

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Sixth Sunday of Easter** *14 May 2023*

The images of last week's Coronation, with all its pomp and pageantry, will live in the memory for a long time. Some may think such opulence has little place in today's world, but what really matters is how we live our lives and use who we are and what we have for the good of others. As we turn our attention to Christian Aid Week (14-21 May) we pray that those with authority or political power will follow its aims and seek to live lives of justice, hope and generosity and be role models for others. Since its inception, Christian Aid Week has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting the suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. In recent years the devastating effects of climate change has been at the forefront of their campaigning, as severe drought and extreme weather conditions wreck lives and keep desperate people locked in poverty. With the cost of food continuing to escalate, along with the lack of wheat and cooking oil as a consequence of the horrific war in Ukraine, it is the poorest communities who suffer the most, and who contribute the least to the climate crisis. As we mark Christian Aid Week let us be assured that all our efforts, whether delivering envelopes, supporting our Big Brekkie, campaigning for climate justice, or contributing financially, will have a real impact on the lives of sisters and brothers in some of the most deprived areas of our world, and be a visible sign of God's love in action.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter (14 May 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Eileen Caple & Robyn Brotherton Intercessor: Jane Coan

Hymns: 2, 602, 453, 209, 788, 721

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Acts 17: 15, 22-18: 1; John 16: 12-15

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

8.00 Sung Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readings: Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 15-end; Luke 23: 44-end; Hymns: 232,35,228,441,691

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

Next Sunday: Seventh Sunday of Easter (21 May 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church & online)*

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

The Collect Sixth Sunday of Easter

God our Redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ you Son 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:

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Acts 17: 22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

1 Peter 3: 13-end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14: 15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

A thought: Sunday 14th May 2023 6th Sunday of Easter (John 14. 15-21)

Jesus, following his resurrection, has left us, and returned to his Father. At the same time, he is still with us, but in a different way from before his death on the cross. And today's readings tell us that it is through the Spirit of the Father and the Son that Jesus' presence is experienced by us.

We see this clearly expressed in today's gospel passage. Jesus is telling his disciples at the Last Supper that, through the Spirit, he will continue to be with them as an Advocate. An Advocate is someone like a defence lawyer, someone who stands by you in court, gives you support, advice and comfort in difficult situations where you need help.

That is precisely the role of the Spirit in our Christian life. The Spirit teaches, guides, supports, consoles and comforts as we try to be faithful in our following of Christ's Way. So, although Jesus tells his disciples that he is about to leave them and they are clearly alarmed and despondent at the idea, he reassures them that he will come back, he will continue to be with them though in a different way.

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, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon, Nick Rowe

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, Liz Graydon,, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Tina Owens

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jeremy Cutler, Jonathan Rowe

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 14th Robert Aspinall, Dan Batchelor, Cyril Dixon, 15th Peter Grimwade, Donovan Thornton, Frances Barrett, 16th Leonard Goldsmith, 18th Christina Watling, 19th Mary Baker, Eleanor Kingdon, 20th Ethel Carter, Raymond Marchant, Wayne Debman,