

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **Harvest**

Harvest Festival, a long-standing tradition that pre-dates Christianity, takes its name from the Old English word 'Haerfest' meaning Autumn. It wasn't until the Victorian era that Harvest began to be celebrated in churches, quickly establishing itself as one of the most popular services in the church calendar. While traditions may have changed over the years, at its heart it has remained a time to give thanks to God who gives life to all living things and provides abundantly for our every need. Today, let us also give thanks for all those in the chain on whom we depend for the growth, production and distribution of our food. We particularly remember those within the farming community, battling unpredictable weather conditions and struggling to make a living in today's global economic climate. And let us be challenged to consider how we can give from our plenty to those who are hungry, not just at harvest time, but throughout the year, remembering those in our own community suffering food poverty and for foodbanks struggling to cope with unprecedented demand.

Jane and Brian

### **Harvest** (1st October 2023)

#### **8.00 Holy Communion** (in church)

Readers: Gerry Larnar and Anthony van der Willigen

#### **9.45 Parish Eucharist** (in church & online)

Hymns: 290, 285, 287, 286, 283, 282

Readers: Susan Mayou and Wendy Bloomer; Intercessor: James Sanders

#### **11.15 Family Praise** (in church)

#### **6.00 Choral Evensong** (in church & online)

Hymns: 283, 289, 282

Readers: David Spear and Carolyn Ponder

### **Services during the week:**

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

Nehemiah 8:1-8; Luke 9:57-end

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

Nehemiah 8:1-12; Luke 10:1-12

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

### **Next Sunday: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** (8th October 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 Harvest**

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving  
for your love in creation  
and have shared in the bread and the wine  
of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us  
a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

## 2 Corinthians 9: 6-end

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## Luke 12: 16-30

Then Jesus told the crowd a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"' Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

## A thought:

Harvest Thanksgiving is a festival that celebrates life's blessings and challenges. On the one hand, it allows us to reflect on our Creator, who provides us with everything and everyone in our lives, and to express gratitude for the farmers and their harvest that gives us the food we consume. On the other hand, this event also reminds us of the millions of individuals in our world who do not have farms or gardens to harvest, who go hungry, and for whom eating is sometimes a luxury. Though Jesus teaches us not to worry about what we eat, drink, or wear, we still worry about certain things. We may feel anxious about our finances when the cost of heating our homes rises during this time of year. We may worry about our health, ageing, and our loved ones. However, as God's people, we should have compassionate hearts caring about those who struggle daily to find food, clean water to drink, clothes to wear, and a roof over their heads.

## 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, Yvonne Godsmark

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Tina Owens, Karen Leese

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

**Please remember the recently departed and their families:** Len Robinson, Peter Lewington, Margaret Quenby, Judey Amy, Adrian Russell, Joyce Baker, Len Dell

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 1st Phyllis Grimwade; 2nd Jane Larner; 3rd Frederic Burrige, Sybil McKinnan, William Byrne, Bernadette Selous; 4th Charles Newnham, Daphne Gossage, John Bradshaw; 5th Joseph Chapman, Brenda Burbidge, David Barrett; 6th Vera Philipson, Douglas Owens, Leslie King, Brian Peake; 7th Winbifred Seldon, Evelyn Stead, Yvonne McMillar