

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*

## **Christmas Day**

*25 December 2022*

So just what is all the fuss about? What are we celebrating at Christmas? The winter solstice and the beginning of lengthening days and the return of the sun? The ability of the market to satisfy our wildest dreams, at a price? The joy of sharing within a family or community? Or an event in time that changed the world? Or do we perhaps recognise, maybe dimly, that Christmas is a celebration of God's Love filling all our lives, day in and day out, with trust in ourselves and the world around us, with hope in our futures and with an overflowing love for the whole of creation. We do hope so as we join with the whole team here at Cuckfield in wishing everyone a very happy, joyful and loving Christmas.

Brian & Jane

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

### **Christmas Day (25th December 2022)**

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

*Reader: Roger Edmonston*

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

**We welcome Bishop Ruth Bushyager as our Celebrant & Preacher at this service**

*Readers: Isobel & Clive Simmonds; Intercessor: Clive Simmonds*

*Hymns: All in Booklet*

**There are no Midweek Services this week**

### **Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Christmas (1st January 2023)**

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

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

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

#### **The Collect for Christmas Day**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching  
earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
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 our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

## A thought: Christmas Day (Luke 2. 1-14)

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted! Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name! (Psalm 97)

Christmas Day in our churches has a different kind of light than Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is all stars and brightness, angels and adoration and Glory to God in the Highest! Christmas Day is quieter. In the December morning light, we're left with the holy family after the angels and shepherds have departed. We're left with Mary, to treasure all that has occurred and ponder in our hearts. Everything has changed. Quite literally, the incarnation of Jesus Christ has changed everything.

In the encounter of the angels and the shepherds, we've witnessed a coming together of heaven and earth, joining Joseph and Mary to witness a miracle. This miracle is more than an encounter between human and divine, such as Mary experienced in the Annunciation, or the shepherds experienced in the appearance of the angel. In the infant Jesus, the boundaries between heaven and earth have dissolved. By Christ's incarnation – his life as a human being among other human beings – the divine crossed into the human realm.

Over and over again in the gospels, in the witness of the life and words of Jesus Christ, we encounter this intersection of human and divine, until his death and resurrection when the man Jesus crosses into the divine realm. But in Jesus, it's not a question of crossing back and forth. It's a question of being both at once, a unity of the human and the divine for all eternity. This is the miracle that we ponder with Mary on this Christmas Day.

## 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, Hilary Turner-King

**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:** Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

## Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jill Rockey, Paul Dupee

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 25th Emily Barnard, Phyllis Taylor, 26th Doris Cutler, 27th Doreen Shrapnell, Muriel Wheeler, George Flower, 28th Ann Carr, Eileen Gerrish, 29th Peter Burrowes, Kathleen Knight, Margaret Hall, Matthew Gallagher, 30th John Fisher, Harry Grieve, Rosemarie Cruse, John Tomkins, Alan Searle, Anthony Harris, 31st Dennis Bennett, Ernest Palmer, Margaret Page, Phyllis Bowring, Florence Martin, Darryl McIlvride, John Skeldon