

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

*18 April 2021*

***Beloved, we are God's children now!***

Dear Friends,

Do join us for worship this week when services take place at the normal time. As we continue through these great fifty days of Easter, may we seek to grow in the knowledge of God's love for us—revealed through the saving grace of Christ's death and resurrection. As we see the Lord expounding on the Scriptures with the disciples, let us seek to engage in the same way—to read, mark and learn God's holy word (in the words of a Collect), to grow more faithful to the one who gives everything for us.

With blessings,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for more details

[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

## **Third Sunday of Easter (18 April 2021)**

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

*Reader: Margaret Thistlethwaite*

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

*Readers: Robyn Brotherton & Valerie Poxon; Intercessor: David Jamieson*

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

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

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

*Readings: Wisdom 9: 13-18; Romans 5: 8-11; Luke 21: 9-15*

**Thursday: 9.00am** Holy Communion *(Iona/Celtic) Readings: Acts 8: 26-end; John 6: 44-51*

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

## **Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter (25 April 2021)**

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

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

**All services (other than the 8.00) 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 Third Sunday of Easter**

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness  
and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with 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:**

Living God,  
your Son made himself known  
to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him  
in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
Amen

### Acts 3: 12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

### 1 John 3: 1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### Luke 24: 36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

### A thought

**Let us not mock God with metaphor,**

**Analogy, sidestepping transcendence;**

**Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the**

**Faded credulity of earlier ages:**

**Let us walk through the door.** John Updike

This little prose passage calls us to allow our whole beings to be caught up in the Resurrection - to cast aside the strictures of the mind and to soar in the knowledge of Jesus Christ's transformation of our lives through his own self-offering love. This is surely what it means to be 'Easter People,' something a former Bishop of Chichester used to remind us about continually. It doesn't mean that we are called to be people who go around with constant cheesy smiles like the Cheshire Cat. The Easter story is one of transformative love – transformative through passion, death and then resurrection. It challenges the normal order, it shakes up what we usually label the status quo. The Easter Story – our story – is that the things of this world can be different because the impossible dream is a reality. Death has no more dominion over us. Ours is new life here and now, and unto eternity. Today, the Orthodox Church keeps the Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers – the Marys, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. In the midst of the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, suddenly people are dragged back to the tomb – grounding, if you like, in the human state. This seems to me to be an excellent way of shaking up of heaven and earth in people's faith journey – grounding that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is neither metaphor nor analogy. It is transcendent Love and it transforms you and me personally and in the way we deal and eye the world. At its centre is Love, pure unbounded love- the Covenant starts the process with humanity, but its completion is God's humanity made known through Jesus.

**Let us walk through the door!**

### 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, Shirley Lewis, Ros Thunder

**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, HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 18th Clive Rees, 19th Sam leigh, Robert Norris, Doreen Webster, 20th Janet Cuddeford, Graham Fleet, 21st David Parry, 22nd Cyril Seymour-Robinson, Ena Gill, Peter Cripps, Ida Foster, 23rd Bob Salter, Alfred White, Nicholas Bugden, 24th Marjorie Salter, Ian Nicholson