

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## *Weekly devotions, prayers and news* **Third Sunday before Advent** *12th November 2023*

Last Sunday we celebrated those saints, both living and departed, who have inspired and nurtured our faith and shaped who we are today. We now turn our thoughts to Remembrance Sunday and to those who have given their lives in past and current conflicts and sacrificed themselves to protect our democratic freedoms.

This year more than any other in recent history, the issues of war and peace, loss and sacrifice are uppermost in our thoughts and prayers. The horrific scenes in Gaza and the ongoing war in Ukraine make us weep with despair and fear for the future of humanity. But however devastating life seems to be at this present time we have Christ, and therefore we have hope. So let us hold on to the hope that one day creation will be healed, peace restored and, in the words of the prophet Amos, justice will 'roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'

Jane and Brian

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

### **Third Sunday before Advent** (12th November 2023)

#### **9.00 Holy Communion with Hymns** (in church & online)

Readers: Robyn Brotherton and Eileen Caple

Hymns: 357, 57, 594, 635

#### **10.45 Service of Remembrance** (starting at the War Memorial; in church)

Hymns: 746, 357, 715, O valiant hearts (sheet), 576, 578

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

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

Titus 3:1-7, 11-14, Luke 17:11-19

**18:30 Space for Grace**

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

Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:26-end

##### **Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion** (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Third Sunday before Advent (in church)

#### **Next Sunday:**

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

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

#### **The Collect for the Third Sunday before Advent**

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

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

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord?  
It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;  
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.  
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?  
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### I Thessalonians 4:13-end

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### Matthew 25:1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### A thought

Today, we feel that the veil between time and eternity is thin, and we can sense a more significant and broader communion of saints to which we belong. Today, we especially 'remember' those who have given their lives through war in service of our country. They had left home and family in search of justice, freedom, and peace, the effects we feel in our society today. The world would have been different without their sacrifice, which cannot and should not be forgotten. The memories we recall this Remembrance Sunday should spur us forward in the search for true harmony and peace worldwide. As the Lord commanded the apostles to "Do this in remembrance of me", we gather this day praying for the graces of the great sacrifice of Calvary to engulf the whole world that we may live in the harmony for which Christ prayed and to our fallen we say, "We will remember them".

### Please remember those for whom we pray:

**Immediate need:** 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:** Shirley Smith, Paul Simpson,  
**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 12th Betty Earnshaw, Moira Parham, Harry Fry; 13th Ivor Williams, John Taylor, Albert Avery; 14th Jeremy Gambrill; 15th John Levett; 16th Gordon Stuart, Derek Titheradge; 17th Jean Doublebeiss, Phil Goodwin, Anthony Giles; 18th Enid, Sheila Sanhc, Phyllis Codd