

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
17th September 2023

In a couple of weeks' time, we will be celebrating Harvest Festival. Whilst it traditionally a time for giving thanks and acknowledging all the good gifts have been given, we should also be addressing the urgent need to repair some of the damage we have inflicted upon our planet and considering ways of becoming better stewards of God's wonderful creation.

Harvest Festival also offers opportunities to help others less fortunate than ourselves. As usual, we will be collecting food and household items to be distributed locally to needy families via Family Support Work. Goods may be brought to church on Sunday 1st October and placed around the high altar. Profits from our Harvest Supper, along with any cash donations, will be sent to Tariro, a charity providing hope for young people in Zimbabwe. Through education and by investing in projects such as farming, disadvantaged children are taught the necessary skills to become self-supporting and build a better future for themselves and for their community.

Jane and Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (17 September 2023)

8:00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers Margaret Thistlethwaite

9:45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 708, 666, 464, 747, 652

11:30 Pet Service *(in church)*

18:00 Choral Evensong *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 17, 382, 739

Readers: Carolyn Ponder

Services during the week:

Tuesday: 10:00 Prayer Group *(online)*

Wednesday: 10:30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: 1 Timothy 3:14-end; Luke 7:31-35

18:30 Space for Grace *(in church)*

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist *(in church)*

Proverbs 3:13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Matthew 9:9-13

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

Next Sunday: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (24 September 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer:

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

A thought:

Peter asks Jesus, "Lord if someone wrongs me, how often should I forgive them? Should it be seven times?" Peter has a habit of asking questions that we all want to ask. He is sincere and eager to do what is right but often makes mistakes. Perhaps Peter's flawed humanity makes him a role model for us. Peter had heard Jesus talk about forgiveness and wanted to learn more. Peter had done his research as well. An ancient rabbinic tradition states that you should forgive someone who has wronged you up to four times. So, Peter tries to be more generous than the rabbis and adds three more times to his question. He asks, "Should I forgive someone up to seven times?" Jesus responds to Peter, saying, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Peter wants a guideline for forgiveness, so he extends his hands and asks, "Is this enough, Lord, should I forgive this much?" Jesus replies, "No, much more than that. You need to be using the correct scale. It would be best to forgive as far as the east is from the west."

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, 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: Maureen Griffiths, Len Robinson, Peter Lewington, Margaret Quenby, Judy Amy

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 17th Edith Pelham; 19th Brian Hillman; 20th Elsie Farley; 21st William Smith, Robert Arendt; 22nd Olive Caplan, Joan Stevens; 23rd Jack Swain, Len Smith, Patricia Hague