

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
First Sunday of Advent
3rd December 2023

The Gospel today reminds us of the need to be ready, alert, and awake, not asleep. We haven't a clue as to when Jesus will come to call us. Jesus is like a householder who has gone abroad. He has left his servants –you and me – in charge of his affairs, each one with their task. What is my task, my role in this world? Jesus tells us to keep awake, for we don't know when the 'master of the house will come', in the evening or at midnight or the dawn. When He arrives, Jesus hopes he doesn't find us asleep in a spiritual sense. Jesus says to us keep awake. How do we do that? Very simply, we keep in touch with those around us daily, doing our best to live lives of love, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, and integrity. We stay in touch with our God through lives of prayer. The simplest and most profound prayer is to be aware of the active presence of God and Jesus permeating every single moment of every single day.

Stephen

First Sunday of Advent (3rd December 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Anthony Vander Willigen

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Kate Berry and Isobel Simmonds Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

Hymns: 41, 50, 42, 34, 49, 37

11.15 Family Praise *(in church)*

6.00 Advent Carols *(in church & online)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in the Old School)*

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37

14:00 Prayer group *(online)*

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in the Old School)*

Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) **Cancelled**

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent (10th December 2023):

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

6.00 Christmas Tree Carols *(in church & online)*

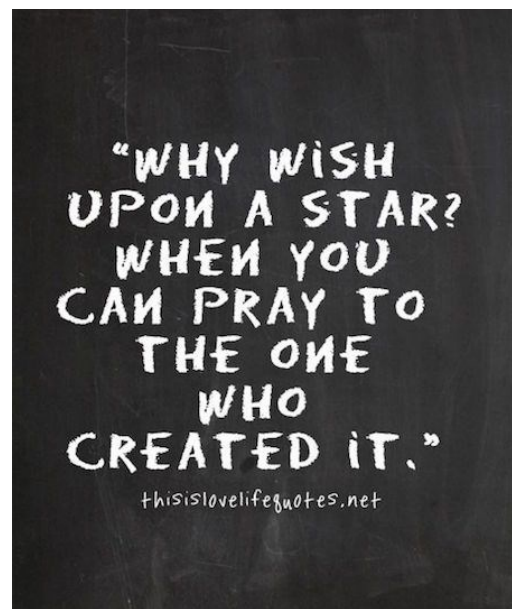
Services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-end

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

A thought

These days' Advent has all but been subsumed into Christmas, but traditionally the themes of the season are a very long way away from the stuffed Father Christmas effigies, decorated trees and piped Christmas carols which are so prevalent in every retail outlet. Mark 13 indeed presents daunting themes, and the church might approach these with caution, mindful of its historical role in promoting fear. While fear is often sought in entertainment, like movies or theme parks, it also serves a vital purpose, signalling potential danger. The season of Advent, emphasising trials and judgement, serves as a reminder of personal accountability. This realisation might induce some fear, but experiencing a certain level of appropriate fear can be a sign of true awareness. What might this awareness, and this feeling of being slightly uncomfortable bring to our own preparation this season? What change might in prompt in us as we wait and watch for the coming of the Christ child?

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Jim Knight, Jill Knight, James Watson

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, Alan Tarry, Beryl Llewellyn

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 3rd Peter Bravo, Dr Christine Bratt; 4th Susan Jones, Jack Vass; 5th Athalie Nye, Joan Pyle, Leonora Mcguire; 6th Lady Marie Loder, Winifred Wiseman; 7th George Smith, Frank James, Jean Notrums, David Clarke; 8th Eleanor Flux-Dundas, Victor Newnham, Honor Griffin; 9th Michael Batterbee, James Platt, Wendy Boyes