

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity** *15th October 2023*

Last Saturday's events in Southern Israel and the ongoing repercussions have shocked and horrified us. Together with the relentless war in Ukraine, the alarming rate of global warming and countless acts of evil throughout the world, the future is looking very grim for us and for future generations. As Canon David reminded us so powerfully in his sermon on Sunday, it is our human greed that is the main contributor to the problems we face; our need to control, dominate and exploit others for our own benefit, which is undoubtedly having devastating consequences for both the safety and sustainability of our planet. The society Jesus entered was also deeply divided and cruel but he preached a totally new way of living. In his Kingdom everyone would live together not only as equals, but as members of one family. A society where the whole of creation was protected and embraced, a society where there were no outsiders and everyone had their fair share of the world's plentiful resources. So when we pray 'Your Kingdom Come' we are praying for transformation of our own lives and the lives of others, a prayer that can bring hope and healing to our broken world.
Jane and Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (15th October 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Ralph Colbran and Margaret Thistlethwaite

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 568, 784, 470, 728, 630

Services during the week:

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

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

Isaiah 35:3-6; 2 Timothy 4:5-17; Luke 10:1-9

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

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

Romans 3:21-30

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

Next Sunday: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (22nd October 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

12.00 Holy Baptism *(in church)*

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

The Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Isaiah 25:1-9

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;

for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,

you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

A thought:

Their presence is the only thing that differentiates the first-invited guests from the second-invited guests. While the second-invited guests showed up, the first-invited guests did not. Even though the wedding hall was filled with the second-invited guests, the first-invited guests refused to come. The only difference between these two groups is their presence. Being present is the key to our life in God, but it is easier said than done. It requires effort to be present, especially when it comes to being present for another person. The act of prioritising someone else's needs over our own is what it means to establish them as our priority. We must see them for who they are rather than who we want them to be or who we think they should be. We must be open to receiving their life into our own, which takes vulnerability and trust. Listening to what they say, rather than just hearing what we want to hear, is crucial. This requires letting go of our agendas, distractions, fears, and prejudices. Ultimately, it means bringing and offering all that we are and all that we have. Let us pray that we will be given the grace to be like the second-invited guests.

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: Judy Amey, Adrian Russell, Jillian Pullen, Sandy Gallagher

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 15th Len Beard, Margo Dixon, Gilbert Went; 17th Francis Woods; 18th Dorothy Wright, Aldo Marsili, Douglas Symes, Gilbert Garrett, Daphne Harris, Sheila Chasser; 19th David Wellum; 20th Christine Shah, John Cox, Alice Pearce, Carin Kent, Margaret Norris; 21st Ethel Shepherd