



Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield

'Joyfully
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Jesus'

**Parish magazine
February 2021**

50 pence

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	Normally open Monday-Friday mornings	
Church Website	www.holytrinitycuckfield.org	
Church Email	htcuckfield.churchoffice@talktalk.net	
Vicar	The Revd Michael Maine	454007
Churchwardens:	Jane Coan	617158
	Brian Cutler	412790
Lay Ministers:		
Reader	Clive Simmonds	07544-852415
Children's & Families' Ministry (inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org):		
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	Hilary Turner-King	400087
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The Friends of Holy Trinity	Paul Goldfinch	882649
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February 2021

LONGING

My dear friends,

Are you like me? Do you sometimes long for life as it was before Covid entered our consciousness and then took over our world?

It would be so easy to be consumed with sadness at life as we are living it at present, and we will all to some extent or other feel sorrow at those things which seemed like little gestures before which we can no longer do: family parties, a hug with a friend, shaking the hand of an acquaintance, popping in for a coffee or tea with a neighbour. There is no doubt about the mental consequences for so many people following the disruption of the norms which make up human physical contact.

As I have said many times in recent months, our faith is one which is about absolute connection. This means that we are never alone. God is with us in an unbreakable bond of love. It is ours to open up the connective link to allow the benefits of this to flood those areas of darkness we sometimes inhabit. The same is true of our connection to each other as members of the Body of Christ. Whether we meet in church, online or through prayer, we are walking together as one towards the Light of Lights.

Longing doesn't necessarily mean falling into loneliness, and certainly our Faith is one where healthy longing can actually lead to the shattering of loneliness. Here is a lovely prayer by St John Chrysostom:

*You have laid on me, O Christ, a spell of longing,
you have charmed me with a love all divine:
consume, therefore, my sins with immaterial fire;
be pleased to fill me with your sweet delights.
Then I shall proclaim your advent in the past
and the one we await with joy,
O gracious God*

My dear friends, know the sweet delights of God's love for you revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. You are never alone.

With love,

Michael



FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Christmas seems a long time ago, yet I am so grateful to all who enabled us to celebrate in such a wonderful way. The lovely Family Nativity with its pre-recorded segments was such a joy. Our choir, under the directorship of Richard, hugely lifted our spirits with the beautiful Carol Services and music at Christmas worship. The church looked lovely, with our crib always a feature of devotion. Indeed, last Sunday I popped into church and found a family sharing time at the crib. I hope that we will soon be able to resume some worship within Holy Trinity.

Inspiring Moments Hilary and Helen, our Children and Family Ministers, have introduced a section on the church website for people to view and seek cheer.

Please do contact them if you have a thought, picture, or anything else you would like to share. The first week's is very lovely, so do have a look – you will be uplifted!

Hilary and Helen write: *We would very much like everyone to contribute to this page so we get a good balance of different things people find uplifting. Moments shared can be anything from a photo, a verse of a hymn, a poem, a Bible passage, something someone has said to you. Feel free to put your name against it or you can remain anonymous! Please send your Uplifting Moments to Hilary and Helen at inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org We look forward to being able to encourage and uplift each other.*

Schools Appeal May I remind you that the appeal for food, etc., for Holy Trinity School and The Bewbush Academy has resumed. Jane has resumed collecting and taking to Holy Trinity School (**01444 617158 – and you can also leave items in the church tower**) and items for The Bewbush Academy may be left for Rebecca Anderson at **8 Leyton Lea**. The need for support is increasingly important. I know that both schools would wish to thank all those who are so generously bringing comfort to many families.

Computers for children *Rebecca Anderson writes:* Computers For Kids UK is a small initiative covering West and East Sussex, working in partnership with Mid Sussex Voluntary Action. We have started this initiative with the sole purpose of helping children and families to be able to access devices to use for home schooling. We are a small team collecting and refurbishing laptops and devices to give to children who would otherwise have no access to them, or would at best have to share a device with siblings. We need more donations - the demand is far exceeding the supply. We are also in need of tech wizards and PAT testers that can help refurbish and test devices before they go to the children. This involves wiping data and reinstalling any OS software that is needed. The PAT testers are needed to ensure the devices are safe. Our lovely group of tech volunteers are doing this free of charge and we cannot thank them enough, we just need more! We can be contacted through our Facebook Page or on Twitter - @c4kuk . Thank you so much in advance!

We understand that Vicky Jones can also help if you prefer the telephone (01444 448940 or 07857 256293), and that the website is due to go live on the 15th of January, so please do check it out.

