

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

All Saints Tide

31 October 2021

I saw a new heaven and a new earth

My dear friends,

I have always loved All Saints tide - the opportunity to celebrate the richness of the way in which God has inspired women, men and children through the ages. The Church has celebrated the lives of saints since the earliest times and there are key moments which mark the development of this festival. One was the dedication of the Pantheon in 609 (or 10!) as a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Martyrs, but the date later was fixed on November 1st in a mysterious way. Some say it replaced a pagan festival in our nation, but this is far from clear.

What I think it does represent is the whole gamut of the human interaction with the God of Love, who gives his Son for us to draw us by the power of the Holy Spirit into the inheritance of the Saints. We are called to be saints ourselves. Not stained glass or carved stone or plaster saints in our church buildings, but flesh and blood living signs of God's grace - just as the saints we honour really were. They all had flaws like you and me - thanks be to God!

Love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

All Saints Tide (31st October 2021) *A very warm welcome to Father Stephen Dando*

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

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight; Intercessor: Mark Parker

3.00 Friend's of Holy Trinity Church Concert

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Romans 13: 8-10; Luke 14; 15-24

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

Readings: Romans 14: 7-12; Luke 15: 1-10

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

Next Sunday: Third Sunday before Advent (7th November 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

11.15 Informal Praise

12noon Holy Baptism *Beatrice Rose Hedley*

1.00 Holy Baptism *Finley Thomas Arnold and Penelope Somer Arnold*

6.00 Choral Evensong

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for All Saints

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
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:

God, the source of all holiness
and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day
of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Wisdom 3: 1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Revelation 21: 1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 11: 32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

A thought

On this day which the church sets aside to remember All Saints, we are reminded that we are called to be saints ourselves; flesh and blood saints, like those saints whom the church recognises. Don't be worried that you feel you could never attain such a degree of holiness. The Saints the church honours really weren't like those we find in stained glass. Portrayed in our own lovely windows, they are very often beautiful, surrounding us as they do, fixed and immovable in a rictus of holiness, complete with painted halo! No! The Saints were flawed, they got things wrong. Some of them we probably wouldn't get on with at all, but nevertheless they strove to live the Resurrection life which Jesus calls us to.

The church honours Martha, Mary and Lazarus as saints, and look at them: Martha complaining about her sister, Mary never picking up the duster - real people. And Lazarus - who hears the voice of Jesus calling him to Life and is unbound from the winding cloths which hold him in rigidity, called to life in the here-and-now, a foretaste of the promise of incorporation into God's infinite love.

The richness of our other readings today gives us a vision of this Resurrection life in its full beauty. Sometimes, it seems impossible for us to aspire to this. But amidst trials and tribulations we can experience the deepest joy and consolation which Resurrection life promises by trusting in God's infinite love - revealed in its most tangible through Jesus - the journey of Faith which leads us towards the reality of TRUE life and resurrection.

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

**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,**

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), Trevor, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Pam Sagar, John Smith, Tim Burrows

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, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Becky Parker, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Andrew Thorp, Ralph Hollinghurst

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 1st John Temple, 2nd Charles Cadman, Priscilla Bennett, Joyce Donoghue, 3rd Cecil Rhodes, Florence Burleigh, Albert Voller, 4th Gillian Fabb, Margaret Rhodes, Reg Charles, Ethel Radcliffe, 5th June Wilde, 6th Heather Grant, Sheila O'Donoghue