

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
All Saints Day
5th November 2023

This Sunday, a little later than is often the case, we will be celebrating the feast of All Saints. In this country we will also be celebrating Guy Fawkes, with its roots in sectarian divisions and violence. However, throughout the world the centre of attention will be the Middle East and the War in Gaza between the Israelis and Hamas, which at least in part has its origins in ethnic and religious differences and intolerance.

The Gospel for All Saints comes from the very familiar teaching of Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, of which the most apposite for these times must surely be “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

All Saints Day (5th November 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Anthony van der Willigen and Gerry Larner

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 298(ii), 602, 312, 684, 309,308

Readers: Vicky Peattie and Carolyn Ponder; Intercessor: Mark Parker

11.15 Family Praise

18:00 Evensong

Hymns: Psalm 150; 296, 297(ii); 299

Readers; Carolyn Ponder and David Spear

Services during the week:

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

Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33

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

Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: All Saints Day (in church)*

Saturday: 10.15 Remembrance (at the War Memorial)

Next Sunday:

The Collect for All Saints Day

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Revelation 7:9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

I John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

A thought:

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints, reminding us of the great harvest of goodness and holiness represented by the saints who have lived before us. They are the fruits of the love and grace of God that have grown among us in the lives of those who have remained faithful throughout the centuries. The Church is not just a building but a community of people who make up the living Church. The stained glass, artworks, bricks, and mortar of a Church are of little worth if not accompanied by concrete works of Christian love and care. It is crucial to pass on from generation to generation what it means to do good and avoid sin, to be kind and loving people, and to create a caring community that has faith. The same applies to our own lives. Only when we are open to the path of life reflected in our Gospel reading, the Beatitudes, can our lives come to fulfilment 'in Christ'.

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

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, Yvonne Godsmark

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Anne Stevenage, Cheryl Clarke

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 5th June Wilde, Sheila Mitchell; 6th Heather Grant, Sheila O'Donoghue, Marilyn Archbold; 7th Elizabeth Vass; 8th Esther Barnes, John Beveridge; 9th Charles Binns, Lady Pamela Herbecq, Helen Davidson; 10th Betty Clover-Brown, George Tidd, Catherine Hackett; Patricia Cree, Rosemary Stevens