Lent 2021 Can you believe that by the middle of the month we will have entered Lent! On **Ash Wednesday** we shall have our services as normal, but on Zoom:

BCP Litany	10.15 a.m.
Holy Communion	10.30 a.m.
Sung Eucharist	8.00 p.m.

We will also be following the diocesan **Lent Course** this year, and Clive Simmonds is organising the sessions. These will be held on Zoom via the church link on the website, and each week there will be two sessions: either Wednesday evenings at 8.00 p.m. or Friday afternoons at 3.00 p.m. (from the 24/26th February). More details will follow in the weekly newsletter.

Technology Huge thanks to our team dealing with the technology to livestream our worship. They have all devoted so many hours to working to bring about the best possible results and deserve the greatest credit. Not only has this opened up our community to the 'online' world but has brought about so many other benefits. Most of the funerals which are taking place are livestreamed and of great comfort to those unable to attend in person. I have mentioned before that we will have to urgently address aspects of the system covering sound and vision within the church for the benefit of both those in the building and those viewing from home. Alas, nowadays there is a short lifespan for technology.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE – CANDLEMAS

A reflection

Although we are celebrating this on the last Sunday in January this year, the actual Feast falls on February 2nd, and it marks the end of the forty days of the Christmas and Epiphany Season. It is such a lovely commemoration and leads us on a considerable journey. The narrative features one of the great 'hymns' of our Faith, the *Nunc Dimittis - The Song of Simeon* - words spoken by Simeon when he met the infant Christ in the Temple at the time of the Lord's Presentation. His parents were fulfilling the requirements of the Biblical Laws of Torah. This beautiful account is found in *Luke's Gospel 2: 22-41*. Do read it if you have an opportunity.

(continued on page 9)



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(continued from page 6)

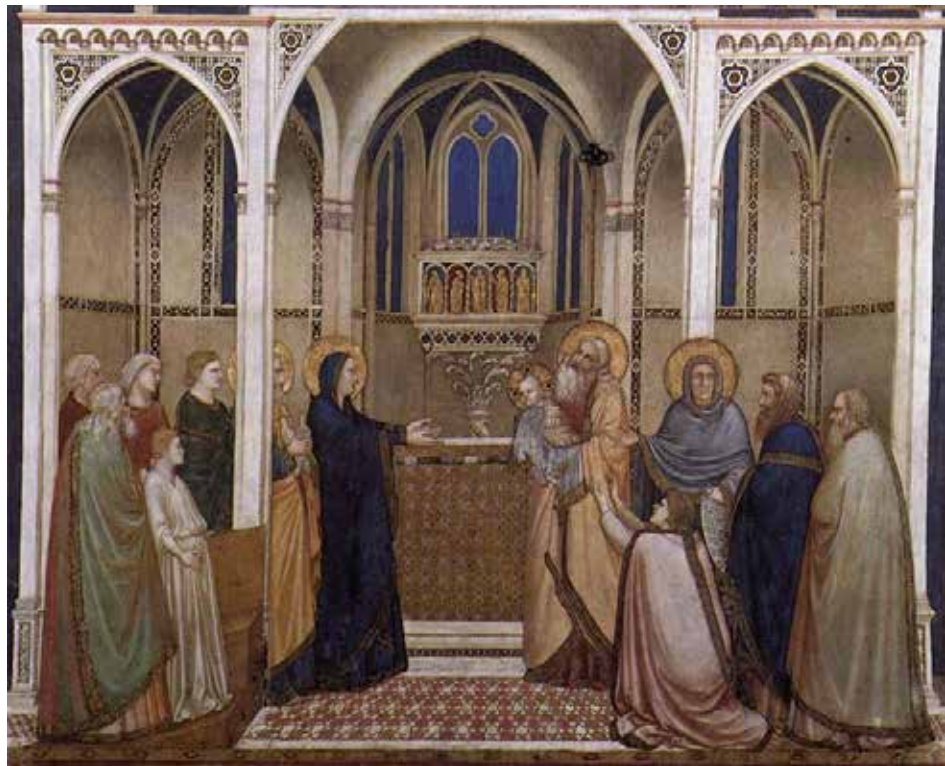
The Feast is known in the Book of Common Prayer as the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, something which was (and remains) part of the journey of a mother after childbirth within Judaism. Some may remember the 'Churching of Women,' in the BCP – a Christian version of the same ceremony after the birth of a child. Nowadays we focus on the sense of the journeying of the Holy Family, together with the appearance of the Lord in the Temple. The recognition of both Simeon and Anna of the Christ child is intensely moving. Luke writes to enable us to grasp that in Christ we know not just the fulfilment of the Biblical journey of Faith but find true contentment and the fulness of life lived in this knowledge. It is a call for all Christians to recognise and reveal Jesus in the same way that Simeon and Anna did.

