

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



"WHY WISH  
UPON A STAR?  
WHEN YOU  
CAN PRAY TO  
THE ONE  
WHO  
CREATED IT."

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **Advent Sunday**

*27 November 2022*

Dear Friends

It is easy to think of Advent as simply a time of preparation for Christmas, epitomised in the association of Stir Up Sunday, last week, with making Christmas Puddings. However, Advent is also a penitential season, very much linked with the Second Coming and the four last things, Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell. Whilst these have given rise to some amazing paintings, they perhaps miss the most important point of penitence, the turning away from the corrupt worldly way of seeing our world full of greed, power and aggression to a Christlike way of seeing our world as an outpouring of God's unconditional love in peace, grace and harmony. The writer of Isaiah talks of walking in his paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. Hopefully, as we prepare for Christmas, we can help to rekindle that vision of a world without war, without famine, without the abuse of earth's natural resources in which justice prevails, suffused with God's love.

Brian & Jane

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **Advent Sunday (27th November 2022)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)* Reader: Roger Edmonston

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

Readers: Paul Goldfinch & Vicky Peattie; Intercessor: Jane Coan

Hymns: 30, 38, 816, 44, 35

**12.00 Holy Baptism** Elinor Mariolitz Violet Bourton and Robyn Jessica Chew

**6.00 Advent Carols** *(in church & online)*

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

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

Readings: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Romans 10: 12-18; Matthew 4: 18-22

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

Readings: Isaiah 26: 1-6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

**Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: Advent Sunday *(in church)*

### **Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent (4th December 2022)**

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

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church & 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 Advent Sunday**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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:**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Isaiah 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

## Romans 13: 11-end

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Matthew 24: 36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

## A thought 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: Matthew 24.36-44

Advent means "coming" and, if this season is to be meaningful, there has to be a genuine coming of Jesus into our lives both as individuals and as community. It is a time to remind ourselves of our constant need for 'metanoia', repentance.

If John the Baptist were to come among us today, what would he tell us? What would he warn us against? As we come to the end of another calendar year (and the beginning of the Church year) where do we need conversion and change in our lives?

How can we give a better witness to the Christian message? What changes are called for in the way our parish gives corporate witness to the Gospel?

The celebration of Advent calls for a serious consideration of these questions. Will Jesus really be entering our lives in a special way at this time? Are his concerns our concerns? Namely, a desire that we as a community and individuals be of service to others, that we work with others to build a better society, founded on love and justice and an equitable sharing of resources.

The songs of the angels declaring 'peace and justice on earth' needs to become our song, our programme, as individuals and as a worshipping community.

### 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, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Macdougall, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese

**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: Ralph Wilkins, Jane White, Catherine Harris

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 27th Marjorie Harrison, Lillian Carter, David Hansom, 28th Roger Coleman, Seonaid Collins, 29th Joseph Millband, Tom Dawson, 30th Madge King, Douglas Candfield, Julie Sears, 1st Angela Fax, 2nd Jack Upton, Nigel Llyod, Ronald Nye, 3rd Peter Bravo, Dr. Christine Bratt