

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Second Sunday of Lent
13th March 2022

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Dear Friends

It is already a cliché to say that we are living in uncertain, dangerous, and unprecedented times as the war in Ukraine takes its toll of human life, wreaks havoc and devastation, forces millions to flee as refugees and impacts all our lives through the connected nature of the modern world and its economy. Once again, our readings encourage us to trust where God is leading us, like Abraham wondering about his inheritance, Paul exhorting the Philippians with the promise of transformation or Jesus himself contemplating the road to Jerusalem. We do not know what lies ahead, but we can, and we must trust that we are safe in God's hands. In a much less dramatic way, we do not know our own future here in Cuckfield as a parish. However, we are beginning, with the Bishops and Archdeacon, the task of finding our new incumbent. If you have any comments that you would like to make about the qualities that our next vicar should have do let us know, either by email to churchwarden@holytrinitycuckfield.org or in writing to us at the Church Office, marked Vacancy – Confidential.

Jane & Brian

The Second Sunday of Lent (13th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Jim & Eileen Knight; Intercessor: David Jamieson

Hymns: 116, 126, 593, 447, 128; Choir Anthem: God so loved the world—Goss

Services during the week:

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

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

2.00 Prayer Meeting *(online)*

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church & online) Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland*

Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-11; Matthew 10: 16-23

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

Next Sunday: The Third Sunday of Lent (20th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church)*

The Collect for Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery
of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ 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:

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

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Philippians 3: 17-4: 1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13: 31-end

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

A thought

In the first reading we heard one of the most significant episodes in the whole of Scripture, the moment of Abraham's personal encounter with God, and the way that God gives him assurance of the Divine Love – 'I am your shield,' says God – in other words – 'my presence and love is with you at all times, no matter what.' Then in response to Abraham's deep longing for a child, God responds in personal terms, because, yes, a child will be conceived with Sarah. But then follows a wonderful verse, when God says to him, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them,' saying to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' What follows in verse 6 is the moment when humanity, in the personification of Abraham, acknowledges God as the creator of all: He believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

This profound encounter between human and divine is sometimes known as the Oracle of Salvation, the moment when (as the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews expresses it) in human terms, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. So Abraham becomes the exemplar – the example to each of us – of trusting in God's providence – he becomes the Father of people of Faith.

Our Gospel reading takes us into vivid everyday life, where human emotion and struggling is evident; where passions and jealousies, understandings and misunderstandings are revealed around the figure of Jesus. Through Jesus, God reveals how he reaches out beyond the boundless wonders of Creation – at which we only scrape the edges, to time and place, through Jesus, who is 'God is with us,' God meets us in our humanity.

A Parish Prayer

**God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen**

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Carol Cox, Jane Terry, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Maureen Prett

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, David Davidson, Maureen Griffiths,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Margarita Goad, Sarah Ringrose

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 13th Bill Baker, Madelaine Saunders, Norman Carrington, Ivy Markwick, Frederick Hall,, Joan Watson, 14th Roy Middleton, Barry Cumner, 15th Allen Shelton, 16th Bryan Cox, Gertrude Jagger, 17th Philip Thunder, Richard Dean, John Black, Norman King, 18th William Beard, Rosemary Baxter, 19th Tay Clarke