The great commentator Origen (184-253AD) reflected on this Temple meeting and wrote: *'He entered the Temple in the Spirit of God ... if you wish to hold Jesus, and to embrace him with your hands, you must try with every effort to possess the guiding Spirit. Just come to God's temple. See, you stand now already in the temple of the Lord Jesus, his church. This is the temple built from living stones'* (*Homilies on the Gospel of Luke*).

Origen reminds us that we are each vital parts of this temple – the church. It may have (sometimes annoying) organisational and hierarchical tendencies, yet ultimately is about our belonging – it is enriched by our presence. We are living stones within the temple, of which Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone.

Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*



Giotto di Bondone c.1267-1337 (painted 1311-13) Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Assisi, Italy

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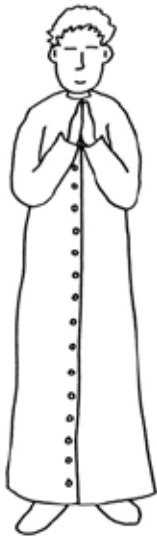
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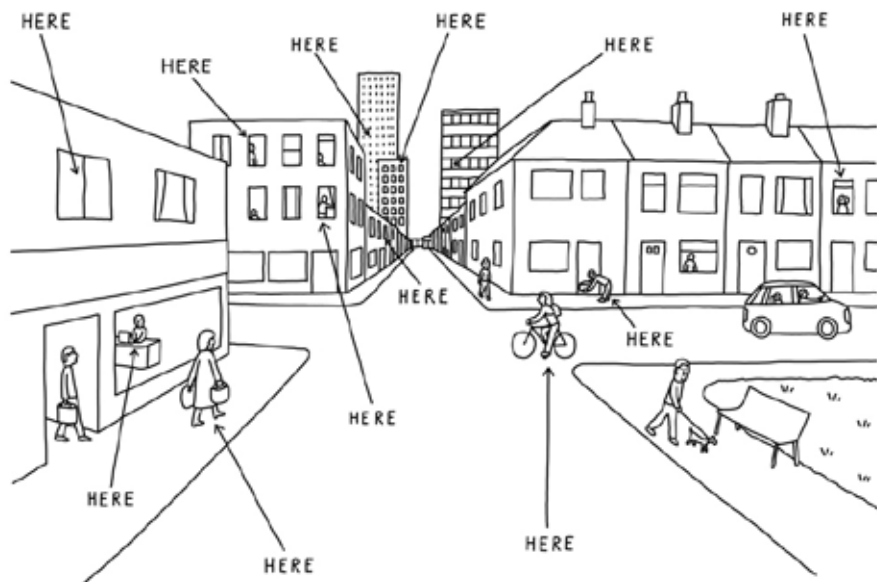


THE INWARD REALITY

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE *Next Copy Date*

While we are not currently distributing the hard copy edition of the magazine, the digital edition is available free of charge to read on-line or to download as a PDF, from the following link on the church website, from within the 'welcome' tab on the home page:

<http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/welcome/parish-magazine/>

If you know of anyone who would like to be emailed the online copy of the magazine and who is not currently receiving it, they may add their names easily by filling in the form at the very bottom of the church website's home page, under the ***Subscribe to our Mailing List*** strapline

A limited number of hard copies of the magazine are being printed for those who might prefer to collect one from the church porch.

The copy date for the **MARCH 2021 Magazine** will be:

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Please email contributions ***in WORD format (no PDFs, please)*** to:

duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Every month offers us reflection on the richness of Christian witness, a chance to see the way in which ordinary people reflected the extraordinary grace of God within their lives. In doing so they revealed to others the call of Jesus Christ within their lives, leading them, and us, to reflect how we too might be lights in our generation.

3rd Blaise of Sebaste (Armenian: Սուրբ Կլաւսի) was a physician and Bishop of Sebastea in historical Armenia (modern Sivas, Turkey) and is venerated as a saint in the Anglican (he appears in the Kalendar of the Book of Common Prayer), Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox churches and is the patron saint of wool combers and throat disease. According to the *Acta Sanctorum*, he was martyred by being beaten, attacked with iron combs, and beheaded. The reason he is patron saint of throats stems from a legend that while Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. He is often depicted holding candles because of a blessing formerly used on his feast day.



