

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** *8th October 2023*

Thank you for all your gifts last weekend for Harvest, which helped to both make a joyous celebration of God's gifts to us and bring help to those in need. This week we have seen that other annual bonanza of Autumn, the party conference season, with the ritual vying for power both between and within the main political parties, including occasional side swipes at the church for having the audacity to put forward ideas that are not mainstream. The problem is that is our job, as both Isaiah and Jesus show with their parallel stories of the vineyard and the wine press in this Sunday's readings. Both are using the parable to demonstrate the misuse of power and failure to build a community of justice and love by the ruling elite. They turn the world upside down!

Brian and Jane

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

### **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (8th October 2023)**

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

*Readers: Charles Solomon*

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

*Hymns: 490, 258, 763, 421, 805, 721*

*Readers: Colin and Joyce Sewell-Rutter; Intercessor: Father Stephen Caple*

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

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

*Jonah 4; Luke 11:1-4*

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

*Malachi 3:13-4.2a; Luke 11:5-13*

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

### **Next Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (15th October 2023)**

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

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

#### **12.00 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 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

God, our judge and saviour,  
teach us to be open to your truth  
and to trust in your love,  
that we may live each day  
with confidence in the salvation which is given  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

## Isaiah 5: 1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

## Philippians 3:4b-14

even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## Matthew 21: 33-end

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

### A thought:

Jesus instructed his listeners to pay attention to another parable. He could have stated that another confrontation with the Pharisees was about to occur, but he didn't. Regardless of one's opinion about the Pharisees, they deserve credit for understanding the parable. They comprehended that Jesus was speaking about them. Jesus presented a truth they didn't want to accept, so they tried to arrest him. This wasn't the first time, nor would it be the last time that Jesus confronted the Pharisees. Typically, we avoid people with whom we have a conflict. However, Jesus was different. He continued to face, offend, and aggravate them at every turn. He dined with the wrong people, declined to answer their questions, healed on the Sabbath, and taunted them by breaking the law. He called them hypocrites and blind leaders, escaped their traps, left them speechless, and delivered a series of "woes" against them. He compared them to a disobedient son who refused to labour in the vineyard. They could never seem to catch a break with Jesus. He was relentless because he cared.

### 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, Judy Amey, Adrian Russell, Joyce Baker, Len Dell, Jillian Pullen

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 8th Hilda Evans, Derek Ball; 9th Bill Spear, John Bellenger; 10th Christina Cawton, Florence McDonald, Roy Laver, Derek Ball; 11th Audrey Cowen, Glydwr Goldfinch; 12th Winifred Hounsell, Frederic Pyle, James Swain; 13th Marjories Smith, Oliver Binns, Daisy Rhodes, Monica Harvey, Janet Windmill, Richard Sharp, Eileen Weir; 14th Maragert Prebble, Mabel Shakespeare, John Penny