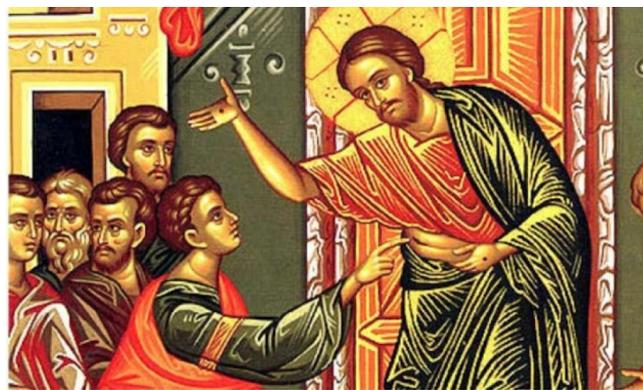


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Second Sunday of Easter
11 April 2021

Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ

1 John 1: 2

Dear Friends,

Do join us for our services this week as we continue to rejoice in the light of Easter. Sunday's Gospel includes the account of St Thomas. We see how human he is, following the Lord with zeal at one moment and then questioning the resurrection in the next. Ultimately he has the privilege of being transformed as he is invited to touch the sacred wounds. Yet Jesus says to Thomas, and then to us, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Let us rejoice that we are an Easter people, offering to all we meet the knowledge of true life in Jesus Christ.

With blessings,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday of Easter (11 April 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

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

Readers: Isobel Simmonds & David Spear; Intercessor: Philip Richings

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *Readings: Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21*

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Acts 5: 27-33; John 3: 31-end*

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

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter (18 April 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

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

4.30 IGNITE - *our new act of worship for the young and young at heart (online only)*

All services live (other than the 8.00 on Sunday) 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 Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise 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:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children
of eternal life and in baptism
have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1: 1-2: 2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20: 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

A thought

I wonder, one week after Easter, is our life different? Where are we living? In the freedom and joy of resurrection or behind locked doors? How is our life different after Easter? And if it isn't what are the locked doors of our life, our heart, our mind? When John describes the house, the doors, the locks he is speaking about more than a physical house with walls, doors on hinges, and deadbolts. He is describing the interior condition of the disciples. The locked places of our lives are always more about what is going on inside of us than around us.

What are the closed places of your life? What keeps you in the tomb? Maybe, like the disciples, it is fear. Maybe it is questions, disbelief, or the conditions we place on our faith.

Perhaps it is sorrow and loss. Maybe the wounds are so deep it does not seem worth the risk to step outside. For others, it may be anger and resentment. Some seem unable or unwilling to open up to new ideas, possibilities, and change.

Jesus is always entering the locked places of our lives. He comes eastering in us. Unexpected, uninvited, and sometimes even unwanted he steps into our closed lives, closed hearts, closed minds. Standing among us he offers peace and breathes new life into us. He doesn't open the door for us but he gives us all we need so that we might open our doors to a new life, a new creation, a new way of being.

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, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, Graham Hibbert, Joe Eaton, Anne Greenhill, Mark Parker, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky 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: Michael Hawthorne

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 11th John Springall, Nancy Ochoa, 12th Marian Haggart, 13th Williamina McKenzie, 14th Betty Elphinstone, Dan Batchelor, Frederick Bayfield, 15th Albert Jones, Keith Shakespeare 16th Ann Lacey, 17th Ian Todd