*St Blaise – Basilica of Vierzhenheiligen - The Gnadenaltar -
Johann Michael Feuchtmayer 1750s*

5th Agatha of Sicily Agatha was born in Catania or Palermo, Sicily, and she was martyred in approximately 251 at about the age of 20 during the persecution of Decius (250–253) in Catania, Sicily, for her determined profession of faith. She is one of several virgin martyrs commemorated by name in the Canon of the Roman Catholic Mass and also appears in the Kalendar of the Book of Common Prayer. Greatly revered for many centuries, the legends surrounding her martyrdom are later in origin. However, she retains a healthy following as the patron saint of breast cancer patients, martyrs, wet nurses, bell-founders, bakers, and invoked against fire, earthquakes, and eruptions of Mount Etna!



St Agatha – Carlo Dolci 1616-1687

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13th Catherine de Ricci (23 April 1522–2 February 1590), was an Italian Dominican Tertiary sister. From an early age she felt great devotion to the Passion of Christ and had a great desire to devote herself to religious life. She is believed to have had miraculous visions and corporeal encounters with Jesus, and is venerated for her mystic visions. As the prioress of her convent, de Ricci developed into an effective and greatly admired administrator. She was an advisor on various topics to princes, bishops and cardinals. She corresponded with three figures who were destined to become popes: Pope Marcellus II, Pope Clement VIII, and Pope Leo XI. An expert on religion, management and administration, her advice was widely sought. She gave counsel both in person and through exchanging letters, many of which survive as testament to her skill.



The mystic marriage of St Catherine Ricci – Pierre Subreylas 1699-1749

17th Archbishop Janani Luwum (c. 1922 – 17 February 1977) was the Anglican archbishop of the Church of Uganda from 1974 to 1977 and one of the most influential leaders of the modern church in Africa. He was arrested in February 1977 and died shortly after. Although the official account describes a car crash, it is generally accepted that he was murdered on the orders of then-President Idi Amin. Greatly revered throughout Africa, the date of his death is a public holiday in Uganda rather like Martin Luther King Day in the United States. His statue is among the Twentieth Century Martyrs on the front of Westminster Abbey.



ISAAC MASON



A former chorister of Holy Trinity Cuckfield, Isaac recently joined Belfast Cathedral's Choir Club and was subsequently selected to record the solo performance of the opening verse of *Once in Royal David's City*, to then sing along with Northern Ireland Opera, and recorded by BBC Belfast for broadcast. An incredible opportunity for him, he took it all in his stride and did an excellent job.

THE CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL NATIVITY ART INSTALLATION



Chichester Cathedral was delighted to host *The Chichester Nativity*, a major new art installation heralding the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic from the local community and across the Diocese of East and West Sussex. The artwork was presented in the Cathedral to mark the period of Advent and Christmas and depicted a unique presentation of the Nativity story for 2020. Created by Visual Arts Advisor and Curator, Jacqueline Creswell, and Artist and Photographer, Ash Mills, it was an immersive photographic installation sharing the familiar story of the Nativity in the style of a Renaissance tableau.

Characters in the scene were been drawn from local organisations, charities and medical services and paired symbolically to the roles within the Nativity. Angles acted as guardians of health and wellbeing; shepherds were providers of food and resources; the Magi people who have learned from experience and are now leaders of their community. Each participant was photographed individually, before being edited into the composite image. Participating organisations included: ***BBC Radio Sussex, the Bell Tower Drop-In, Chichester District Foodbank, Chichester Festival Theatre, Heart, Sanctuary in Chichester, Stagecoach, Stonepillow, Wellington Grange and West Sussex NHS Partnership.***

The photographic artwork was printed onto sheer voile banners and hung principally above the Cathedral's historic Arundel Screen, leading into the Nave and Baptistry. In the arches on either side of the Arundel Screen was a traditional scene of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus surrounded by shepherds, while the arch on the opposite side of the Screen was filled with scenes and characters in the story. One large banner was located above the Arundel Screen, with characters in the story pointing to the new born child. The Star of Bethlehem was represented with an image of the recent Neowise comet which visited close by the earth during lockdown and the artwork also incorporated part of Chichester's 540 year old Market Cross.

