

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)** *14 March 2021*

*Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her*

Dear Friends,

What a year! I was reflecting that on Lent 3 last year we had over 100 people at our 9.45 despite the growing crisis surrounding Covid. The following Sunday there were five and thereafter the church shut for those long months with only the odd 'illicit' service by me in an empty building (although it then transpired that they weren't illicit!)

Now, with Spring in the air again, we are starting the long path to a new normality. Sunday morning services in church will resume from Sunday week (**21st March**) when the 8.00 will be reinstated. Please note that ticketing is still required for the 9.45. (via the website) Those attending at 8.00 will need to bring their contact details. However, the 9.45 and all other main services will also continue to be Zoomed - I believe this will remain part of our outreach in the future and is something we will be considering further as we move forward. However, let's rejoice that, as we begin to experience more freedom in our interactions with others, that our lives know the ultimate freedom that Christ achieved for us through death and resurrection. In him is true freedom!

With my best wishes and prayers,

Michael (Vicar)

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday) (14 March 2021)**

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

*Readers: Helen Swift & Carolyn Ponder; Intercessors: Nicky & Harriet Lawrence*

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

**Wednesday: 10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) Patrick Patron Saint of Ireland**

*Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-11; Revelation 22: 1-5; Matthew 10: 16-23*

**8.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)**

**Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Exodus 32: 7-14; John 5: 31-end**

**7.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)**

**Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**3.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)**

## **Next Sunday: Passion Sunday (21 March 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** *(in church and online)*

**4.30 IGNITE**—service for young people and the young at heart *(online only)*

Please check the church website for  
more details  
[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

**All services this week 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 Fourth Sunday of Lent**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
drew all humanity to himself through the cross;  
strengthen our daily living  
that in joy and sorrow we may know  
your power to bind and heal;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. Amen

### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

O God, who enlightens everyone  
who come into this world,  
illuminate our hearts  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to you  
and love you with all sincerity.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor the Children of Israel set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### Ephesians 2: 1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

### John 3: 14-21

Jesus said, 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

### A thought

Just as you thought that you might sit down to warm and fluffy readings for Mothering Sunday, look at what the lectionary gives us: bronze serpents, poles, desires of the flesh and senses, and then reflections on darkness! However, what we have really is a rich mine of imagery and the call to the knowledge of incorporation into the heart of God's love through Jesus Christ. So in fact these readings are not just ones which seem appropriate for our Lenten journey, but also in some respects fulfil the themes we generally associate with this day which speak to us of relationship, both with those we love, particularly our mothers. Ultimately all love is derived from God, who is love. The journey we continue to travel alone in this strange period is one which discomfords all of us. In this sense, as I remarked upon last Sunday, it has brought a sense of disorder into our lives. The important thing is to recognise the rock stable abiding of God with us in every situation, every discomfort.. Although Covid can't be compared to the catastrophe of the First and Second World Wars, together with the vast loss of life in both (of course, I am not downplaying the terrible toil of Covid in this or any other nation - every death touches humanity), the sense of loss through death extends to the loss of simple human contact; something virtually every member of the human race requires and longs for in order to thrive. We pray that as things move forward these situations will ease. For the time being, let us remember the other name for Mothering Sunday: Laetare—Rejoice—Sunday—after the opening words of the Introit of the day—Rejoice, O Jerusalem, all you who love her (Isaiah 66: 10-11). This reminds us of our own journey towards the joy of Easter when Jesus reveals that through him those ruined places within our own lives are all capable of regrowth in the spirit. So, too, where our own wildernesses may become verdant pastures as we experience the fullness of life God offers through his Son.

### 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, Wendy Hibling, Sheila Mitchell, Ben Brindley Codd, Justine, Graham Hibbert, Joe Eaton Anne Greenhill, Phillip Williams

**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: Harold Chandler, Peter Blackburn

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 14th Roy Middleton, Barry Cumner, 15th Allen Shelton, 16th Bryan Cox, Gertrude Jagger, 17th Philip Thunder, Richard Dean, John Black, Norman King, 18th William Beard, Rosemary Baxter, 19th Tay Clarke, 20th Ruth Simson, Stanley Woods,