

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fourth Sunday before Lent
6th February 2022

The Accession of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II 1952

My dear friends,

This Sunday marks the accession of Her Majesty the Queen. Her remarkable sense of duty to the nation as our monarch is an example of a life underpinned by her strong faith in God. The Coronation oaths she took ended with the words, 'The things which I have here before promised, I will perform, and keep.' This she has faithfully done. In the face of the loss of The Duke of Edinburgh and other problems within the family, she has displayed fortitude and dignity. The Queen's probity is also a wonderful example to us all. Would that this extended to every area of our government and parliament.

As we give thanks for her long reign, let us pray that, following her extraordinary example, we may seek to live out our Faith in Jesus Christ to the fullest; bringing his light and truth into every area of our lives and also the society in which we live.

With love,

Michael

Fourth Sunday before Lent (6th February 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Gerry Larner & Anthony Van der Willigen

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

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

11.15 Family Informal Worship *(in church)*

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church and online)*

Services during the week:

Monday 4.00 Memorial Service Veronica Hutchison - 'Granny'

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

Readings: 1 Kings 10: 1-10; Mark 7: 14-23

2.00 Funeral Service Lorna Fischer

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

Readings: 1 Kings 11: 4-13; Mark 7: 24-30

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Epiphany V *(in church)*

2.00 Memorial Service & Burial of Ashes Ralph Hollinghurst

Next Sunday: Septuagesima (3 before Lent) - 13th February 2022

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

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

The Collect for Fourth Sunday before Lent

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
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:

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive
everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Isaiah 6: 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

I Corinthians 15: 1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Luke 5: 1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

A thought

Our readings today put the sense of CALL firmly to the forefront of human experience, yet all are completely different in nature. The stupendous view which Isaiah gives us of his call to prophetic ministry draws us into an understanding of God as the divine one unparalleled in majesty and mystery. Isaiah's response to the overwhelming presence of God is one of the realisation of his unworthiness to the divine call within his life, and yet he finds himself charged with prophesying using the fire of God on his tongue represented as a seraph touches his tongue with a coal of fire from the altar. Isaiah's life will never be the same again. We are in everyday life. Simon and his friends have had a very poor night fishing. Then comes the surprising call by Jesus for these experienced fishermen to let their nets down into deep water – something they do despite Peter's scepticism. The miraculous draft of fishes occurs and the boats almost overwhelmed to the point of sinking. Peter experiences God breaking into everyday and is thus led on a journey. He falls to his knees in the realisation of his unworthiness of allowing the Divine Love to work within and through him. Jesus reassures him—'Do not be afraid,' and the explanation that Peter's job from now will be catching people – live! This is the Christian call of all of us - to make Christ a reality to all whom we meet.

A Parish Prayer

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), Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Carol Cox, JMartin Packham, Ralph Wilkins, Val Thompson, Maureen Prett

Long Term Need: Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, David Davidson, Eileen Knight

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Tony Burbidge, Veronica Hutchinson, Lorna Fischer, Shirley Lewis

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 6th John Wilde, Margaret Pressman, 7th John Powell, Eileen White, Masie Moore, Jennifer Chandler, 8th Peter Mackay, John Humphries, Geoffrey Clifton, 9th Margaret Humphries, James Revell, 10th Maurice Edgerton, Ethel Foreman, 11th Mary Marchant, Ethel Harris, 12th Donald Philpott, Eric Grainger, Jack Brooker, James Donovan, John Rennison