

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

The Third Sunday of Lent

20th March 2022

God is faithful

As Russian bombs and shells continue to cause unimaginable suffering and destruction, we cannot help but marvel at the resilience of the Ukrainian people, demonstrating that the power of the spirit is stronger than the power of weapons; that truth is stronger than lies; that love is stronger than hate. And, echoing the words of Isaiah, we pray, "Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord."

When things happen beyond our control it is easy to become despondent. We feel helpless, but we have faith, and so we have hope. Amid the escalating humanitarian catastrophe there are examples of great acts of love and sacrifice, as well as innumerable small acts of kindness. As we consider our own response to the crisis, both individually and collectively, let us keep praying for Shalom, in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Our New Vicar

Please continue to make your views known concerning the qualities you would like to see in our new vicar so we can feed this into our Parish Profile. You can do this by emailing churchwarden@holytrinitycuckfield.org or in writing via the church office marked Vacancy-Confidential.
Jane & Brian

The Third Sunday of Lent (20th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Reader: Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

Celebrant: Revd. Stephen Caple; Preacher: Clive Simmonds;

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Vicky Peattie; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

6.00 Sung Evensong (in church and online)

Services during the week:

Monday: 2.00 Funeral Margarita Goad

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

Readings: Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Matthew 5: 17-19

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

Readings: Jeremiah 7: 23-28; Luke 11: 14-23

10.00 Holy Trinity School KS2 Eucharist

7.00 Lent Course (online)

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) **The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

3.00 Lent Course (in church)

Next Sunday: Mothering Sunday (The Fourth Sunday of Lent) (27th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

12.00 Holy Baptism Zara Florence Redfern Howells

1.00 Holy Baptism Arthur Hugh Eustace

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

The Collect for Third Sunday of Lent

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
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:

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

A thought

There is no getting away from the fact that at first sight there seems to be a huge disparity in the message given to us between the three readings today. First, in Isaiah, we have a wondrous message of the abundance of a life lived as God wants us to live – one of what might be considered an embarrassment of riches..... Listen! everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

But then along comes Paul. Just his opening words tell us what might follow: I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters..... That is typical Paul isn't it. You just know that it is going to be a rough ride somewhere along the line with him! The Gospel hardly seems to encourage us either when we hear of disasters including the blasphemy of the Roman Governor mingling the sacrificial blood of animals in Temple worship with human blood – a thing that will have revolted the Jews of Jesus' time as much as it does us, animal sacrifice or no. Then we have reference to a tower collapse at Siloam on the edge of Jerusalem with a resulting large loss of life before we move to talk of fig trees.

What, you may ask, is the link, if any between these disparate images? In fact, all three – even the warmth of the Isaiah reading, are an URGENT call to choose life – the life of FAITH- in order to know the abundance of deep joy ultimately found in Jesus Christ.

A Parish Prayer

God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquility 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), Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Carol Cox, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Maureen Prett, Ralph Wilkins

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, Maureen Griffiths,

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: Margarita Goad, Sarah Ringrose

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 20th Ruth Simson, Stanley Woods, 21st Richard Laker, Nancy Wilkes, 22nd Elsie Hemstead, Alexander Glasgow, Elizabeth Cadman, 23rd Gordon Jones, 24th Nina Mackie, Valerie Bray, Michael Josling, 25th Michael Buck, Phyllis Green, Sheena Berkeley, 26th Russell Murphy, Joseph Heyman