

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news Fifth Sunday after Trinity 17 July 2022

'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'

July is traditionally a fairly quiet month, with the end of term in sight and thoughts turning to summer holidays. However, this July has certainly managed to buck the trend with politicians busily setting out their agendas and vying for supremacy, and the cost-of-living crisis making a real impact on people's lives. Even some carefully planned summer holidays could find themselves in jeopardy, with disrupted travel arrangements or the fear of Covid rearing its ugly head again. Meanwhile bombs continue to fall in Ukraine and the effects of climate change cause devastation across the globe. Like Martha in Sunday's gospel reading, it is so easy to become worried and distracted by many things that are seemingly beyond our control. One of the most beautiful images in the gospels is that of Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, choosing the 'better part.' We too are encouraged to follow her example, to put our worries aside for a while, and simply rest in God's presence. The problems won't magically disappear, but we will be in a far better position to discern the will of God, and be strengthened for the challenges ahead.

Jane & Brian

Fifth Sunday after Trinity (17 July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite & Ralph Colbran

9.45 The Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Vicky Peattie

Hymns: 569, 588, 800, 765

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion Readings: Jeremiah 1: 1, 4-10; Matthew 13: 1-9

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Jeremiah 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Matthew 13: 10-17

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday after Trinity (24th July 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church and online)*

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

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

The Collect for Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
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:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be
so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church
may joyfully serve you
in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Genesis 18: 1-10a

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Colossians 1: 15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Luke 10: 38-end

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

A thought 5th Sunday after Trinity: Luke 10. 38-end (Sunday 17th)

It's only normal for each of us to desire the "better part." Though this may be the result of a certain selfishness within us, it may also come from a holy desire when the "better part" is identified as the will of God in our lives. Conversely, sometimes we can tend to choose what we perceive as better for us, when in fact it's not better at all.

This passage reveals that Mary chose something we should all desire in life. She chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and simply be with Him. Martha was doing a lovely service by preparing the meal and working hard, but Mary was focused on one thing, her Lord.

It's important to acknowledge the fact that we will all have times in life when we must be more like Martha. Work must be accomplished, chores completed, and various forms of labour will be a normal part of daily life. But we must also daily remind ourselves that there is one thing we must never lose sight of: Being with Jesus, in silence and prayerful adoration is the most important thing we can do. This doesn't undermine any other tasks we have to complete each day, but it does reveal that we should never neglect that which is most important.

By identifying Mary's choice to sit at His feet, Jesus reminds us all of the importance of simply being with Him. This is the call to the contemplative life given not only to cloistered monks and nuns but is an invitation to us all. We must all seek out moments of rest with Jesus throughout our busy days and desire the 'better part'.

A prayer for the 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: Barbara Booth, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds, Becky Parker, Terry Buckland, George Snashall,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Frederick Gray, Jonathan Malins, Martin Galbraith, Reginald Saunders, Margaret Stace

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 17th Sally Mitchell, 18th Peter Kapff, 19th Dorothy Duthie, 20th Tony Fabb, David Kerr, Barrie Galbraith, 21st Jack Barnard, Roger Petitpierre, Richard Hall, Douglas Hollis (Priest), 22nd William Sayers, Margaret Coomber, Gladys Tidey, Doris Prebble, 23rd Percival Abbot, Shirley Deakin, Brian Norman