

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Second Sunday of Lent**  
*5 March 2023*

For  
God  
so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that  
whosoever  
believeth in  
Him should  
not perish,  
but have  
everlasting  
life.  
JOHN 3:16

Lent can be something of a challenge, not just in sticking to the sacrifices that we have made but also in understanding what we are reading. If Paul himself is not struggling certainly his readers are finding it difficult to understand his teaching, as is Nicodemus in his conversation with Jesus. The problem is that they, like us, are too rational, too logical in how they approach the problem. We may not always feel comfortable, but we have to move away from the relative safety of our rational thinking and view things from above, with the Spirit, if we are really to know the fullness of God's love.

To learn more why not join one of our Lent courses that are available on the Blue Button on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. And of course we will be continuing to collect throughout Lent for our Lenten Charities, Crawley Open House and the Cross Over Project in Brighton, both supporting the homeless.  
Brian & Jane

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

## **Second Sunday of Lent (5th March 2023)**

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

*Readers: Anthony Van der Willigen & Gerry Larner*

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

*Readers: Isobel Simmonds & Kate Berry; Intercessor: Isobel Simmonds*

*Hymns: 505, 262, 675, 747, 678*

**11.15 Family Praise**

**Services during the week:**

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

*Readings: Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28*

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

*Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-end*

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

**Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent (12 March 2023)**

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

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

**12.00 Holy Baptism** *Riley John Kirkpatrick*

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

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

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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:**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

## Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

## A thought: (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent) John 3. 1-17

Sometimes it can be hard to hear God's message. In this morning's reading we hear the story of the Pharisee Nicodemus, coming to Jesus in the dark of night. Clearly, he senses God in Jesus, yet he seems to have tremendous difficulty hearing and understanding Jesus' new teachings as their conversation unfolds. Perhaps he is too rooted in the world, and with those things with which he is familiar, to hear Jesus' radical new message of love that paves the way to eternal life.

As followers of Jesus, are we like Nicodemus? Coming to God from a place of darkness, yet being unable to hear Jesus' call to new life? Are we, for whatever reason, actually choosing to stay in a place of darkness, hands over our ears like children, chanting, "I can't hear you," over and over again?

Fortunately, God continues to call. This morning we hear Jesus illuminate the path to new life once again. In today's familiar words from the gospel of John, we hear of God's enormous love for the world, a love so great that the path to eternal life is opened to all. All that is asked of us is to believe. To have faith. Like opening the shutters to the morning sun, Jesus brings light to not only the darkness of our lives, but to the darkness of the world. "For God came not to condemn the world, but to save it."

### 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, Val Thompson

**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

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

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 5th Robert Turner-Inman, Dorothy Fullerton, 6th Douglas Birch, Ethel Ward, 7th Michael Dunnett, Andrew Ponsford, 8th Bill Packham, Joyce Gregg, Shaun Ingram, Grace Mathers, Brian Stevens, Clifford Dennis, Eleanor Keir, William Turner-Inman, 9th Fiona Murray, 10th Thomas King, 11th David St. Clair Roberts