

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Third Sunday before Lent (Septuagesima)
5 February 2023

LORD
I TRUST YOU
LET YOUR
WILL BE DONE!

At one time this Sunday was known as Septuagesima, being roughly 70 days before Easter. While the modern title is less colourful it is more accurate and also helps to focus on what this and the next two Sundays are all about, preparation for Lent. Isaiah is clear. We need to turn from the observance of hollow religion and focus our lives on God and the care of our neighbour. Lent provides us with that opportunity to both look afresh at aspects of our understanding of our faith and how we put that into action. Do join one of our study groups if you can.

It was disappointing to learn last week that there were no suitable applicants to be our next vicar. Needless to say, we will be working with the Bishop and our colleagues in Bolney to ensure that we have a new incumbent as soon as possible. In the meantime a very big thank you to everyone who is helping to keep Holy Trinity alive and moving forward at this time and please continue to pray that we are able to find a new priest for the benefice who will be a wise and gentle shepherd of our people.

Brian & Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday before Lent—Septuagesima (5th February 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Gerry Larner & Anthony Van der Willigen

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Vicky Peattie; Intercessor: Jane Coan

Hymns: 6, 387, 487, 800, 476

11.15 Family Praise

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17; Mark 7: 14-23

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

Readings: Genesis 2: 18-end; Mark 7: 24-30

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

Next Sunday: Second Sunday before Lent—Sexagesima (12th February 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(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 before Lent

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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:

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 58: 1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Matthew 5: 13-20

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

A thought: Sun 5th Feb (3rd Sun before Lent) Matthew 5. 13-20

We've all experienced a time when the lights went out and we were in darkness. If you were to light a candle and place it in the centre of the room, its light would make quite a difference. One candle in a darkened room transforms that room. Jesus in our Gospel says, "You are the light of the world." This is our mission. Just as a single candle can give light to an entire room, we are capable of being a source of light for others.

One of the primary missions we have all received in life is to allow the light of God's grace to "shine before others." The result of fulfilling this mission is that others may see that our lives are inspired by God, and they in turn, may catch a glimpse of the true Light, Jesus.

Sometimes we struggle with pride. Pride is a way of pointing to ourselves. It's an act of selfishness by which we place ourselves in the spotlight as a way of trying to become the object of others' praise. But what Jesus tells us is that when we properly fulfil our role of being the light of the world, when we radiate the Light of Christ, others will be inspired not to praise us but rather to glorify God as He acts through us.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16

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: 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, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon,, Eileen Macdougall,

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, John Bernardi (priest), Val Thompson,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Audrey Chapman

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 5th Grace Hendley, Noel Redman, Doreen Pye, Jeanne Dean, Margaret (Peg) Swain, 6th John Wilde, Margaret Pressman, 7th John Powell Eileen White, Masie Moore, Jennifer Chandler, 8th Peter Mackay, John Humphries, Geoffrey Clifton, 9th Margaret Humphries, Jameas Revell, 10th Maurice Edgerton, Ethel Foreman, 11th Mary Marchant, Ethel Harris