CUCKFIELD WAR MEMORIAL CENTENARY

100 years ago, on January 23rd 1921, the memorial to the 81 Cuckfield men who died in World War 1 was unveiled before a huge gathering during an outdoor service in Holy Trinity churchyard. Almost every family had been affected in some way by the events of the War, but *The Mid Sussex Times* of January 27th recorded that 'The task of unveiling the striking monument – a Cross of Sacrifice – was fittingly entrusted to Mrs Stevens and Mrs Fisher'. Both were mothers who had lost a son: Mrs Stevens' son, Eric, was a solicitor who enlisted as a stretcher bearer; his letters home were published after his death in 1916 and may be seen in Cuckfield Museum; Mrs Fisher was the wife of the former Vicar of Cuckfield, Canon Fisher, and their son Wilfred was just 19 years old when he was killed in 1917.

Great thought had been taken as to the type of memorial with public meetings at the Queen's Hall. In the end an outdoor monument was chosen and the position to the south of the church and looking towards the Downs was felt to be the most fitting site for peace and contemplation. It must be remembered that families had nowhere to grieve, given their dead in most cases were buried in foreign fields.

The memorial was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, RA, but the inscription of the names was entrusted to the Cuckfield

stonemason, Frederick Hounsell, and the cost of the whole was met by public subscription. The memorial has become a well known and loved feature of our churchyard as people have gathered every year since 1921 to honour the dead of two World Wars. The Parish Council are in the process of completing a programme of cleaning and restoration in this centenary year.



Our photograph shows the memorial soon after its unveiling: the ground has not yet been levelled. That was done during the Spring by Leonard Rhodes who found a silver penny while he was working: thought to have been from the reign of Henry III (1216-72), it could have been dropped at the time the south side of the church was being built.

Phillipa Malins

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LENT/EASTER APPEAL

With Lent just a couple of weeks away the Outreach Committee have thought, debated and prayed for inspiration regarding this year's appeal . There are so many worthwhile causes as a result of events in 2020: homelessness is an ever present local, national and international problem. Through our church we support two organisations who help: one is local, and the other abroad. Our 2021 Lent / Easter Appeal is therefore a joint one .

The ***Crawley Open House*** provides shelter and support for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, financial and physical need. More information about their services can be found on their website www.crawleyopenhouse.co.uk .

Tariro, as many of you are aware, provides hope for youth in Zimbabwe . The charity enables young people to advance in life with financial and practical support .

How to contribute to the Appeal?

From Ash Wednesday, 17th February , there will be a series of virtual displays around the church. These will be designed to provoke awareness, thought and prayer for the plight of the homeless. There will also be two representations of a homeless Christ figure, one on a bench outside and the other in the South porch. Please feel free to sit with them and reflect a while.

Envelopes for donations will be in the South porch . Please ensure they are marked *Homelessness* and post them through the office letterbox on the side of the Old School Building

Thank you on behalf of the homeless

FSW UPDATE

Dear Friends

Here we are at the start of a New Year and another lockdown. I'd like to thank all of you for your incredible support throughout 2020, particularly at Harvest and Christmas, when we were amazed at the quantity of donations we received for our foodbank and Christmas presents. Because of this we were able to give over 120 Christmas hampers to families throughout Sussex, with special treats to help them make Christmas a little bit more special. The presents for children were amazing and each child received handpicked gifts suitable for their age and interest. For some families these were the only presents the children received, so thank you again for your generosity.

As we enter a further lockdown, it is a challenging time for our families. They are still suffering from the impact of last year's lockdown, and now that schools are closed again the worries about home schooling have resurfaced, so our practitioners are doing as much as they can to support parents during this period. With the cold winter weather making outdoor activities difficult, we know that there are going to be difficult times ahead, but we are committed to doing all we can to prevent families from falling further into crisis.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Caroline, FSW's Cuckfield Deanery worker adds:

On behalf of the families that I work alongside, I would like to say a big thank you for all the time, effort and generosity given to help the families known to FSW locally feel that they are supported. I have received many cards and messages from

families thanking us for the hampers, toys, gifts for adults and gift cards for teenagers.

We were able to host seventeen families for a short individual celebration at the Bentswood Hub, with refreshments and crafts and presents for the children to open. Between us we provided 36 families with a Christmas Hamper, and most of those families were given a bag of toys for parents to wrap for the children, with many also being provided with gifts for adults for the children to wrap for their parents.

Thanks to the generosity of a local farmer, we also provided thirteen families with a lovely fresh turkey.

