

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
*25 July 2021*

***Jesus said, 'It is I. Do not be afraid.'***

My dear friends,

School has finished, 'Freedom Day' has broken upon us, yet many will still be anxious at the rise in cases of Covid within society, plus, of course, the fact that life is still much constrained. Nevertheless, let us respond to the Gospel message this week. Christ reveals the abundance of grace on a Galilean hillside, and still does here and now as we gather around the table Sunday by Sunday. He walks on the waves of life's troubles, and calls us to know that through faith in him, he will bear us up too if we open our hearts to his love.

As the baptised of the Lord, we are called to proclaim his freedom which surpasses all others; countering the bitterness and corrosive nature of so much social interaction by pointing to him in whom is to be found the fullness of life's journey itself. He says to us and to all people, 'It is I. Do not be afraid.'

With love,

Michael

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

## **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (25 July 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)* Reader: Roger Edmonston

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

Readers: Peter & Liz Graydon; Intercessor: Philip Richings

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

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship)** *(in church & online)*

Readings: Exodus 34: 29-end; Matthew 13: 44-46

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)** **Mary Martha & Lazarus** *(online only)*

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9; Hebrews 2: 10-15; John 12: 1-8

**Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: Eighth Sunday after Trinity *(online only)*

## **Next Sunday: The Ninth Sunday after Trinity (1st August 2021)**

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

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

**11.15 Family Service** **A short, joyous service** - outside if fine, inside if wet

**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 Trinity 8**

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching  
and fellowship, united in prayer  
and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy  
and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## The Second Book of Kings (4.42-end)

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left."' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

## Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (3.14-end)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

## John 6: 1-21

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages<sup>[b]</sup> would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they<sup>[c]</sup> sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' <sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles,<sup>[d]</sup> they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' <sup>21</sup> Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

## A thought

We start a whole sequence of Gospel imagery based on the Lord as one who both feeds and saves us - offers us the fulness of life. John's beautiful account of the Feeding of the 5,000 starts this off. John's vivid descriptive narrative comes to the fore on this grassy hillside, and we can imagine ourselves seeing the boy come forward with the loaves and fish. Perhaps more difficult will be the astonishing account of Jesus walking on the water. The terrified disciples eventually find reassurance and take him into the boat. This is figurative language. The Church is the boat, but we always need to remind ourselves that we need to remember that Jesus is with us—always longing to lift us above the waves. This too is the wider purpose of the Church - at its best, a vessel of grace not just for us, but for the world. Jesus feeds us and calls us to draw others to true life itself.



## 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, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby, Becky Parker, Keith Thompson, Carole Wooldridge

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, 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: Michael Barlow, Joachim Atkinson, Fiona Coveney

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 25th Stella Muir, Oscar Orpen, Simon Montford Bebb, Dorothy Upton, 26th Brian Cooper, Gillian Coventry, 27th Alan Cruse, Fred Capelin, Alan Virgin, 28th Aileen Morrison, Barbara Galbraith, 29th Robert Capp, Revd. Eric Hayden, Shirley Beard, 30th Lilian Bourne, Mina Bushby, 31st Kenneth Viles, Francis Grainger, Graham Hardwick, Peter Anderson