

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Second Sunday of Christmas (New Year's Day)** *1 January 2023*

Having seen off the last of the turkey, and with the Christmas decorations about to come down, we now turn our thoughts to the year ahead.

The past year has had its challenges, but we have much to be thankful for. Our wonderful team of retired clergy, dedicated lay ministers and technical wizards has enabled us to keep all our services running smoothly. The threat of Covid has lessened somewhat and, on occasions, the church has been full again, and we've raised the roof with our singing once more. Outreach to our community has increased, and those in need further afield have continued to be supported by the generosity of our congregation. So, as a community of faith, let us look to the year ahead with hope and a sense of expectation, as we continue to serve Jesus joyfully in 2023.

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Jane & Brian

Second Sunday of Christmas (New Year's Day) (1st January 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Anthony Van der Willigen & Gerry Larner

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Pat & Rod Montague ; Intercessor: Philip Richings

Hymns: 72, 69, 83, 84, 75

Services during the week:

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

Readings: 1 John 3: 7-10; John 1: 35-42

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

Readings: 1 John 3: 11-21; John 1: 43-end

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

Next Sunday: Epiphany (8th January 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family 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 Second Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incar-
nate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
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:

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2: 10-end

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again, 'I will put my trust in him.'

And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2: 13-end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

A thought: 1st Jan 2023

The Magi, after they have offered their gifts, realize the danger in returning to Herod, and leave "for their own country by another road." They don't stay where it's comfortable and secure. They set out from there by another road, a new road, a different road than the one they'd been travelling upon. Mary and Joseph in our gospel reading flees from Herod and travels to Egypt.

They move on in their journey of life, and so must we. For us, the manger is only one stopping place on our journey of faith. And while the tranquillity of the manger may move us deeply, it should never transfix us. The rest of Christ's journey, and our journey, remains to be travelled.

As we embark on this new year, embodied so well in the spirit of Epiphany and the reality of life moving on, a fair question for us to ask is, "how can we move on?" Isaiah tells the people of Israel to "Arise, shine; for your light has come" They no longer have to live in darkness, nor do we. Rise and shine, get up, begin again there is more to come!

There are new roads to travel upon in this new year. May hope then dwell in our hearts and may that sunrise, the light of Christ, shine brightly on each of us as we journey on the new road we'll be travelling upon in this new year.

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: John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Becky Parker, George Snashall, Eileen Macdougall, Eileen Cagle, Karen Leese, Hilary Turner-King

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, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon

Those in Care Homes: Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jill Rockey, Paul Dupee

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 1st Amy Tutton, Jack Small, Ronald Lower, Vivian Stevens, 2nd Charles Armistead, Ronald Nye, 3rd Gladys Nash, John Mullens, Arthur Lee, Clare Roberts, Colin Bugden, Cecile Sadd, 4th Peter Grimwade Priest, 6th Phyllis Hill, Noel Scarborough, Tessa Lord, David Saunders MBE, 7th Ada Wright, William Hough, Philip Titheradge, Cyril Pike, Alan Hopper, John Dronfield, Gillian Norman