Life can be difficult for anyone at the moment, but it was heart-warming to see how local churches and individuals worked together to support families currently going through stressful or sad times.

With all best wishes for a happy and safe 2021.
Many thanks to all

Caroline

PRAYER PARTNERS 2021

It is time to start the next round of Prayer Partners, either to have a new partner or to join the scheme. This year it will have to be organised a bit differently, but I hope you will all consider joining, particularly in this time of change and anxiety for us all. It can be a great comfort to know that someone is holding you in their prayers throughout the year. It can also strengthen and enhance your own prayer life and help connect us to one another while we are physically apart.

How do I join the scheme?

Just send an email to janecoan10@gmail.com or phone Jane on 01444 617158 and your name will be put on a list. Names will be randomly drawn and you will be notified of your prayer partner for the year. The list will close on Sunday 14th February.

What happens then?

Once you have received the name of your partner, please commit to pray regularly for them, anonymously, throughout the year: -

- For their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- For healthy relationships with family, friends and colleagues
- For their Spiritual growth and understanding of God's love
- For any particular need that you are aware of

At the end of the year, you may wish to reveal yourself to your prayer partner by sending them a Christmas card. Most people will be pleased to know who has been praying for them.




The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16)


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NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

It's the start of a new year and although not quite what we had all been hoping for, the vaccine programme is being rolled out and hopefully there is a chink of light at the end of this long tunnel. What most would agree though, is that throughout this long, difficult period of the Coronavirus Pandemic, a spotlight has been shone on the wide gap between those who have and those who are really struggling. We have all been deeply shocked to learn of the severe material hardship of many families within our community.

As a church we have at our heart the desire to share Gods' transforming love with all those we know and meet: with friend and with stranger. We are committed to social justice and sharing God's love with the most needy. Through our support of a number of charities, we seek to help alleviate poverty and bring about a fairer world.

The Outreach Committee meets regularly throughout the year to find ways to support people both in the UK and overseas who are in need of help, upholding Jesus' desire for us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, cloth the naked, visit those in prison, take care of the sick (*Matthew 25:35*). The PCC agreed in November to support the following charities through its Mission Giving and the Outreach Committee finds ways to supplement this, either through further fundraising initiatives or in the giving of goods or time. Please include the work of these charities in your private prayer; praying for those who work for the charity and those who benefit from their tireless efforts:

Overseas:

- Samara's Aid working with refugees in Syria and the Middle East.
- Vision Rescue educating street children in Mumbai and providing medical care
- Tariro providing hope, education and employment opportunities to disadvantaged children and young people in Zimbabwe_

In the UK:

- FSW (Family Support Work) working with families to support and rebuild lives during and after crisis
- Crawley Open House providing support for those suffering the effects

of homelessness, unemployment and loneliness.

- Through the Government Resettlement Programme supporting Syrian refugees resettled in Mid Sussex

We are indeed blessed that our church remains totally committed to supporting those in need, enabling the work and mission of the Church to continue. As Michael has said, “This, to me, is the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, and we are able to then touch others’ lives in wonderful ways.”

Last year the PCC was able to allocate £9,000 to be distributed equally between these causes. Let us give thanks for such a blessing and to the tremendous difference it will make to the lives of so many people.

In addition to this, we support local charities through Fifth Sunday Giving. On this day, any money donated at services is given to specific charities.

This coming year the local charities that we will be supporting are :

- 31/1 Winston’s Wish
- 30/5 FSW Family Fund for holiday activities
- 29/8 St Peter and St James Hospice
- 31/10 Dame Vera Lynn Charity

Together with the wider community, we continue to support FSW with donations of food, Christmas presents for children and gifts for Christmas hampers. Thank you too for the wonderful breakfast parcels being provided for Bewbush Academy and for the continuing donations of food (particularly fresh food) for families in hardship at Holy Trinity School.

The Committee will endeavour to keep you updated through the Parish Magazine, the weekly Newsletters and displays in church (when restrictions allow) about the work of these charities and the extra ways we can all support them. We will strive to find ways to help these charities in practical ways as well as financial ones and through the power of prayer. We’ll keep you posted!

