

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
16 July 2023

No doubt many of us at the moment are enjoying summer; Wimbledon, The Ashes, Glyndebourne, sunshine, strawberries, rain, holidays, above all relaxing and enjoying ourselves. And why not we say, we have earned it! However, if we listen to the reading of Paul's Letter to the Romans this Sunday, we will hear Paul argue that the really good things in life, being at peace with our God and our neighbour and able to live in love, are not earned at all, but are the gift of God himself to those willing to receive his Spirit. Hopefully we can continue enjoying summer for a while longer whilst at the same time learning to recognise the Spirit working both in ourselves and those around us.

Brian and Jane

Sixth Sunday after Trinity (16 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Charles Solomon & Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 4, 589, 494, 639, 264

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church & online)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12

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

Readings: Exodus 3:13-20

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

12.30 Funeral *(in church)*

Next Sunday: Seventh after Trinity (23 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

12.00 Holy Baptism *(in church)*

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

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

The Collect for Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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:

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Isaiah 55: 10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Romans 8: 1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

A thought: 16th July (Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23)

The Sower's approach to sowing in our Gospel is carefree. The Sower flings seeds as they go, disregarding where the roots may form. Shouldn't this precious seed be saved for careful deposit in some prepared narrow furrow with a better chance of germination and survival?

To this Sower, it's as if the seed is so precious that he can't hold on to it; it has to be shared. This Sower's method is to throw the seed wherever. This Sower covers much ground, not sticking to one pathway, field, or territory. The point of this Sower is to sow. So he does. The Sower, of course, is Jesus, the bringer of the Kingdom of God. What if Jesus is also saying to us, "Sow!" Don't worry whether you feel the soil you're walking over is good or bad, or receptive. Don't save up seeds for the places you think will be the most fertile. This seed is so precious, it has to be shared, and there's plenty more seed where that came from. So we are called to Sow generously because Jesus's very character is generous.

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: Andrew Lyall, Lavinia Wylie

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 16th Frank Knight; 17th Sally Mitchell; 18th Peter Kapff; 19th Dorothy Duthie; 20th Tony Fabb, David Kerr, Barrie Galbraith; 21st Jack Barnard, Roger Petitpierre, Richard Hall, Douglas Hollis (Priest), Greville Goad; 22nd William Sayers, Margaret Coomber, Gladys Tidey, Doris Prebble