

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
10 October 2021

Stewardship Sunday - O God, Great is Your Faithfulness

My dear friends,

We have been so blessed in recent weeks as our Sunday worship has felt restored to something like that which we experienced before the onset of Covid. We have really felt joy within our ancient church's walls and I hope that this has overflowed to those joining our worship online.

We now need to forge a visionary way forward, seeking to build on the successes of the past and also to realise new hopes and joys as a community. I have always been struck by the forward looking nature of our church and hope that as we consider stewardship, all may respond generously, knowing the grace God pours upon us through his Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that there is so much more we are called to achieve. Please do respond in the knowledge of God's faithfulness to each one of us. Let's seek to continue to grow the Kingdom Life in and for Cuckfield!

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (10th October 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Reader: Charles Solomon

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

Readers: Kate Berry & Liz or Peter Graydon; Intercessor: Helen Swift

Services during the week:

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

Readings: 2 Samuel 23: 1-5; Matthew 21: 12-17

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church and online)*

Readings: Romans 3: 21-30; Luke 11: 47-end

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

Next Sunday: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (17th October 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

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

12noon Holy Baptism Thomas Ernest Hewes

6.00 Sung Evensong

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 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning,
in 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:

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with
the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Hebrews 4: 12-end

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mark 10: 17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

A thought

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" so Jesus tells his disciples, as they witness a rich man, who wanted to know what to do in order to inherit eternal life, turn down the invitation by Jesus to join them. It's an absurd picture, of course, which readers down the ages have sought to moderate. St Cyril (c.375-444), Patriarch of Alexandria asserted that the word kamelon, 'camel', must be a copyist's mistake for kamilon, 'cable'. Thus, while it would be difficult, it need not be ridiculously impossible for the rich to enter heaven. It would be like forcing a cable through the eye of the sort of heavy duty needle in the tool kit (say) of a professional tentmaker like St Paul - not a needle you or I might use! There have also been claims about a narrow gate in the Jerusalem city wall, which could be opened after the main gate was closed for the night, to which gullible pilgrims were conducted, no doubt for a small fee, to see how a camel might squeeze through. Of course, such ways of dealing with the text are rather ludicrous. Mainly, however, don't such attempts to make Jesus sound more reasonable simply miss the point? Surely he was joking, teasing, deliberately provoking his disciples, making fun of their literal-mindedness, and that of subsequent readers of the story, like St Cyril, and ourselves too if we fail to allow for his sense of humour. Jesus calls us to allow the blessings of our life to overflow into the world. In giving generously on every front - time, talents, money - we will find great blessings poured upon us by God.

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), Trevor, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Pam Sagar, 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, Yvonne Godsmark, Keith Thompson,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 10th Christina Cawton, Florence McDonald, Roy Laver, 11th Audrey Cowen, Glydwr Goldfinch, 12th Winifred Hounsell, Frederic Pyle, James Swain, 13th Marjorie Smith, Oliver Binns, Daisy Rhodes, Monica Harvey, Janet Windmill, Richard Sharp, Eileen Weir, 14th Margaret Prebble, Mabel Shakespeare, John Penny, 15th Len Beard, Margo Dixon, Gilbert Went