

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**  
**22nd October 2023**

The crisis in the Middle East has yet again brought home the futility of trying to build the future on the basis of power and aggression. Every act of dominance and violence provokes an almost predictable reaction. Truth is lost in the fog of war, with the risk of even greater escalation and human suffering.

There is of course an alternative strategy, that of building relationships based on respect, trust and even love, of breaching the gap. This approach, which depends heavily on developing a climate of forgiveness between the different communities, was famously demonstrated by Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa following apartheid.

Understandably, ideas of reconciliation between communities appear to be far from the minds of the political leaders in the region at present, given that people's security and sense of existence as a nation are under threat. However, we must continue to hope and pray that peace and reconciliation will emerge from the unfolding crisis.

Brian and Jane

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

## **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (22nd October 2023)**

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

*Readers: Roger Edmonston and Eileen Caple*

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

*Hymns: 612, 640, 738, 425, 462, 390*

*Readers: Ian Walden and Paul Goldfinch; Intercessor: Philip Richings*

**12.00 Holy Baptism** *(in church)*

**6.00 Sung Evensong** *(in church only)*

*Hymns: 20, 10, 24*

*Reader: Wendy Bloomer*

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

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

*Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48*

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

*Romans 6:19-end; Luke 12:49-53*

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

## **Next Sunday: Last Sunday after Trinity (29th 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 the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

God, our light and our salvation:  
illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness  
in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty  
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ  
our Lord.  
**Amen**

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

God our Father, whose Son, the light unending,  
has come from heaven to deliver the world  
from the darkness of ignorance:  
let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding  
that we may know the way of life,  
and walk in it without stumbling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

### Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

### A thought:

What answer does Jesus give the Pharisees and Herodians? What does it tell us about how to live our lives? We are given most of the answer to the question but left to work the final part out for ourselves; there is a missing piece that we have to deduce. Holding up the coin, Jesus asks the plotters, 'Whose icon is this?' – that's the word the Gospel uses, 'icon'. The coin bears Caesar's icon, so this is something that he has a claim on. Then comes the missing piece we should supply for ourselves: 'What about you, whose icon do you bear, whose image is imprinted upon on your life?' The coin bears Caesar's image; we bear God's image. We are made in his likeness, and so our lives are his. This is not really about dividing our lives up between secular and religious – so much for one, so much for the other. Jesus tells us, 'Give to Caesar (or whoever governs you) what they have a right to, but no more; so much for Caesar, but everything for God'. Secular powers and political ideologies are good so far as they go, so long as they promote justice, fairness, and equality, but they cannot save the world on their own.

### 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: Jillian Pullen, Sandy Gallagher

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 22nd Dorothy Voller, Hilda Hall, Robert Ellett, Kenneth Raw, Patricia Garman, Aileen Brice; 23rd Bill Pinnell, Pamela Edgerton; 24th Grace Thunder, Lucy Travers, Vivian Griffin, Cathie Lang, Anthony Flight, Violet Jones; 25th Jim Burtenshaw, Margaret Simmonds; 26th Alfred Amer, Kenneth Walder, Amalia Guest; 27th Reginald Homes; 28th James Jourdain. Theodore Wynne