One such way last year was by everybody tipping out their collections of small change and foreign coins which you will be pleased to know raised an incredible £611.95 for the charity Opportunity International. Not bad for coins most people had forgotten about! This initiative was in the memory of our beloved Elizabeth Dunnett, who was passionate about social justice, holding the belief that by coming together in God's love, we are able to effect change, bringing hope and that think of light to those who need it. Should anyone like a lone earring returned , which is probably not a diamond , please phone 457585

*Hilary Turner-King and the Outreach Committee
Sue Bugden, Jane Coan, Ros Longfield, ,
Patricia Jamieson, Helen Powell, Joyce Sewell-Rutter*

You may like to pray this prayer:

Give us, Lord, a vision of our world

As your love would make it;

A world where the weak are protected,

And none go hungry or poor;

A world where the benefits of civilised life are
shared, and everyone can enjoy them;

A world where different races, nations and cultures
live in tolerance and mutual respect;

A world where peace is built with justice,

And justice is guided by love;

And give us the inspiration and courage to build it,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

YEW

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' famed donkey ride into Jerusalem. Recreating that palm-branch-strewn journey in Britain has been botanically challenging since palm trees do not grow in our climate. Instead, churches gathered sprigs of native yew to provide the ceremonial décor and in some areas, the Sunday before Easter became known as Yew Sunday. And that is why every churchyard has a yew.

Well, actually the yew's churchyard connection is because yews are evergreen and can miraculously regrow from a dead stump. The trees were planted as a symbol of everlasting life and a reminder of the Easter resurrection. But, how come over 500 churchyard yews in England and Wales are older than their churches? It must mean that the yews themselves were pagan places of worship and the churches were built around them. Or they were planted on the graves of plague victims to purify the dead. Or it could be something to do with long bows. Or keeping the waiting congregation sheltered and dry each Sunday.

No-one seems sure where this association started but, whatever the reason, yews look right at home in churchyards. Dark, dense and unmoving they solemnly preside over the sad ceremonies held underneath their boughs and have seen generations come and go (but mostly go). Yews themselves deliver death and every part of them is highly poisonous, their leaves, their bark, their seeds. Only the fleshy red arils around the toxic seeds are harmless, encouraging birds to feed on them and disperse the poisonous cargo within. Yet death itself does not seem to inconvenience the yew.

Two rival British yews are advertised as the oldest living thing in Europe, at an alleged 5,000 years old. Not many yews in Sussex can rival these great evergreen granddaddies. Most of our whippersnappers are probably just a couple of



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hundred years old. The problem is it is hard accurately to age a yew. As they get older, their blood red heart-wood rots, leaving them hollow inside and without traditional growth rings. Its heart may no longer be in it but that will not stop the yew from growing.

One of the oldest yews in Sussex can be found in Stedham churchyard near Midhurst. It is estimated to be a mind-boggling 2,500 years old. Over in Wilmington, at the foot of the Long Man, a monstrous yew dominates the churchyard. At a reputed age of 1,600, the tree is 600 years older than the church. Supported by wooden props and straining against rusting chains, it is as if a travelling circus is exhibiting an aging dinosaur. It is worth a visit to both these old timers. For me, standing in the shadow of a plant that is 40 times older than you is humbling and a reminder that for us mere humans, life is brief.

Michael Blencowe of The Sussex Wildlife Trust

GARDEN NOTES

January can seem quite a “flat” month after the Christmas festivities though COVID-19 meant much subdued merriment compared to normal. However, day length increases noticeably after Epiphany (6th January) especially on bright sunny days: snowdrops, snowflakes (*Leucojum vernum*) and other early bulbs like aconites bring cheer to our gardens along with winter flowering shrubs like *Daphne Bholi*, *Sarcococas* and *Chimonanthus*.

Continue mulching any borders and bush or top fruit (apples) unless the ground is frozen. Prune apples and pears; cut down autumn raspberries to ground level; cut off old leaves of Hellebores that flower from the base (like *Helleborus niger* and *orientalis*) to expose the flowers; divide herbaceous plants that are congested when the weather is mild; and keep outdoor planted tubs and pots tidy by removing debris regularly and dying flowers or foliage. Mulching with grit helps reduce compaction of the surface when compost is beaten into a solid “cap” by heavy rain. Watch out for downy mildew and black

spot on winter pansies removing any infected leaves. In my opinion, polyanthus, primroses and violas are more resilient than pansies and flower better in inclement weather.

Plant lily bulbs in pots or in the ground and pot up Hippeastrum (Amaryllis) bulbs, watering and feeding them as their growth resumes. For those with cacti, remember that they do not need more than a drop of water weekly and no feeding in the winter; resume in March, which is when they start to produce flower buds. If you have a greenhouse, keep ventilating on mild sunny days to reduce fungal infections.

