

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Last Sunday after Trinity** *29th October 2023*

Congratulations to our small band of intrepid campers who braved a night in our cold church on Tuesday, highlighting the plight of the homeless and raising funds for Crawley Open House. It is not too late to sponsor someone if you haven't already done so, and Mark Parker would be delighted to hear from you!

For the past 40 years Crawley Open House has provided support to those experiencing homelessness and hardship in Crawley and West Sussex. Each night throughout the year it provides a safe shelter for 55 people who would otherwise have nowhere to stay. It also provides food parcels, training in life-skills and resettlement programmes to help people get back on their feet. It is also our 5th Sunday Giving charity, so there will be a collection plate at our morning services or you can donate at any time on Sunday via the card reader in church. With homelessness on the increase and the cost-of-living crisis having devastating consequences for so many, funds are badly needed, so please give as you are able, and remember Crawley Open House in your prayers.

Jane and Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Last Sunday after Trinity (29th October 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Graham Johnson

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 610, 382, 276, 800, 712, 753

Readers: David Reed and Susan Mayou Intercessor: Fr. Stephen Caple

Services during the week:

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

Isaiah 56:3-8, Hebrews 12:18-24, Matthew 5:1-12

18:30 Space for Grace

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

Romans 8:31-end; Luke 13:31-end

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

Next Sunday: All Saints Day (5th November 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

11.15 Family Praise *(in church)*

18:00 Evensong *(in church and online)*

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

The Collect for the Last Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-end

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet’ ”?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

A thought:

Asking which commandment in the Law is the greatest was a common question among the Pharisees. With more than 600 laws, knowing which ones had greater importance than others was essential. When asked this question, Jesus responded by quoting from the Books of the Law, not using his own words. He answered with two laws: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Deut 6:5), and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev 19:18). Jesus explained that the whole of the Old Testament teaching is linked to these two laws and that the rest of the Law will take care of itself as long as one truly loves God and their neighbour. There may even be times when such love will transcend and override the requirements of some laws. The Law was contained in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, while the Prophets included major and minor prophets and the so-called "former" prophets - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. And Jesus says that as long as one truly loves God and neighbour, the rest of the Law will care for itself.

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: Sandy Gallagher, Cherry Clarke

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 29th Vera Watts, Christopher Smith; 30th Linda Kruse; 31st Justine Mullins; 1st John Temple.; 2nd Charles Cadman, Priscilla Bennett, Joyce Donoghue, Dorothy Wiseman; 3rd Cecil Rodes, Florence Burleigh, Albert Voller, Catherine Harris; 4th Gillian Fabb, Margaret Rhodes, Reg Charles, Ethel Radcliffe;