

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **Second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)** *12 February 2023*

We have all been deeply shocked and grieved by the devastating earthquakes affecting Southern Turkey and Northern Syria this week. As we watch the disaster unfold, we find ourselves asking the question, 'Where is God in all this?' Although God may seem silent, signs of him can be found even in the most tragic of circumstances; in the tireless efforts of the rescue workers and ordinary folk desperately searching for signs of life beneath the rubble, in the generosity of those sending aid, in the skill of medical workers tending to the injured, in the compassion of those comforting the bereaved, in those offering hospitality to the homeless and in countless other unexpected places. As we watch from the comfort of our homes, we may feel a sense of helplessness as we ponder the best way to respond. There are many excellent outlets for charitable donations, including Christian Aid and White Helmets, but our church collection will focus on Samara's Aid. Samara, whose charity we have been supporting for several years, is in Syria at this time. Thankfully she escaped injury and her medical centre is still standing, but it is working around the clock to tend to the injured and support a nation already at rock bottom. Please give generously if you are able, and keep praying for all the victims of this tragic event.

Jane & Brian

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

### **Second Sunday before Lent—Sexagesima (12th February 2023)**

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

Reader: Charles Solomon

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

Reader: Robyn Brotherton; Intercessor: Vicky Peattie

Hymns: 612, 490, 652, 454, 719

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

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

Readings: Genesis 8: 6-13, 20-end; Mark 8: 22-26

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

Readings: Genesis 9: 1-13; Mark 8: 27-33

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

### **Next Sunday: Sunday next before lent—Quinquagesima (19 February 2023)**

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

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

**6.00 Sung Evensong** *(in church & online)*

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

#### **The Collect for Second Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Genesis 1: 1-2:3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

### Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### Matthew 6: 25-end

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

### A thought: Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun before Lent) Matthew 6. 25-end

Jesus preaches what St Ignatius Loyola calls 'indifference' to material things. Obviously, some material things – like food and clothing and shelter – are necessary to daily living. At different times other things will be necessary too.

The attitude of 'indifference' is not that one does not care; on the contrary, one cares very much. But one cares to have things and to use things only in so far as they are needed to love and serve God and others for his sake. Jesus urges us to liberate ourselves from worry and anxiety about our body and material things such as food and clothing. Worry and anxiety about the future are a waste of time and energy yet we indulge in them so much. We are invited to look at the birds of the air and the flowers in the field. They do nothing except be themselves and God takes care of them. And how beautiful they are! We are often so busy regretting the past or worrying about the future that we never get to enjoy life. Enjoyment and happiness are only in the present. If we keep looking forward or looking back, we will never find happiness. Fr Tony de Mello a Roman Catholic priest wrote, "You have everything you need right now to be happy." How our lives would be transformed if only we could really believe that! Because happiness can only be in the now. Yesterday's happiness is gone; tomorrow's does not exist. If I am not happy now, I never will be.

"Do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself." These are wise words by Jesus.

### 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 Maccougall,

**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: Donald Philpott, Eric Grainger, Jack Brooker, James Donovan, John Rennison, 13th Jessie Piolet, 14th Bill Dixon, Tom Williams, Stella Burgess, peter Harrison, 15th Mary Lisle, Ruby Murrell, Frances Barrett, Jean Douglas, Gladys Smith, 16th James Forsyth, John Bourne, 17th Charlotte Smith, Janet inch, Alan page, Mary Harris, Michael Sadd, Harold Chandler, 18th Thelma Dixon, Sidnall Stenning