

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Tenth Sunday after Trinity** **13 August 2023**

It is August and we are in the middle of the school holidays. How often have we felt cheated in this country by our weather, and this year has been no exception. After a scorching June we have had a very soggy July and August so far has been little better, although that may be about to change. Our largely unpredictable weather is one of the joys of life in this country, possibly even a component of our culture, although perhaps we need to remember that what is a disappointment for some is a welcome relief for others.

The weather also features in two of the readings for this Sunday. Both Elijah and Peter find God in the still, silent aftermath of the storm. Both are to go on and fulfil the rhetorical question that Paul asks, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Brian and Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Tenth Sunday after Trinity (13 August 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 766, 680, 806, 471, 566, 761

Reader: Eileen Caple Intercessor: Nick Rowe

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Deuteronomy Chapter 34; Matthew 18:15-20

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

Readings: Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1

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

Next Sunday: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (20 August 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 the Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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 willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

I Kings 19: 9-18

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Romans 10: 5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

'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:

Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.

In this passage, Jesus identifies himself with the power of God and reassures his followers that they need not fear the dangers around them. Peter, the group's leader, impulsively asks to come to Jesus across the water. Jesus invites him to do so, and Peter begins to approach him. However, his fear overcomes him, and he cries out for Jesus to save him. This cry echoes the sentiments of many Christians throughout history who have felt overwhelmed by the world. The passage reminds us that Jesus is not found in the safety of our church but rather amid the stormy sea, where we must go to meet him, even if it means facing dangers and setbacks. Christians often focus solely on our well-being, neglecting those struggling amid life's storms. It's important to remember the words of Jesus, who may ask us, "Why did you doubt?" when we fail to trust His guidance and support. Let us strive to be more compassionate and helpful to those in need, just as Jesus would want us to be. Of course, Jesus can also be found in the boat, but only when we are ready to leave the shelter of the ship to see him in the "world", that place which is at least indifferent and, at its worst, very hostile to the Christian vision.

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, Jim Knight, Jill Knight

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, Peter 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: 13th Richard Taylor, Olive Stenning, Catherine Thurgood, Diane Ede, Maureen Gallini; 14th Ronald Wadhams, Anne Norris; 15th Mabel Clarke, Anne Lindsay; 16th Colin Ponsford, Ian Williams; 17th John Baxter, Norman Whotworth, Michael Hoile, Maud Punton; 18th Dian Bryson; 19th Edith Burstow, Cyril Tarry