

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **Advent Sunday**

**28 November 2021**

***The year of Luke the Gospel Writer***

My dear friends,

A new year begins for the Church - one in which our Sunday readings explore Luke's Gospel. His beautiful birth narratives of John the Baptist and the Lord are some of the glories of all four Gospels, yet he is not afraid to use gritty and challenging imagery when needs be.

The call we are given at the start of Advent is to be awake to the Kingdom Life offered by Jesus Christ - 'Sleepers wake! A voice is calling,' one well-known hymn has it. We will hear the voice of John the Baptist several times - a reminder that although Advent is a season, in fact, all of our times and seasons are an opportunity to keep awake to the voice and pull of God within our lives. In doing so, we are challenged to allow ourselves to be vulnerable in order to reveal to the world the grace poured upon us by God through the birth of the Son which we celebrate at Christmas. Allow God to challenge you this Advent so that you may live life to its full potential through Jesus Christ.

With love,

Michael

### **Advent Sunday (28th November 2021)**

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

*Reader: Roger Edmonston*

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church and online)*

*Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight; Intercessor: Clive Simmonds*

**12 noon Holy Baptism** *Ena Rosa Chard*

**1.00 Holy Baptism** *Charles Oliver Glenn*

**6.00 Advent Carol Service—Darkness to Light** *(in church & online)*

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

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

*Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Matthew 15: 29-37*

**12.00 Funeral of Sheila Mitchell** *(to which all are welcome)* *(in church and online)*

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

*Readings: Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27*

**Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** *Readings: Advent I* *(in church)*

**Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent** (5th December 2021)

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

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church and online)*

**11.15 Family Informal Worship** *(in church)*

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

#### **The Collect for Advent Sunday**

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
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:**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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

### Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### Luke 21: 25-36

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

### A thought

Sometimes people say that the Old Testament God is a God of fear, judgement and punishment, while the New Testament God is a God of love, forgiveness and welcome. Today's Scripture readings show just how mistaken this can be. The Old Testament reading from the Prophet Jeremiah is a message of hope and fulfilment, of peace and light. So too is the passage from Thessalonians. However, in the Gospel reading, Jesus' message is positively doom-laden and threatening. In fact, the way God is pictured in Scripture is much the same throughout the whole of both Old and New Testaments. Scripture is the story of God's dealings with us, a rebellious people; and if there are differences in Scripture, they are differences of our reaction to God, our growing understanding of Him at different times of our history, not differences in God Himself.

Jesus warns us to be ready for what he calls 'the coming of the Son of Man'. This means not just an event in the future, but also his continual presence with us even now, though we often fail to recognise him. So he is urging us to be aware. He hints at the days of Noah, when people went about their ordinary business unaware of the judgement hanging over them. However, Advent is a hopeful season: not optimistic, not trusting that matters will somehow turn out all right; rather it is a time to renew a passionate hope in God and in all that God gives us in faith in order to live in hope and charity; knowing above all the great Christmas gift of God, the Lord Jesus and then the Holy Spirit given to us by him. The world around us at the moment is a very dark place: international tensions, economic crises, pandemic, unemployment, and civil collapse abroad. It is almost a picture of the apocalyptic words of



the Lord. But we are called to be children of hope and faith and, above all, love - caritas. We are not to be submerged by anxiety, bowed down by despair. 'Be alert,' the gospel tells us. Remember that we are salt to the earth and light to the world.

'Be alert,' is the Advent call. Be alert and be prayerful at all times, pondering all these things in the light of faith and hope and love. We all know the better path. Have a great Advent!

### 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, John Bernardi (priest), Trevor, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, John Smith, Tim Burrows, The Parker Family

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Wendy Boys,

**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: Reginald Homes MBE, Sheila Mitchell

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 28th Roger Coleman, Seonaid Collins, 29th Joseph Millband, Tom Dawson, 30th Madge King, Douglas Candfield, Julie Sears, 1st Angela Fox, 2nd Jack Upton, Nigel Lloyd, Ronald Nye, 3rd Peter Bravo, Dr. Christine Bratt, 4th Susan Jones, Jack Vass