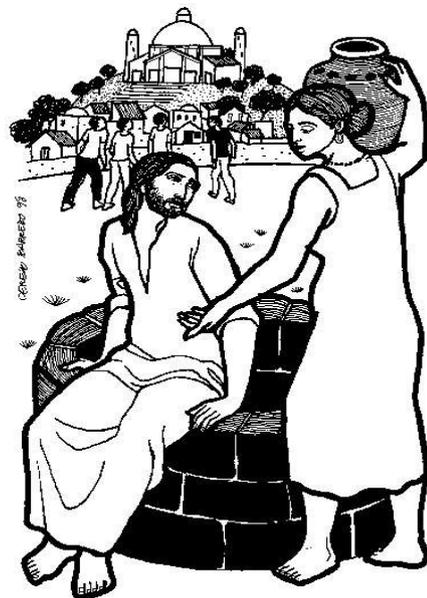


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Third Sunday of Lent

12 March 2023

Fairtrade Fortnight, which finishes on Sunday, is a reminder to us all of the Fairtrade movement and the role it plays in supporting cooperatives and making sure small-scale producers and workers are paid a fair wage.

While the climate crisis is already having damaging consequences for all farmers, food suppliers and workers, small-scale producers are disproportionately vulnerable to the impact of climate change whilst contributing least to the problem.

There are many Fairtrade products beyond the best-known tea, coffee, cocoa and bananas, over 6,000 in fact. By making small changes to our shopping habits, we can ensure that those in climate-vulnerable countries gain the resources they need and benefit from Fairtrade prices and trading practices. It may be tempting, and for some it may be necessary, to sometimes go for the cheaper option but we need to stand with the poorest of our brothers and sisters whose livelihoods are under constant threat, and put people over profit.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday of Lent (12th March 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Peter & Liz Graydon; Intercessor: David Jamieson

Hymns: 584, 634, sheet, 592, 652

1.00 Holy Baptism Riley John Kirkpatrick

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9; Matthew 5: 17-19

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

Readings: Jeremiah 7: 23-28; Luke 11: 14-23

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

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday (19th March 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

6.00 Choral Evensong *(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 Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered Pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4: 5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

A thought: (3rd Sunday of Lent) John 4. 5-42

As the Samaritan woman approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul.

All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, but she would also quench the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy.

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, 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, George Snashall,

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: 12th Hilary Richfield, Audrey Beveridge, 13th Bill Baker, Madelaine Saunders, Norman Carrington, Ivy Markwick, Frederick Hall, Joan Watson, 14th Roy Middleton, Barry Cumner, 15th Allen Shelton, 16th Brian Cox, Gertrude Jagger, 17th Philip Thunder, Richard Dean, John Black, Norman King, 18th William Beard, Rosemary Baxter