

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Harvest (Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity)**  
*3 October 2021*

***Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow!***

My dear friends,

As we celebrate the Harvest, we also bear in mind our interaction with the planet on which humanity relies for sustenance. The grievous nature of depredation in so many areas of nature is an indictment of the rapacious nature of the desire for ever more and more on so many fronts. Before I sound like one of our politicians (!) let me point you to our Gospel reading for this Sunday. This speaks of the glory of nature. Jesus says to us: *Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.* He points us to an understanding that God provides abundantly for humanity - we only have to observe nature to see this. It is our response to how this abundance is used which measures us.

You and I have a responsibility to care for both the natural world and those of our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than we are. When this is not the case, what does that say about humanity. As Christians we have an even greater responsibility to do all within our power to engage in the spirit with both wider Creation and humanity.

With love,

Michael

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

## **Harvest (Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity) (3 October 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)* Readers: Gerry Larner & Anthony Van der Willigen

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

Readers: Jane Haughton & Isobel Simmonds; Intercessor: James Sanders

**11.15 Family Informal Worship**

**12.30 Holy Baptism** Ralph Douglas Ponder Tuckey

**6.00 Choral Evensong** *(in church and online)*

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

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

Readings: Jonah chapter 4; Luke 11: 1-4

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

Readings: Malachi 3: 13-4: 2a; Luke 11: 5-13

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

## **Next Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (10th October 2021)**

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

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

**For services 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 Harvest**

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth  
in their season: grant that we may use them  
to your glory, for the relief of those in need  
and for our own well-being;  
through Jesus Christ your Son 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:**

Lord of the harvest,  
With joy we have offered thanksgiving  
for your love in creation and have shared  
in the bread and wine of the kingdom:  
by your grace plant within us  
a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Joel 2: 21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

## I Timothy 6: 6-10

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

## Matthew 6: 25-33

Jesus said 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## A thought

Although Harvest tends to concentrate on the bounty of creation, in fact we are called to acknowledge that every aspect of our lives provides the opportunity for a spiritual harvest in sharing the gift of Faith. In this age of pandemic, it may be sharing ourselves in a costly way with those suffering from the mental exhaustion of the whole situation, or, as someone anonymously did so generously, giving to enable our community to use technology within these ancient walls to proclaim Jesus Christ through an online medium to those outside. What a blessing!

In the passage from Matthew's Gospel Jesus calls all not to be absorbed by the worries and cares of this life so as to neglect what is really necessary: relationship with God. Again, this is about transformation, and he appeals to our imagination. He is not making a moral point about lilies, sparrows, or even Solomon! Jesus is calling us to consider that our relationship with the world should mirror the wonder of God's creation and its abundance, because in so doing, we are entering into a relationship with the Divine Love which is at the core of all that exists. Giving thanks for the Harvest is a part of this, as is care of our environment and of each other, because all of this reflects God's Love within creation and revealed in the most costly and abundant way by giving us his Son. But is humanity doing to creation what it did to Jesus?

### **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, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), Keith Thompson, Trevor, Yvonne Godsmark, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Pam Sagar, David Dennis, John Smith

**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, Wendy Hibling,

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

### **Please remember the recently departed and their families: Kevin Lewis**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 3rd Frederic Burrige, Sybil McKinnan, William Byrne, Bernadette Selous, 4th Charles Newnham, Daphne Gossage, 5th Joseph Chapman, Brenda Burbidge, David Barrett, 6th Vera Philipson, Douglas Owens, Leslie King, Brian Peake, 7th Winifred Seldon, Evelyn Stead, Yvonne McMillar, 8th Hilda Evens, Derek Ball, 9th Bill Spear, John Bellenger