

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
24 July 2022

You were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

*Saint John the Baptist in Prison visited by Salome by Guercino
(National Gallery of Ireland)*

Dear Friends

As we come down from the giddy temperatures of the beginning of the week, we reach the end of the school term and the beginning of the Summer Holidays. We do hope that everyone was able to keep cool on Monday and Tuesday and stay safe. It would appear that we have to prepare for such extreme weather conditions occurring more frequently unfortunately.

The start of the school holidays will see our Child and Family Ministry team very busy with family activities, starting with Family Crafts on Monday and Holiday Film Club on Friday next week with other events throughout the summer. (See posters for details.) Please keep this important ministry in your prayers.

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

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Sixth Sunday after Trinity (24 July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Roger Edmonston

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

Reader: Jocelyn Bentley; Intercessor: Vicky Peattie

Hymns: 4, 620, 584, 639, 601

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church and online)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship)

Readings: Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-end; Matthew 13: 44-46

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)

Readings: Jeremiah 18: 1-6; Matthew 13: 47-53

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Sixth Sunday after Trinity*

Next Sunday: Seventh Sunday after Trinity (31st July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

11.15 Pet Service

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

The Collect for Sixth Sunday after Trinity

**Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through 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:

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Genesis 18: 20-32

Then the Lord said, 'How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.' So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

Colossians 2: 6-15

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Luke 11: 1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

A thought 6th Sunday after Trinity: Luke 11.1-13 (Sunday 24th)

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

If we were to take this statement of Jesus in a very literal way, we could easily conclude that Jesus will give us anything we ask for in a prayerful way. But we know this is not what happens. Perhaps everyone has prayed hard for this or that and the request was not answered in the way we wanted. Why is that? Did we simply fail to pray with faith? Will Jesus do whatever we ask of Him when we pray for it with all our might? Certainly not.

This passage goes on to say, "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?". Within this context, and within the context of everything that Jesus has taught us, it's important to know that there is one thing and one thing only for which we ought to pray. And when we pray for this one thing, we can be assured of obtaining it when we pray for it in faith. What is that one thing? It's the will of God.

If we sincerely and wholeheartedly ask for and seek the will of God, we can be certain that our Lord will give us the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit will, in turn, lead us into the will of God for our lives. The problem is that too often we end up praying that "MY will be done" rather than "THY will be done." This is an important difference.

True prayer is ultimately about trust and surrender to God. We trust in His perfect plan and surrender to that perfect plan in our lives. When we do this, we can be assured that the Lord will hear and answer this perfect prayer.

A prayer for the vacancy; Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds, Becky Parker,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, 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, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Frederick Gray, Jonathan Malins, Martin Galbraith, Reginald Saunders, Margaret Stace, Keith Thompson, Michael Thomas

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 24th Richard Beard, William Baxter, 25th Stella Muir, Oscar Orpen, Simon Montfort Bebb, Dorothy Upton, 26th Brian Cooper, Gillian Coventry, 27th Alan Cruse, Fred Capelin, Alan Virgin, 28th Aileen Morrison, Barbara Galbraith, 29th Robert Capp, Revd. Eric Hayden, Shirley Beard, 30th Lilian Bourne, Mina Bushby