

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
29th August 2021

Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

My dear friends,

One of the most shocking images I have seen recently was that of young men falling to their deaths from American aircraft flying out of Kabul Airport. It was all too much like the scene in New York nearly twenty years ago - the very reason allied nations were in the country in the first place. At so many levels we will have much to regret, including the loss of lives of allied soldiers and innocent Afghans.

The West has many questions to answer about the future. Presently so many seem to concentrate on the things which divide us. The prevailing culture pushed by academics and others achieve nothing other than further division. You and I have the responsibility of proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the notion that self-giving love to the other is always more powerful than hatred or bitterness. These just eat into the soul.

Jesus challenges the status quo in Sunday's Gospel reading, and so should we. May we all have the courage to point to the equality of all in God's sight, and the richness of the peace which flow through faith in his Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (29th August 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*) Reader: Ralph Colbran

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

Readers: Helen Swift & Carolyn Ponder; Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

12noon Holy Baptism Isabelle Grace Harris

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Colossians 1: 1-8; Luke 4: 38-end

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) (*online only*)

Readings: Colossians 1: 9-14; Luke 5: 1-11

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

Next Sunday: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (5th September 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

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

11.15 Informal Family Worship

12noon Holy Baptism Beatrice Imogen Clark and Georgina Tiggy Barton

6.00 Choral Evensong (*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 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
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:

God our creator,
you feed your children
with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us
through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

James 1: 17-end

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.' For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

A thought

Rules and regulations bound our lives, yet sometimes they can dismay and even create more problems than they solve. In some ways, our Gospel reading shocks us with the directness of Jesus' language – that's good.....in this particular passage we are reminded that the outward flowing of the Spirit which we are called to is not some wishy-washy niceness. As Dorothy L Sayers once wrote, 'We do Jesus singularly little honour by watering down his personality till it could not offend a fly.' This is not our calling. Our calling is to transform the world through his love, because we are ourselves continually transformed through that self-same love. We have all seen the unimaginable tragedy of the situation in Afghanistan, the continuing migrant crisis in so many other places - people trying to seek a new life even at the cost of death. I don't offer an answer except the name of Jesus. He would have laughed (at the very least) at our laws and regulations.....Whilst I don't offer a solution to the very complex nature of the crises which we experience at present, I do know the words of the Lord, because it was he who said, '**Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you.**'

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), Keith Thompson, Trevor, Yvonne Godsmark, Maureen Griffiths

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, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Becky Parker,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Anne Norris, Yvonne Ford, Veronica Ross, Amy Fielder

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 29th Diana, Princess of Wales, Jessie Punnett, 30th Stuart Ingram, 31st Brian Wright, 2nd Phyllis Porter, Nelson Jones, Olive Carrington, Ronald Clark, 3rd Jonathan Ranger, Frank Marshall, 4th Cpt. Donald Bairdow