

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Ephphatha

Mark 7:31-37

Weekly devotions, prayers and news  
**The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
5th September 2021

**'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'** Isaiah 35: 4

My dear friends,

There can be little doubt that Western Society is experiencing a crisis of confidence. From identity politics, the chase after celebrity and wealth to the utterly corrosive nature of much interaction through social media and the failures and humiliation of politicking around the globe (Afghanistan and the Middle East generally) - all speak of an increasing rootlessness. The denigration of religion (and most particularly Christianity) by the self-opiniated upper echelons of so many in public areas of life completely ignores the fact that our culture and freedoms have been brought about precisely because of our Judaeo-Christian heritage.

Our Faith in Jesus Christ is no museum piece. It is through Christianity that true freedom is to be found. As Jesus makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak, so WE are called to our own 'Ephphatha' lives; called to allow God to speak within; to proclaim through our words, lives and actions the love of Jesus Christ. Ours is a vocation of love which truly transforms the world.

With love,

Michael

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

## **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (5th September 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church) Reader: Gerry Larner

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

Readers: Jane Haughton & Kate Berry; Intercessor: Lawrence Family

**11.15 Family Informal Worship** - a short, joyful service of praise (outside if fine)

**12noon Holy Baptism** Beatrice Imogen Clark & Georgina Tiggy Barton

**6.00 Choral Evensong** (in church and online) Readers: Pat & Rod Montague

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

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) (in church & online) Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Readings: Micah 5: 2-4; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23

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

Readings: Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 6: 27-38

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

## **Next Sunday: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (12th September 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

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

**Most 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 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Merciful God,  
your Son came to save us  
and bore our sins on the cross:  
may we trust in your mercy  
and know your love,  
rejoicing in the righteousness  
that is ours 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:**

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

### Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

### James 2: 1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### Mark 7: 24-end

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

### A thought

I don't know about you, but very often our lives change because of our interaction with other people. There might be a moment when someone says something and we suddenly realise something has changed. It can be a moment when love is expressed, sometimes when a person points something out about who we are. There are all sorts of situations. What courage the Syro-Phoenician woman has in our Gospel reading, and all sorts of boundaries are crossed; the status of women – the boundary between stereotypical male dominance and female submissiveness; the boundary between itinerant preacher and a Greek landed property owner – the outsider against the status quo; and then..... capitulation by Jesus. Her encounter changes his message. No longer is it just my people, but the message and the healing are for all people. The child is liberated and so too is Jesus. He opens the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers, as the Te Deum has it. The crumbs beneath the table become a banquet of love, as the Lord offers himself to this woman and her child, and to you and me. He is the Bread of Life.

### 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), 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, Kate Malby, Becky Parker, Carole Wooldridge,

**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, Ada Evans

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 5th St Theresa of Calcutta, James, David Neen, Nancy Pforter, Jennifer Tapp, 6th Ivor Owen, Annie Voller, Albert Smith, 7th Bob Rowley, Emily Bone, 8th Gerald Honeysett, 9th James Taylor, 10th Tony Osborne, Dorothy Bumpus, 11th Sybil Eaton