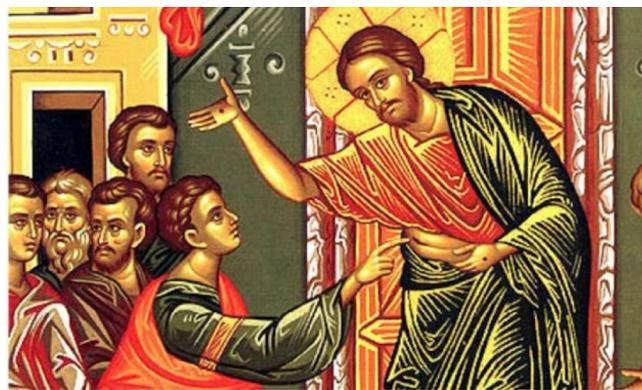


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Second Sunday of Easter
24 April 2022

Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ

1 John 1: 2

What a joy it was to have a full church last Sunday, and to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with the Easter activities. Many thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly throughout Holy Week, both 'upfront' and behind the scenes. The church looked beautiful, the sun shone and we raised the roof with our singing and proclamations! Amidst the fears and uncertainties of our troubled world, and despite the horrific war in Ukraine, our Easter Sunday Family Eucharist was a joyous celebration of hope and resurrection life. Everyone left the church uplifted and with a smile on their face. If we could replicate this every Sunday, it would be a wonderful thing. So, even though this Sunday is referred to as Low Sunday, and we're still catching our breath after the highs of Holy Week, let the Alleluias continue to ring out, and let us fill the church with joyful worshippers once again.

Jane & Brian.

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday of Easter (24 April 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (in church and online)

Readers: Brian & Sue Cutler; Intercessor: Jane Coan

Hymns: 188, 210, 221, 725, 199

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) Readings: Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Acts 5: 27-33; John 3: 31-end

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: First Sunday after Easter

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter (1 May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church and online)

11.15 Family Praise

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

The Collect for Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father
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:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children
of eternal life and in baptism
have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen

Acts 5: 27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Revelation 1: 4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 20: 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

A thought *Christ has been made present in our midst.*

Thomas often gets a bad press. We, who have the benefit of reading this story with a fuller knowledge of what would occur, often dismiss Thomas' unbelief, assuming that we would have been less hesitant to believe or more faithful in our resistance of reasonable doubt. We too often afford ourselves the benefit of the doubt when placing ourselves in another's shoes, assuming that we would not be subject to or would somehow overcome the same human weaknesses that others have displayed throughout history.

But is doubt a weakness? Or is it simply an opportunity, a space, a possible fertile ground in which faith might grow and ultimately blossom?

Perhaps Thomas understood this when he said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." Thomas knew what had happened to his friend and Messiah. He, like the other disciples, had carried the weight of fear and doubt that came from having his hopes dashed. He had not seen the resurrected Jesus as the others had and he would not be satisfied until he had seen him with his own eyes. He would take no one's word for it.

A week later, the disciples were gathered together again in the same house where they had last seen Jesus. Only this time, Thomas was with them. Once again, Jesus came and stood in the midst of his disciples. He greeted them again, saying, "Peace be with you," before turning and addressing Thomas directly. He said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Jesus' words, "Do not doubt but believe," are aimed not only at Thomas, but also at all those who encounter this passage, and are struggling to believe that God is able to do the thing which God has promised to call our world into new and unending, resurrected life.

Thomas responds, saying, "My Lord and my God!" This too should be our response, as we so often find ourselves in Thomas' shoes.

Jesus responds with all future generations, including us, in mind, saying, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are you who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

We believe not because we have seen his wounds or placed our hands within his side, but because we have seen Christ in the face of another, who has also not seen or touched Christ, but lives their life in such a way that Christ has been made present in our midst.

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, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds

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, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson, Rosemary Pardey

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Stephanie Gilpin, David Davidson, Patricia Buckeridge

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 24th Marjorie Salter, Ian Nicholson, 25th Mark Walklin, Leslie Holt, John Humphrey, 26th Charles & Oliver Woodcock, Dr. Timothy Carter, Christine Hawkes, Maxine Lower, 27th Violet Wachett, Edith Packham, Michael Gerrish, 28th Barbara Cheal, Trevor Penfold, Edith Gathercole, Leslie Lyall, Jean Smith, 29th Raymond Hookham, Patrick Toseland, Jonathan Cavender