

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Ninth Sunday After Trinity** **6 August 2023**

Congratulations to all the budding actors, set builders, script writers, singers or dancers on their wonderful performance of 'In My Shoes' last week. Many thanks to Charlotte and her team of dedicated helpers for their vision and skill in bringing it all together and for giving our young people such a joyful and memorable experience at the start of their summer break. We look forward to their next production!

Last week we also said goodbye to Peter Groves as he retired from his role as Old School Manager after 13 years of service. Peter has asked us to convey his thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to his retirement gift.

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Jane and Brian

Ninth Sunday after Trinity (6 August 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Gerry Larner and Anthony Van der Willigen

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 1, 652, 612, 712, 719, 394

Readers: Carolyn Ponder Intercessor: David Jamieson

11.15 Family Praise *(in church)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 15:21-28

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

Readings: Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23

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

Next Sunday: Tenth Sunday after Trinity (13 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 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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:

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

A thought:

All-Seeing and all-Knowing

God is believed to possess all-seeing and all-knowing abilities, and His love is boundless. He expresses His love by providing spiritual sustenance to His followers. This spiritual sustenance is so extensive that it cannot be fully grasped in one go. Similar to the basketfuls of leftovers collected by the disciples, there is always an abundance of spiritual nourishment left for us to consume. Just as we need physical food to survive daily, we must also regularly consume spiritual sustenance for our faith to thrive. Humans have a limited capacity to absorb all the teachings we receive. Therefore, God often reminds us of His love and power. However, if we ignore these teachings, He must remind us even more. The act of sharing the loaves and fishes is a representation of God sharing His wisdom and love with his children. The leftover food reminds us that God's love and understanding surpass our capacity to absorb them fully. Nevertheless, we can still absorb the excess if we seek His spiritual nourishment. To receive spiritual food from God, we must also be responsible for nourishing, teaching, and leading others. We must offer what we can to feed the multitudes, just as Jesus fed the crowds with loaves and fish. As we share our spiritual food, it will multiply and fulfil our souls. We must openly show our faith in God, as He may ask us to prove it through our actions and deeds.

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, Peter Graydon, Nick Rowe, Jill Knight, 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

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 6th Marjorie Dewey, Bessie Bliss; 7th David Covell, Richard Bostock, Reginald Cracknell; Frederick Baker, Christopher Cripps; 9th Amy Fielder; 10th Guy Nicholson, Aileen Craigan, Linda Duffy; 11th Sheila Emmens, Winifred Stevens. Vivien Butterworth, Yvonne Ford; 12th Alexander Wallace