

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** 24th September 2023

The Old Testament reading and the Gospel for this coming Sunday have something in common. Jonah is disappointed that in the end God did just as he had feared and relented on his threat to destroy Nineveh. In the parable of the labourers in the vineyard the labourers who were hired in the morning complain that the landowner is being unfair in not paying them more than those who came later in the day. We can have some sympathy with both Jonah and the labourers. However, this would be to miss the point of both stories, that God's mercy, God's compassion, God's love knows no bounds. It is not difficult to find ways to show compassion in our own daily lives to other people. What is often more difficult is to show that same compassion to ourselves, to see ourselves and to love ourselves as we really are, warts and all, just as God sees and loves us.

Brian and Jane



he

Jo-

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (24 September 2023)**

**8:00 Holy Communion** (in church)

Readers: Roger Edmonston and Eileen Caple

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

Hymns: 1 (part 1 and Doxology), 391, 357, 451i, 358, 652

Reader: Brian Cutler; Intercessor: Jane Coan

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

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

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

Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6

**Thursday: 9:00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)** (in church)

Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9

**Friday: 11:00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** Readings: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (in church)

### **Next Sunday: Harvest (1st October 2023)**

**8:00 Holy Communion** (in church)

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

**11:15 Family Praise** (in church)

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

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

#### **The Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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:**

Almighty God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law:  
grant that we may love you with our whole heart  
and our neighbours as ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### Jonah 3:10-4.end

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

### Philippians 1:21-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

### Matthew 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

### A thought:

In this parable, Jesus aims to teach us about the boundless generosity of God. He wants us to understand that a person's worth is not determined by their income, performance, or social status. Rather, God's love is infinite and present in our lives. Jesus encourages us to respond positively to the gifts we have been given by serving in God's world. Doing so can make a positive impact and leave the world a better place. This parable challenges our worldly views and reminds us that life is not about fairness or deserving but rather about the gifts God has given us. We should be grateful for the privilege of serving in God's vineyard and the joy that comes with being part of something greater than ourselves. Through today's parable, Jesus reminds us that whatever we have is a gift from God. God is overwhelmingly generous. It is enough that we have the profound privilege of labouring and serving in God's vineyard.

### 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:** Len Robinson, Peter Lewington, Margaret Quenby, Judey Amy, Adrian Russell, Joyce Baker

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 24th John Jellicoe; 25th Donald Goldfinch; 26th Jenifer Spear; 27th Winifred Bailey, David Tapp, Nicholas Bennett, Ross Bennett; 28th Mildred Young, Pauline Erlam; Elizabeth Roberts; 30th Norman Marchant