

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
*14th August 2022*

Sometimes we like to cling to the idea of Jesus being 'gentle, meek and mild' as in the well-known children's prayer. It is reassuring and doesn't pose too much of a threat to our comfortable way of life. We are certainly encouraged to be humble and loving, and to support the poor and marginalised, but that is only half the story. Jesus was also a revolutionary, turning the world upside down with his teaching and making demands that were totally counter-cultural. His words in Sunday's gospel reading can appear quite shocking, nothing remotely meek or mild about them, and the image of fire can be disturbing, but these are intended to spur us into action. Division and conflict has been, and will continue to be, a constant reality, but we must hold fast to the truth and persevere with the race that is set before us, keeping our eyes firmly on Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Jane & Brian

## **Ninth Sunday after Trinity (14 August 2022)**

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

*Reader: Charles Solomon*

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

*Reader: Peter Graydon; Intercessor: Isobel Simmonds*

*Hymns: 511, 387, 784, 464, 559, 643*

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

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

*Readings: Ezekiel 34: 1-11; Matthew 20: 1-16*

**Wednesday 1.00** *Funeral Alan Prebble*

**Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion** *(Iona/Celtic)*

*Readings: Ezekiel 36: 23-28; Matthew 22: 1-14*

**Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** *Cancelled during August*

## **Next Sunday: Tenth Sunday after Trinity (21st August 2022)**

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

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

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

### **The Collect for Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
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:**

Holy Father, who gathered us here  
around the table of your Son  
to share this meal with the  
whole household of God:  
in that new world where you reveal  
the fullness of your peace,  
gather people of every race and language  
to share in the eternal banquet  
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Jeremiah 23: 23-29**

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

## **Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2**

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Luke 12: 49-56**

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

## **A thought: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" Luke 12:49 This passage reveals two things to us. First, it reveals Jesus' intention to "set the earth on fire." Second, it reveals that He desires "it were already blazing."

What does it mean when Jesus says that He came to set the world on fire? Fire is a powerful image that offers much insight into the Christian life. First, fire consumes. So it is with Christ. He came to consume us. He came to transform our little lives into blazing fires. This reveals that there is much potential in each one of our lives. We have potential to become something totally new if we allow the spark of grace to ignite our souls. Fire also has the potential to make a difference. Its heat keeps us warm; its light allows us to see in darkness and its energy produces power in various ways to help us in our daily lives. So it is with grace. God's grace transforms our cold hearts, leads us through the darkness of life and provides us with all we need to live productive lives.

It's interesting to note that Jesus did not only say that He came to set the world on fire; rather, He said that He wished it were already blazing. This desire of our Lord is an invitation to move out of a mediocre and lukewarm existence into a life of radical Christian living. We are not called to be partly transformed, or even mostly transformed. No, we are called to become blazing fires of faith, transformed by God to make a true difference in the world!

### **A prayer for this time of 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, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Macdougall

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon

**Those in Care Homes:** Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

### **Please remember the recently departed and their families: Alan Prebble, Martin Simmonds, Christopher Cripps, Paul Rowe, Marilyn Gander**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 14th Ronald Wadhams, 15th Mabel Clarke, Anne Lindsay, 16th Colin Ponsford, Ian Williams, 17th John Baxter, Norman Whotworth, Michael Hoile, Maud Puntton, 18th Dian Bryson, 19th Edith Burstow, 20th Leslie King, Lorna Michie, Robert Alexander