

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Quinquagesima *The Sunday before Lent*
27th February 2022

All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

My dear friends,

I hardly know what to write as I approach my last Sunday at our beloved church. It has truly been the privilege of a lifetime to have shared ministry with all of you as people growing in the knowledge of God's love for each one of us, revealed through his beloved Son, and overflowing this grace in the world.

You will know that I have often talked of transformation. This is, I believe, a lifelong grace, but Cuckfield has certainly played an important part in my own journey. Holy Trinity represents an extraordinary community - a sign of 'Emmanuel - God with us.' Continue to serve Jesus joyfully, because you are a blessing to the world.

My prayers will be with you both during the vacancy and then the arrival of a new incumbent. Thank you for allowing me to be both servant and shepherd. Rejoice in those things we have achieved together, forgive me for my failures, and always look forward. Paul says this more far eloquently than me: 'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.' (Philippians 1: 3-6)

With my love and sincere gratitude,

Michael

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Quinquagesima - The Sunday before Lent (27th February 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

Readers: Sue & Brian Cutler; Intercessor: Philip Richings

Services during the week:

Ash Wednesday 10.15 The Litany

10.30 Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (C. Worship) (in church & online)

2.00 Prayer Meeting (online)

Readings: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

8.00pm Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

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

Readings: Deuteronomy 30: 15-end; Luke 9: 22-25

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Ash Wednesday (in church)

Friday: 1.10 Lunchtime Concert - Coro Nuovo Soloists

Next Sunday: The First Sunday of Lent (6th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

11.15 Family Praise (in church)

6.00 Choral Evensong (in church and online)

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

The Collect for Sunday before Lent

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
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 God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power
to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Exodus 34: 29-end

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Luke 9: 28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

A thought

A stupendous vision of Christ's connection to God the Father. Yet, Jesus meets us on the plain - in the mess of everyday humanity, offering healing to even the most broken elements of our lives. This is the unique nature of our

Faith: total connection to the love beyond our understanding. In the words of a favourite hymn of your vicar: O love divine, how sweet thou art! When shall I find my longing heart all taken up by thee? I thirst, I faint, I die to prove the greatness of redeeming love, the love of Christ to me.



My dear friends, you are loved beyond measure.

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, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Maureen Prett

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

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: Dave Cox, Ros Ayling

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 27th Trevor Robbins, 28th Alexander Gibson, David Collins, 1st Gordon Clack, Pamela Hamilton, Gladys Temple, Margaret Campion, Patricia Wills, Harold Stenning, 2nd Helen Knowles, Gillian Fitt, 3rd Betty Richardson, Irene Harris, Jean Clout, 4th Malcolm Hopper, John Smith, 5th Robert Turner Inman, Dorothy Fullerton