

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)**  
**19 February 2023**

Our spiritual life is often compared to a quest, a search for a deeper understanding of and communion with God. Lent, which begins this coming week, is that special time in the year when we can particularly focus on both our personal quest and our communal search to grow in God's love. We may find, as Moses and Peter, James and John found in our readings this Sunday, that this involves climbing mountains, whether physical or psychological and cultural, and that we face many challenges on the route. We will almost certainly find that we are called to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God as we work with others to serve the community as a whole.

To help we have two different study courses taking place online. Clive Simmonds will lead the group on Wednesday evenings from March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00pm using the Diocesan course, *Who Then Is This?*, whilst on Thursday evenings from February 23<sup>rd</sup> also at 7.00pm, Vickie Peattie and Shirley Rawlings will lead a group thinking about the "I am" sayings, based on Celtic spirituality explored by David Adam. Both will be available on Zoom on the Blue Button.

Brian & Jane

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

## **Sunday next before Lent—Quinquagesima (19th February 2023)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

Reader: *Ralph Colbran*

**9.45 Family Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 783, 532, 775, 777

**6.00 Sung Evensong**

Readers: Hymns: 422, 491, 766 (Omit Verse 4)

**Services during the week:**

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

Readings: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-5:10; Matthew: 6: 1-6, 16-21

**8.00 Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday**

Readers: *Pat & Rod Montague*; Readings as the 10.30am service

Hymns: 121, 123, 128, 425, 116

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

Readings: Deuteronomy 30: 15-end; Luke 9: 22-25

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

**Next Sunday: First Sunday of Lent (26 February 2023)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

**12.00 Holy Baptism** *Alfred William Painter and Harry William Ashton Thompson*

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

### **The Collect for Sunday next before Lent**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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:**

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Exodus 24: 12-end

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## 2 Peter 1: 16-end

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

## Matthew 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

**'A thought:** Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Feb (Sun Next before Lent) Matthew 17. 1-9

We are told by Matthew that six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John up a high mountain by themselves. Mountains are holy places and special things always happen there – we think for instance of Mount Sinai (Moses), Mount Carmel (Elijah), the Sermon on the Mountain, the Feeding of the 5,000, and Calvary (Golgotha) was a hill outside Jerusalem.

There before them Jesus is suddenly transformed, dazzlingly bright. They can hardly look on him. Suddenly there appear with him Moses and Elijah. They represent the whole Jewish tradition of the Law and the Prophets. They are seen talking with Jesus. The message is clear. They fully endorse what Jesus is doing and saying and the future he has foretold about himself.

A cloud came down and covered them. This was not just a change in the weather. To the biblical mind it spoke of only one thing – the presence of God himself. And then out of the cloud came a voice; it could only be the voice of One Being. "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." Here now is the supreme endorsement of the Son by his Father. "Listen to him."

Yes, listen, even when he says things that you don't like, things that you do not yet understand. It is a confirmation of all that has gone on before – the real identity of who Jesus is and the reliability of everything that he says will happen to him and what is expected of them.

This is a special moment of encouragement which will help carry the disciples and us through the difficult times. It points to where true happiness and fulfilment lie.

### **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, George Snashall, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon

**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, Eileen Macdougall,

**Those in Care Homes:** Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, John Bernardi (priest), Val Thompson

### **Please remember the recently departed and their families: Reg Ruddock**

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 19th Gladys Webb, Barbara Hastings, Eleanor Springall, Betty Fry, 20th Ronald Middleton MBE, 22nd Leigh Mckay, 24th Heidi Simpson, 25th Eric McMillar, Mogens Kier, Auguste Thompson, Sheena Berkeley