

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 12th September 2021

My dear friends,

It has been great to see a return to some sense of normality on many fronts. We are being careful, I know, but it is certainly a blessing to see people returning to so many areas of our community life. Could I just say that next Friday's Eucharist will be the first to take place in the Lady Chapel since March 2020. It is also my intention to move the Thursday 9.00 back to church the following week. We may use an iPad to involve those at home for this service as a trial.

This means that thereafter we will then be solely zooming the 9.45 on Sundays and the 10.30 on Wednesdays for those unable to attend. This will, I hope, greatly reduce the workload that our wonderful technological wizards have to do - they really have enabled our worship to be a blessing to everyone. These two services will continue to be zoomed indefinitely as part of our outreach. The only question will be our two monthly Evensongs. I will let you know any decision regarding streaming those services. It is almost certain that we will wish to stream much of our Christmas worship, but that is some way off!

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Menorah (detail) Robert Wagner 1993

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (12th September 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*) Reader: Graham Johnson

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

Readers: Liz & Peter Graydon; Intercessor: Jane Coan

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) (*in church & online*) **Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage**

Readings: Ezekiel 34: 11-16; Luke 9: 23-26

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) (*online only*) **Ninian, Bishop of Galloway**

Readings: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-6: 2; Matthew 9: 35-38

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity XV (**IN CHURCH**)

Next Sunday: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (19th September 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

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

6.00 Sung Evensong (*in church and online*)

Many 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel
the working of your mercy;
grant that we may serve you will all our heart.
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:

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you
our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from
all things hurtful, and lead us to all things
profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

James 3: 1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8: 27-end

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

A thought

'If any wants to become my followers,' Jesus says, 'let them deny themselves. take up their cross and follow me' (Mk 8:34) – not, 'they will deny themselves...' but '**let** them deny themselves ...' It's not a simple case of mechanistic cause and effect. Faith, which we believe is a gift from God, doesn't make us act in a certain way, but demands of us a choice. And the way we human beings work, this doesn't amount to a simple one-off 'yes' or 'no' which determines all our subsequent actions. Rather, our actions throughout our lives can be more or less in accord with our faith: clearly, our faith can end up being strengthened or weakened as a consequence of our choices, but it's always a continuous process, with good days and bad days, advances and setbacks – after all, denying ourselves and 'carrying our cross' doesn't exactly sound easy.

So if our lives don't look like a perfect expression of the faith we profess that's not a cause for despair, or fear that we're lying to ourselves. We'd be right to recognise that there's a problem, but it's not an insoluble one. Rather, it's an occasion to hear again in our lives Jesus' call in today's Gospel and to turn to him – most obviously - for the strength to answer 'yes' to that call with our lives.

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

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: Yvonne Ford, Veronica Ross, Amy Fielder John Beard, Rose Powell, Peter Brown, Ronald Craigen

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 12th Lilian Wilson, Anne Allemand, John Cuxson, Margaret Brooker, 13th Peter Brown, Ivy Christophers, Bettina Flower, 14th Ellen Ford, Bridget Dunnett, 15th Constance Blackburn, 16th Brian Lockyer, 17th Edith Pelham