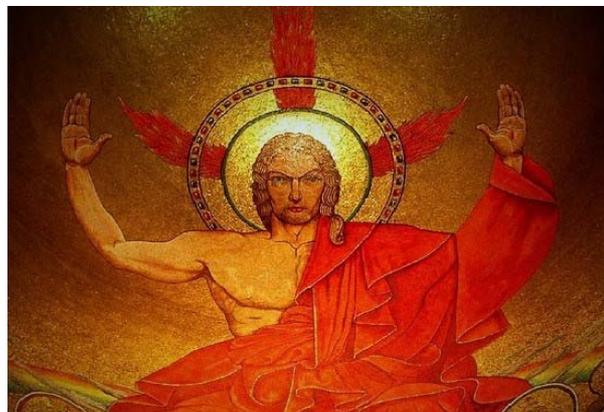


# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
*26th September 2021*

***Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another***

My dear friends,

The announcement of the Aukus agreement between the UK, USA and Australia has rocked the boat of international diplomacy, not least with our French friends. This is regrettable, yet people in the West will see the rise and dominance of China within the spheres it seeks to inhabit as alarming. The eradication of Tibetan culture has been ongoing for nearly seventy years. We hear of the terrible persecution of the Uighurs as well as Christians and those of state unapproved systems. What can we who rejoice in freedom do when the nations of the West seem caught up and riven in all sorts of issues which divide civil society?

As Christians, Jesus calls us to have salt within ourselves. This almost mysterious saying has puzzled theologians for centuries, but it seems to me that we are called to bring the flavour of true life to the world, and that true life is found in Jesus Christ. Our 'salting' means that we constantly speak out against injustice and persecution—revealing that TRUE freedom is found in the one who gave himself for humanity to make the immediacy of God's love the ultimate reality of life itself.

With love,

Michael

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

## **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (26th September 2021)**

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

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

Readers: Jim & Eileen Knight; Intercessor: Philip Richings

**12noon Holy Baptism** Rupert Lennon Beresford

**1.00 Holy Baptism** Jake William Gardner, Ava Beatrice Gardner & Penelope Grace Gardner

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

**Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion** (C. Worship) *(in church & online)* **St Michael & All Angels**  
Readings: Genesis 28: 10-17; Revelation 12: 7-12; John 1: 47-51

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion** Iona/Celtic - **online and in church** Readings: Nehemiah 8: 1-12; Luke 10: 1-12

**10.00 & 11.00 School Harvest Services**

**2.30 Thanksgiving Service for Peter Chandler**

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

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

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

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

**11.15 Family Informal Praise**

**12.30 Holy Baptism** Ralph Douglas Ponder Tuckey

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

### **The Collect for Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity The Post Communion Prayer:**

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love  
of 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

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually  
to be given to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.' So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.'

## James 5: 13-end

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Mark 9: 38-end

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great mill-stone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

## A thought

Much of our modern way of thinking and of our culture wants us to believe, and many people do, in a small world. That kind of world has a shrunken sense of the real, in it life is pursued within limited horizons, and the expectation is of annihilation at death. This helps to explain why the lines from today's gospel according to St Mark are so challenging. We are challenged from two directions. **The first challenge** is that we are presented with the seriousness of our moral lives and its consequences. An initial reaction to this challenge might be to look for ways of escape from such demands – surely this is mere exaggeration? Surely these are crude shock tactics? Could any moral failure require such drastic action? **The second challenge** is to believe in a larger, deeper reality than much of our secularised culture wants us to. Today's gospel tells us about devils, hell, miracles and the Kingdom of God. An initial reaction to this challenge might be to dismiss it as primitive cosmology. To meet these two challenges means accepting the seriousness that sin can have, and to believe in a reality that can be undermined by sin yet is created and recreated by God. That there is for us redemption and forgiveness in Christ is a kind of miracle. Stumbling is an image used repeatedly in today's gospel. It represents one of the features of sin. It is an obstacle to faith, a stumbling block, and it can also affect others in a negative way. God by his Word and Spirit, casts a living light on sin. Conversion requires convincing of sin. When this happens, we discover a double gift: the gift of truth of conscience and the gift of the certainty of redemption. The Spirit of truth is the consoler—offering us the gift of God's grace at all times.

## 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: Peter Brown, Douglas Craigen, Kevin Lewis

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 26th Jenifer Spear, 27th Winifred Bailey, David Tapp, Nicholas Bennett, 28th Mildred Young, Pauline Erlam, 29th Elizabeth St. Claire Roberts, 30th Norman Marchant, 1st Phyllis Grimwade, 2nd Jane Larner