

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Second Sunday before Advent
19th November 2023

With our new incumbent, the Revd Daniel Valentine, resident in the vicarage and his induction only a matter of days away, thoughts inevitably turn towards what the future holds for the church both here in Cuckfield and in Bolney. The Gospel this Sunday, the parable of the talents, can be seen as asking us whether we have been wise stewards of the parish whilst we have been without a shepherd. Well, we haven't hidden our talent in the ground. However, there are certainly challenges to come which we will have to tackle with Daniel in the weeks and months ahead. We must pray that we continue to be filled with the love and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we move into this new chapter in the life of Holy Trinity.

Brian and Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday before Advent (19th November 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite and Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 9, 589, 669, 485, 507

4.00 Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 799, 713, 652

Reader: Wendy Bloomer

Services during the week:

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

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

Revelation 4, Luke 19:11-28

19:30 Collation and induction of Revd Daniel Valentine *(in church & online)*

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

Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44

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

Next Sunday Christ The King (26th November 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 Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in 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**

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

A thought:

In its literary setting, Jesus tells this story to his disciples to prepare them for the days ahead when their faith will be tested. This parable depicts how the disciples are to demonstrate their faithfulness as they anticipate the return of the Lord. What does faithfulness look like in a time of waiting? In Matthew's Gospel, faithfulness is imitating the ministry of Jesus. Jesus has announced the arrival of God's kingdom by feeding the hungry, curing the sick, blessing the meek, and serving the least. All who would follow Jesus are to preach the good news of the kingdom to the whole world by going about the work that the master has called them to do. This work includes visiting the sick and imprisoned, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, and feeding the hungry. Those found faithful may hear their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

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: Cheryl Clarke, Anne Stevenage, Shirley Smith, Paul Simpson

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 19th Cicely Selby, Roderic James, David Pardey, Cyril Carter, Juliet Pegler; 20th Elsie Dean, Gertrude Grainger 2005; 21st Phyllis Smale, Alfred Humphries, Brian Gehlcken, Rodney Berkeley; 22nd Derek Tidey; 23rd George Pinney, Colin Stockton, Jaqueline Clinton; 24th John Guest, John Smith, Jill Doreen Rockey; 25th Ambrose Upton, Christopher Collins, Queenie Searle, Janet Bradbury