

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Pentecost—El Greco (circa 1604) The Prado, Madrid

Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Pentecost

23 May 2021

My dear friends,

In Bianco da Siena's wonderful Pentecost hymn 'Come down, O Love Divine,' the writer uses beautiful imagery to describe the Holy Spirit's interplay in the life of the believer. Bianco describes this gift as like fire—'O Comforter draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.' This gift of the Holy Spirit dwells in all people, yet requires that kindling - allowing God's grace to continually interact in our daily living. Thus, says Bianco, 'none can guess its grace, until they become the place wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.'

This wonderful gift calls us to look at the world through the eyes of God's Love, which in turn enables us to know God in every situation; transforming, healing, inspiring - even (in the words of Michael Foster) dancing within our hearts! In the Jewish Faith of Pentecost (Shavuot) is the celebration of the completion of the grain harvest, together with the thanksgiving for the Biblical Law. For us it becomes a continual harvest of love - in the words of Isaiah each of us is to know that: *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. (Isaiah 61: 1-2 - and read on!)* So too it is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we fully understand the words of Jesus - 'Remember, I am with you to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28: 20). What a gift!

With love and blessings,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for more details
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Pentecost (23 May 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church) Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (in church and online - see website to book) Readers: Peter & Liz Graydon; Intercessor: Isobel Simmonds

11.30 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (online via Zoom)

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury*

Readings: Isaiah 49: 22-25; 1 Thessalonians 2: 2b-8; Matthew 13: 31-33

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Ecclesiasticus 42: 15-end; Mark 11: 11-26

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

Next Sunday: Trinity Sunday (30 May 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

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

11.15 Family Trinity Praise a short joyful service in the churchyard (or church if it rains!)

6.00pm A Sequence of Music and Readings for Trinity Sunday (in church and online)

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 Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through 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:

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?"' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

A prayer for this time of anxiety:
God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquility 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, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby, Ros Thunder, Shirley Lewis, Rodney and Peta Pratt,
Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Becky Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, **Those in Care Homes:** Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Diana Hoile
In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 23rd Riah Gil, Margaret Fraser, Margaret Pamplin, Merrill Beveridge, Winifred Dant, 24th Peter Poxon, Brian Beales, 26th James Roberts, 27th Margaret Cockburn, Hazell Liddell, Agatha Riley, 28th James Hall, 29th John Fielder, Nancy Halsall, John Weir