

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Third Sunday of Easter

1st May 2022

Beloved, we are God's children now!

Dear Friends

With plenty of sunshine and lengthening days summer certainly seems to be marching up on us. And we have much to look forward to with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the Cuckfield Music Festival all mixed in with Pentecost and Trinity. Do look out what is going on at Holy Trinity. We start with the Syrian Evening Saturday 7th May, with the Big Brekkie for Christian Aid the following Sunday 15th May. We will celebrate Pentecost during the Jubilee weekend on Sunday 5th June and our own patronal festival, Trinity Sunday, the next weekend. This will also be the start of the Cuckfield Music Festival, with many events taking place in the church.

However, for the moment as we continue our journey through Eastertide we have the opportunity to begin to understand the full significance of the resurrection as the universal restoration of the whole of creation.

As usual, we enclose the Weekly Sheet, with the readings for Sunday, and the prayer needs of those within our community for you to use as we journey the week ahead together.

Jane and Brian

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday of Easter (1st May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Anthony Van der Willigen & Gerry Lerner

9.45 The Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Wendy Bloomer & Susan Mayou; Intercessor: Mark Parker

Hymns: 203, 321, 198, 470, 218

11.15 Family Praise

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion *(C. Worship)*

Readings: Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion *(Iona/Celtic)* *Readings: Acts 8: 26-end; John 6: 44-51*

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

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter (8th May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

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 Third Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness
and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory 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:

Living God,

your Son made himself known

to his disciples

in the breaking of bread:

open the eyes of our faith,

that we may see him

in all his redeeming work;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Acts 9: 1-6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

Revelation 5: 11-end

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

John 21: 1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

A thought John 21. 1-19

This story provides a bookend to the Last Supper; this "First Breakfast" changes the trajectory for the disciples from grief and confusion to purpose and mission. Everything Jesus said to the disciples before his crucifixion is now coming to bear on the disciples, and their purpose. But first, Jesus has some very specific business with Peter. It always bears repeating that Peter, in so many gospel stories, is a stand-in for us. His enthusiasm, awkwardness, lack of understanding, and enormous love for Jesus are just like our own. So when the gospel story focuses on Peter, it's fair to say that we are also a part of the story. Before his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus told Peter that he would deny him, and sadly, his prediction comes true. Peter is accosted repeatedly by bystanders as he waits outside while Jesus is being interviewed, and each time, he denies knowing Jesus. He is absent at the crucifixion. He is among the disciples who meet behind locked doors out of fear. Now Jesus speaks to him directly: "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Jesus asks him three times, and three times Peter affirms his love for Jesus. Each time, Jesus says: then feed my sheep. Peter is given the opportunity to undo his denial of Jesus with three affirmations of his love. Jesus tells him what to do with that love: feed the flock. Though the word "forgiveness" never appears in this story, it is nevertheless a critical theme. Peter, the impetuous disciple, gave in to fear, and failed to acknowledge Jesus, failed to stick around for the bitter end. Now Peter is given the opportunity to face his risen Lord and begin again. And this story offers some of the deepest implications of Resurrection for us: we are forgiven. We are invited to start over. We are completely loved. And we have a job to do. This isn't only Peter's story; it's our story, too. When fear holds us back, love calls us forward. When we feel trapped by the way things have always been, Jesus invites us to cast our nets on the other side of the boat and change our perspective, in light of the Resurrection.

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: Patricia Buckeridge

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 1st Isabel Durham, William Llewhellin, 2nd John Wilcox, Gerald Leaney, Derek Wood, Robert Buckle, Douglas Simpson, 3rd Eileen Hall, 4th Iris Simmons, Irene Garley, John Williams, Viola Muddle, 5th Peter Irving, 6th Angela Turner, Richard Beddington, 7th Dicky Brigden