

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Seventh Sunday after Trinity** **23 July 2023**

The start of the summer holidays will mean different things to different people. For most children, and certainly their teachers, it will come as a welcome relief. For some parents it may be a stressful time, juggling work with childcare or worrying about feeding or entertaining their children during the long break. For others it can be a lonely time as many regular activities and social events are put on hold and friends and neighbours disappear on their annual holidays.

Originally holidays were holy-days, when workers would have a day off to attend church festivals. Nowadays holidays are sometimes seen as a time to take a break from church or regular worship. Thankfully it is 'business as usual' at Holy Trinity, with activities for families and the majority of our services continuing throughout the summer. If you don't have plans to go away this summer, why not make a point of attending a weekday service, or visiting someone who is on their own, or offering a helping hand to a stressed family? Please also remember that even though our school is closed, food deliveries to local families will continue throughout the holidays so do continue to support this if you are able.

Jane and Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Seventh Sunday after Trinity (23 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Roger Edmonston & Eileen Caple

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 828, 655, 537, 448, 454, 753

Readers: Paul Goldfinch & Ian Walden Intercessor: Vicky Peattie

12.00 Holy Baptism *Blythe Avery Holman (in church)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9

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

Readings: Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11; Matthew 13:10-17

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

Next Sunday: Eighth after Trinity (30 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

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

The Collect for Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your 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:

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Romans 8: 12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

A thought: 23rd July (Matthew 13.24–30, 36–43)

This parable made much sense to the people of Jesus' time. It was common practice for an enemy to get revenge upon another by sowing a weed named "cockle" in with the wheat. As the cockle grew, it looked much like wheat until the grain was formed. And if it were mixed with the wheat and eaten, it would cause severe nausea. Due to this, it was also common practice for farmers with enemies to have servants stand watch over their fields after they were planted. Therefore, this parable reveals that the servants failed to keep watch. Jesus teaches us that we would do best by paying less attention to the cockle and better for us to spend more time tending the wheat and following the values of His Kingdom.

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, Jill Knight, Bruce Commandeur, Nickola Smith

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: 23rd Percival Abbott, Shirley Deakin, Brian Norman; 24th Richard Beard, William Baxter; 25th Stella Muir, Oscar Orpen, Simon Bebb, Dorothy Upton; 26th Brian Cooper, Gillian Coventry; 27th Alan Cruse, Fred Capelin, Alan Virgin; 28th Aileen Morrison; Barbara Galbraith; 29th Robert Capp, Revd. Eric Hayden, Shirley Beard