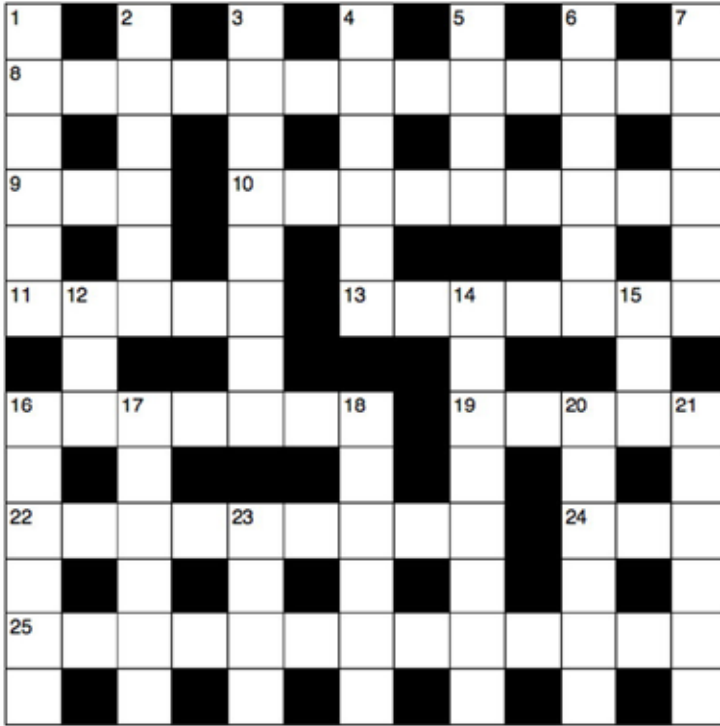
January is a good time to clean all your old pots and seed trays, so that they are ready for this spring's flurry of activity. Thorough cleaning will reduce pests and diseases and will reduce your propagation and sowing problems.

Plant any bare root deciduous hedging plants and trees you may wish to add to the garden, staking trees if necessary. Check tree ties on established plants and replace or slacken them where necessary. Worm casts can be brushed away when the soil is dry. On the subject of worms and the creatures who love eating them ... moles! Mole activity will increase in January and February due to mating and nesting (fortress) building. Where the runs have caused the lawn to collapse or sink, slice vertically through the turf, put the soil back and re-firm. Beautiful and fascinating animals but a real pain. Squirrels come into the same category.

Pheasants, pigeons and sparrows will peck at primrose and crocus flowers (yellow ones being the most attractive) and other plants so be prepared to battle with nature. Do not be beaten! Keep calm and keep gardening.

Lindsay Shurvell

February Crossword



ACROSS

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

DOWN

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

(Answers on page 42)

The master pages (including adverts) used to print this magazine can be viewed at www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/directory/parish-magazine/

IN MEMORIAM

Rodney Guy BERKELEY	Aged 73
John Ashley Talbot GUEST	Aged 78
Maureen Sylvia BUTCHER	Aged 82
Anthony Gerald MARSDEN	Aged 84
David CLARKE	Aged 73



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We are very pleased that the parish magazine is seen as a good vehicle for advertising by local traders and others but readers must accept that the Editors do not vouch for or in any way warrant the individuals, organisations, products or services advertised here.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

February 2021 Calendar & Readings for Sunday Services

Apart from when advertised there are no services of Evensong at present but the readings for the day are listed for information

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY – SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
*Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31; Colossians 1: 15-20;
John 1: 1-14*
- 9.45am Family Eucharist
- 6.00pm Choral Evensong
Genesis 2: 4b-end; Luke 8: 22-35

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Communion
*2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4: 2-6;
Mark 9: 2-9*

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY – ASH WEDNESDAY

- 8.00pm Holy Communion
*Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10;
John 8: 1-11*

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
*Genesis 9: 8-17; 1 Peter 3: 18-end;
Mark 1: 9-15*
- 6.00pm Evensong (*For information only*)
Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
*Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Romans 4: 13-end;
Mark 8: 31-end*
- 6.00pm Evensong (*For information only*)
Genesis 12: 1-9; Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

FEBRUARY'S SERVICES

While the church is open for private devotion during the week, like many other churches during the current lockdown, until restrictions ease there are no Sunday services in church and all our services are on Zoom.

You will find details on the church website and can join services as follows via the Big Blue Zoom Button on the home page:

SUNDAYS

9.45 a.m. Parish Eucharist with hymns

WEDNESDAYS

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (Common Worship)

THURSDAYS

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)

FRIDAYS

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Traditional Language)