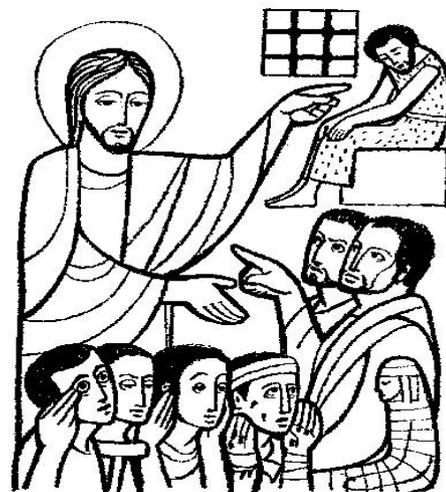


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news Third Sunday of Advent –Gaudete Sunday 11 December 2022

Dear Friends

We are always a little eager at Cuckfield! This week, thanks to the Christmas Tree Festival, we start to unwrap Christmas, even though there are a further two full weeks to go. With the church full of trees and our beautiful crib displayed a visitor might well think that Christmas had come early in this part of the world. However, we are still in a time of preparation, awaiting the second coming with the vision of Isaiah and the patience of James. During Jesus' own ministry that vision became a reality. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, the dead were raised, and the poor had the good news brought to them. With our help this can also happen now, which is one of the reasons that we hold the Christmas Tree Festival – to support our partner charities, this year the Golden Lion Children's Trust.

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Brian & Jane

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday (11th December 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Peter & Liz Graydon; Intercessor: David Jamieson

Hymns: 51, 36, 39, 34, 394

6.00 CTF Carol Service

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-end; Luke 7: 18b-23

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

Readings: Isaiah 54: 1-10; Luke 7: 24-30

Friday: 9.30 HT School Christingle Service KS1

11.00 HT School Christingle Service KS2

Please Note the 11am Communion Service today is cancelled

3.00 Alzheimer's Society Carol Service

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent (18th December 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Carols & Nativity *(in church & online)*

6.00 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols *(in church & online)*

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

The Collect for Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable People in your sight; for you are alive and reign with The Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, Now and for ev-

er. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; he unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

A thought: Advent 3 (Matthew 11. 2-11)

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Matthew 11:2-3

Why did John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus to ask this question? Recall that John had previously stated about Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). So if John knew that Jesus was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world," then why would he send his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come?

The Church Fathers explore many reasons, but most arrive at the conclusion that John did this not because he didn't know Who Jesus was, but for the sake of his disciples, so that they would come to follow our Lord once John was killed by Herod. So this was a way of trying to point his disciples to Jesus and to encourage them to embrace this new change in their life of faith.

Jesus understood the reason John sent his disciples to Him. As a result, Jesus gave these disciples what they needed so as to come to believe themselves. He points them to the works that He has done as the Christ so that they would be able to interpret these works on their own and, thus, come to the newness of faith.

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, Nicholas Exelby aka Michael Elgin

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 12th Edith Read, Brian Shrod, 13th Dora Horn, Joan Sowter, 14th Nicholas Martin, Patrick Anscombe, 15th Bill Ridley, 16th Alison Quick, Jack Moulding, Lauren Silverlock, Christopher Bartlett, Anthony Marsden, 17th Michele Frenzell, Diana Allison, Diane Giles