

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Come unto me - Wayne Pascall*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Septuagesima** *The Third Sunday before Lent*  
*13th February 2022*

***Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.***

My dear friends,

As we start the countdown to Lent, so, too, these next three Sundays mark the approach of my departure as your vicar. I hope that you won't think it an indulgence on my part, but I felt that I would preach a short series of three sermons on each of these Sundays. It came to me that the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope and Love would form the framework of what I hope to talk about. Fortuitously, the readings each seem to aid that. However, I hope that you will indulge me if, at the end of the day, they fall far short of these wonderful virtues which underpin our Faith!

This Sunday Luke delivers his beatitudes - very different in tone from Matthew's, and perhaps reworked by him to address the community in which he lived. Yet the starting point is the same: blessed. We are blessed indeed through our faith in Jesus Christ. It represents an unshakeable love which God bears for each and every one of us. Luke just reminds us (the 'woes'!) that the onus is on us in how we display our call to the Kingdom Life. Always remember how blessed you are and let it overflow into the world!

With love,

Michael

## **Septuagesima - The Third Sunday before Lent (13th February 2022)**

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

*Reader: Charles Solomon*

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

*Readers: Liz & Peter Graydon; Intercessor: Mark Parker*

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

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

**Monday 12noon Funeral** Tony Burbidge

**Tuesday 1.00pm Funeral** Shirley Lewis

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

*Readings: James 1: 19-end; Mark 8: 22-26*

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion** (Iona/Celtic) *(in church & online)* **Janani Luwum**, Archbishop of Uganda m. 1977

*Readings: 2 Timothy 4: 1-8; John 12: 24-32*

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

## **Next Sunday: Sexagesima - The Second Sunday before Lent (20th February 2022)**

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

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

**12noon Holy Baptism** Noah Vincent Costello

**1.00 Holy Baptism** Harley Brendan & Katie Louise Kerri Griffiths, Danny Gordan Albert Wickens

**6.00 Sung Evensong** *(in church)*

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

**The Collect for Third Sunday before Lent**

Eternal God,  
whose Son went among the crowds  
and brought healing with his touch:  
help us to show his love,  
in your Church as we gather together,  
and by our lives as they are transformed  
into the image of 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:**

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ  
to be for us the bread of life,  
that those who come to him  
should never hunger:  
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,  
that we may eat and drink with him  
at his table in the kingdom,  
where he is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.  
Amen

## Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

## I Corinthians 15: 12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

## Luke 6: 17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

## A thought

First we have to set aside the more familiar 'Beatitudes' found in Matthew's gospel - 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. Matthew gives us a spiritualised set of attitudes. Luke, something very different. To discover the more material, gritty slant we need to work out what sort of congregation he has in mind. By the time the Gospels were written, the new congregations that had sprung up were city dwellers. Luke was clearly an educated man. Whereabouts did he write? In a city outside the Holy Land certainly. Antioch is one suggestion – possible but not provable. Luke's Beatitudes are addressed to two sections of his church. Many were destitute, hungry, mourning and despised by the local population. At the economic level they are certainly not blessed. Yet Luke calls them blessed! However, the rich (potentially ex-rich?) find a demanding challenge from Luke. What would happen if they found themselves in very changed circumstances, particularly if they hadn't heeded and lived out the Gospel message whilst they had plenty? 'Rich, well-fed, laughing you may well be now,' says Luke, 'but heed the call to discipleship? Take the beatitudes to yourselves then and paradoxically you will be as blessed as the poor!'

As the Prophet Habakkuk wrote:

*For even though the fig does not blossom, nor fruit grow on the vine, even though the olive crop fail, and fields produce no harvest, even though flocks vanish from the folds and stalls stand empty of cattle. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord and exult in God my saviour. The Lord my God is my strength. He makes me leap like the deer, he guides me to the high places.*

This is what LIVING out our faith in Jesus Christ offers us!

## 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, Ros Ayling,

## Please remember the recently departed and their families: Veronica Hutchinson, Lorna Fischer, Anthony Burbidge, Shirley Lewis, Dave Cox

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember 13th Jessie Piolet, 14th Bill Dixon, Tom Williams, Stella Burgess, Peter Harrison, 15th Mary Lisle, Ruby Murrell, Frances Barrett, Jean Douglas, Gladys Smith, 16th James Forsyth, John Bourne, 17th Charlotte Smith, Janet Inch, Alan page, Mary Harris, Michael Sadd, 18th Thelma Dixon, Sidnall Stenning, 19th Gladys Webb, Barbara Hastings, Eleanor Springall, Betty Fry