

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

The Third Sunday before Advent

7 November 2021

'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'

My dear friends,

It hardly seems possible that the year is approaching an end, yet the Church provides us with a different kind of new year with the start of Advent in a few weeks. In the meantime our readings lead us on a journey to consider the important things in life. Covid-words have had a profound effect on many areas of our lives, some for the better, some for the worse. It has certainly helped us to focus on the way Holy Trinity both grows and communicates the Gospel message to the world. I want to thank you sincerely for your engagement and love for our community.

I ask you to pray regularly for our parish and its outreach. So many things happen quietly and without a fuss—an example of the selfless love we are called to display through faith in Jesus Christ. Let us seek to always be enriched by the knowledge of just how much we are loved by the God who is love and draw others in to this wonder.

With my love and prayers,

Michael

Third Sunday before Advent (7th November 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Readers: Anthony Van der Willigen & Gerry Larnar

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Isobel Simmonds & Kate Berry; Intercessor: Isobel Simmonds

11.15 Informal Worship

12noon Holy Baptism Beatrice Rose Hedley

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

1.00 Holy Baptism Finley Thomas Arnold and Penelope Somer Arnold

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church & online)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: 1 Peter 5: 1-11; Matthew 16: 13-19

Wednesday 6.30 Space for Grace

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church & online)* Martin, Bishop of Tours

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 34-40

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

Next Sunday: Remembrance Sunday (14th November 2021)

9.00 Parish Eucharist with hymns *(in church and online)*

10.45 Parish Service of Remembrance *(Starting at the War Memorial)*

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

The Collect for Third Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
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:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life
for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Hebrews 9: 24-end

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Mark 1: 14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

A thought



The Church of England diverges from the Common Lectionary in the Sundays leading up to Advent (this year marking the start of Year C when our Sunday Gospel readings come primarily from Luke). The revisors of our liturgy created the 'Kingdom Season' leading to the new church year. This has some useful focus although it does seem to give us an extended period of apocalyptic material. So for those who wish to be comfortable, prepare to be discomforted! Common Worship describes that *"the period between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent is observed as a time of celebration and reflection on the reign of Christ in earth and heaven."*

This Sunday we are back at the beginning of Mark's Gospel when the words of Jesus ring in our ears with the proclamation: 'The kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' Repentance - turning Godward is the urgent call of John the Baptist as well, and it remains the Christian Ideal. The paradox is that the Kingdom is already upon us as Jesus starts to unfold the mystery of God's love in order to

offer us the richest lives possible. This is the tenor of what the Letter to the Hebrews reveals. The Kingdom is certainly present here and now because of the self-giving love of Jesus which leads to death and resurrection - the floodgates of the knowledge of God's love for us are opened by Christ's handing himself over to death on the cross to reveal how much God desires a relationship with each one of us.

The urgency of this knowledge is hammered home by the writer, time and time again. Forget the endless blood sacrifices and the whole sacrificial system of the Temple. As Christ is raised for us on the cross he breaks the endless cycle of propitiation - his victory over hatred, violence and death is revealed in full drawing us to the knowledge of new life in God. As Charles Spurgeon once wrote - and I don't often quote from him! - the price has been paid in full and the receipt is nailed to the cross.

The urgency of Jonah's call to the people of Nineveh is a pale shadow of the love which God reveals through Jesus. Be part of the Kingdom story and you will never regret it. It is a life-long journey to understand just how much YOU are loved.

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, 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: Ralph Hollinghurst, Justine Mullins, Reginald Homes

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 7th Elizabeth Vass, 8th Esther Barnes, John Beveridge, 9th Charles Binns, Lady Pamela Herbecq, Helen Davidson, 10th Betty Clover-Brown, George Tidd, Catherine Hackett, 11th Patricia Cree, Rosemary Stevens, 12th Betty Earnshaw, Moira Parham, Harry Fry, 13th Ivor Williams, John Taylor, Albert Avery