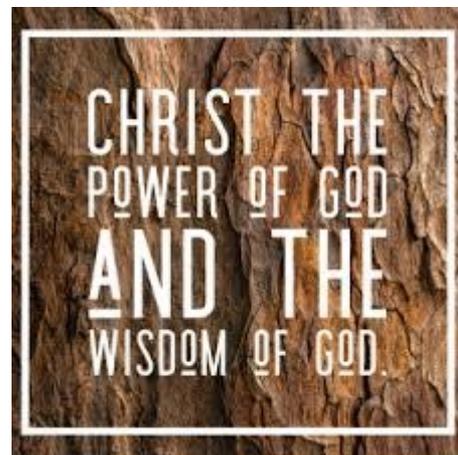


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news Sexagesima - The Second Sunday before Lent 7 February 2021

***'He is the head of the body, the church'***

Dear Friends,

The weather has been so inclement recently that we will all have feel bogged down at some point or other. That is perfectly fine, the natural way of things when we live through such extraordinary times. However, usually, as with the weather of nature, our own internal weather eventually finds sunlight breaking through.

Sometimes we lose sight of the bigger picture. As a parishioner once reminded me on a situation where others had found themselves bogged down: 'they should count their blessings.' The more I thought about it, the more I came to realise that it wasn't some 'pat' saying, but a profound necessity of all who follow Christ. Jesus gave everything he had to call us to do so. Counting our blessings lets the sun (or rather, the Son) shine through, and even if the problem seems insurmountable, ultimately the burden is lifted: ***'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11: 28-29***

Jesus accompanies us through the weathers of our life, and abides every step of the way. His yoke one of love.

Michael (Vicar)

### **Sexagesima - The Second Sunday before Lent (7 February 2021)**

**9.45 The Family Eucharist** (online only)

**6.00pm Choral Evensong** (online only) - Readers: John and Nikola Smith, Preacher: Kevin Carey

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

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7: 14-23

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Genesis 2: 18-end; Mark 7: 24-30

**Friday: 11.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Sexagesima

**Next Sunday: Quinquagesima - The Sunday next before Lent** (14 February 2021)

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** (online only)

#### **Details for Ash Wednesday (17th February)**

10.15—The Litany (BCP) 10.30—Holy Communion, 8.00pm Parish Eucharist—preacher: Clive Simmonds

**All services (other than the 8.30) live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.**

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:  
[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

#### **The Collect Second Sunday before Lent**

**Almighty God,**

give us reverence for all creation

and respect for every person,

that we may mirror your likeness  
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 our creator,**

by your gift the tree of life was set

at the heart of the earthly paradise,

and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table

on earth be transformed by the glory of the

Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31** Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**Colossians 1: 15-20** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**John 1: 1-14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **A thought**

Are you taken aback that we have again, in the space of a few weeks, the great Prologue from John's Gospel - one of the most extraordinary passages of Scripture? This great work leads us to contemplate the Wisdom of God, which, through the 'Word made flesh' we are called to know in Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament give us a lovely take on Godly Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs: *The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago .Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. When God marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. (Proverbs 8)* It's a fantastic reflection in this figure of Divine Wisdom – always described as female in Jewish terms. It's hugely endearing but I think that John leads us even further in describing Wisdom or The Word as one of the very aspects of the Divine nature. John wants us to take on board that when we reach that moment when, 'the Word became Flesh, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of a Father's only son, full of grace and truth,' then we understand that all that we are fully able to comprehend of God within our humanity is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

This leads us to the other reading from the Letter to the Colossians. There is no consensus about the composition of this letter. It may be by Paul, it could be later. However, what most scholars believe is that the first five verses of the passage probably form a very early hymn to Jesus - perhaps a Baptismal hymn - which the writer used to great effect here. In its way it is as extraordinary as the Prologue – another powerful reminder that the fulness of God is seen in the Son, and that through his sacrifice on the cross we are drawn to the possibility of understanding the intimate relationship which God opens to all through his Son. The great love God bears for each of us is shown in the utter selflessness in which Jesus offers himself up on the tree.

### **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 & Wendy Hibling, Nicholas Frayling,

**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, 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: Fr.Eric Simmons CR, Julia Whidborne, Peter Chandler, John Owen, Stephen Blanch, Geoffrey Boore**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 7th John Powell, Eileen White, Masie Moore, Jennifer Chandler, 8th Peter Mackay, John Humphries, Geoffrey Clifton, 9th Margaret Humphries, James Revell, 10th Maurice Edgerton, Ethel Foreman, 11th Mary Marchant, Ethel Harris, 12th Donald Philpott, Eric Grainger, Jack Brooker, James Donovan, John Rennison, 13th Jessie Piolet