

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
First Sunday of Lent
26 February 2023

On Wednesday we received the sign of the cross on our foreheads in ash, marking the beginning of the season of Lent; a time of repentance, refreshment and renewal in preparation for the great feast of Easter. Our Lent courses are open to all, so do join either or both our weekly sessions which can be accessed via the blue button on the website.

Many people mark the season by giving something up, often a luxury item that they are probably better off without, only to resume their indulgence on Easter Sunday. While most of us are in a position to make that choice, many of our neighbours are struggling to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families. Our Lent Appeal this year will focus on two local charities; Crawley Open House, supporting the homeless and vulnerable, and the Cross Over Project providing hot breakfasts for the homeless in Brighton. Please see the posters for details of how to donate goods or money, and do continue bringing in food and household items for our weekly deliveries to Holy Trinity Primary School, Family Support Work and Bewbush Academy. As we spend time in prayer and contemplation this Lent, may we be called to action and generously support this year's chosen projects.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

First Sunday of Lent (26th February 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Roger Edmonston & Eileen Caple

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Vicky Peattie & Paul Goldfinch; Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

Hymns: 121, 126, 128, 441, 714

12.00 Holy Baptism Alfred William Painter and Harry William Ashton Thompson

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Jonah Chap 3; Luke 11: 29-32

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

Readings: Isaiah 55: 6-9; Matthew 7: 7-12

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

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent (5 March 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish 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 First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son 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:

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Romans 5: 12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

'A thought: Sun 26th Feb (1st Sunday of Lent) Matthew 4. 1-11

In the gospel lesson today Jesus proclaims his humanity, a humanity that he shares with each of us. He is tempted as we are. Tempted to use whatever power he has to care for himself when he is hungry. Tempted to test God's love for him. Tempted to seize power over people rather than wait for it to come to him. Tempted to trust in himself, and not in the power that comes by being in relationship with the Father. Tempted to become his own god, like Adam and Eve.

But unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus faces his temptations and chooses to live in the fullness of his humanity by remaining one with the Father. By trusting that his hunger will be cared for by God, by choosing not to test his relationship, by allowing us to follow him freely, Jesus exalts the fullness of humanity that reaches its fullness by being in relationship. Jesus did not have to become his own god, he came to share in the divine, until at his resurrection and ascension, the human and divine would take their place with the Father in a home prepared for them.

We might well characterize our lives in this world as a wilderness journey, filled with temptations to become our own gods. We are surrounded with calls to seize control of our lives, insure ourselves against failure, conquer the world around us. In doing so we risk our relationships with creation, each other, ourselves. We risk our humanity.

We become fully human as we become fully aware of the divine image that is part of each of us, and the relationship that image within us calls us to do.

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.

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon

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, Liz Graydon,, Eileen Macdougall,

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Val Thompson

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Reg Ruddock, John Bernardi (Priest)

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 26th Cyril Barton, Michael Ditt, 27th Trevor Robbins, 28th Alexander Gibson, David Collins, 1st Gordon Clack, Pamela Hamilton, Gladys Temple, Margaret Campion, Patricia Wills, Harold Stenning, 2nd Helen Knowles, Gillian Fitt, 3rd Betty Richardson, Irene Harris, Jean Clout, 4th Malcolm Hopper, John Hillman Smith, Margarita Goad