

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Eighth Sunday after Trinity
30 July 2023

It was with great joy that we announced that the Revd Daniel Valentine will be our new vicar both here in Cuckfield and in Bolney. Unfortunately, we have had to wait longer than we would probably have wished and whilst it is possible to explain the delay in terms of the large number of vacancies at present combined with the small number of candidates, it is perhaps more helpful to see it as waiting for the right person to be called to minister to us. This will be a new chapter in the life of both Holy Trinity and St Mary Magdalene, so as we prepare for his arrival and his induction later in the year we must pray with Daniel and like Solomon for a discerning mind so that we can know the will of God in this place.

Brian and Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Eighth Sunday after Trinity (30 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Readers: Graham Johnson

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church & online)

Hymns: 357, 595, 708, 494, 592, 490

Reader: David Reed Intercessor: Philip Richings

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 13: 44-46

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

Readings: Exodus 3:13-20, Matthew 13

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Eighth Sunday after Trinity (in church)

Next Sunday: Ninth Sunday After Trinity (6 August 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church & online)

11.15 Family Praise (in church)

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

The Collect for Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here
and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
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:

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from
deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your
love
shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which
have been fed with your body be refreshed with the full-
ness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

I Kings 3: 5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

Romans 8: 26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

A thought: 30th July (Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52)

One of the hidden truths of the kingdom is that we, each of us, are the pearl of great value. That is, how much our God loves every one of us, so much so that God would send his only Son to walk among us and as one of us to show us the way to His Father.

Jesus is calling us to return to God from whence we came. God loves us even more than the merchant who gave everything for the pearl of great value. Love is central to the life of faith, and when we accept and receive God's love and know how much God values us, we feel like pearls of great value. These kingdom parables that Jesus shares with us today are essential to understand. They each point to the hiddenness of God's reign in our midst and suggest that the life of faith begins with something as small as a little bit of yeast, a single grain of mustard seed, or finding a pearl of great price.

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 as we give thanks for the appointment of our new priest we pray that he will 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, Jill Knight, Bruce Commandeur

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, Peter Graydon,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Lavinia Wylie

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 30th Lilian Bourne, Mina Bushby; 31st Kenneth Viles, Frances Grainger, Graham Hardwick, Betty Turner, Peter Anderson; 2nd David Revill, Kenneth Keymer, Dorothy Young; 3rd Steve Dant, Margaret Henley, Helen Hargreaves Heap, Cpt. Alan Prebble; 4th Michael Symonds, Marjory Norris; 5th John Lewis, Susan Cooke