

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Second Sunday of Advent** *10th December 2023*

The Gospel of Mark begins swiftly, emphasising the brevity of time. This is echoed in John the Baptist's urgent call to 'Get ready!'. The present era, fraught with pressures ranging from environmental concerns and political turmoil to the hustle of mid-December, also carries a sense of urgency.

However, regardless of its manifestation, this era is under divine governance. It arrives bearing gifts from God for the current moment, be it the comfort and reassurance of Isaiah or the stark awakening of John's baptism, which confronts individuals with their own truths. The current moment is all there is; it is the singular opportunity to encounter God, whether now or at the world's end.

Second Sunday of Advent (10th December 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Charles Solomon

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Peter and Liz Graydon Intercessor: Isobel Simmonds

Hymns: 37, 46, 45, 30, 27, 57

6.00 Christmas Tree Carols

Services during the week:

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

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

Isaiah 40:25-end; Matthew 11:28-end

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

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

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

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent (17th December 2023):

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Nativity

6.00 Eight Lessons and Carols

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

The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Parish News

Friends....

This week, we extend heartfelt thanks to our musicians for the exceptional Advent Carol service last Sunday, a beautiful start to the Advent season. Gratitude is also due to the organisers of last Sunday's Solo's Lunch, which fostered splendid communal fellowship and dining. We also acknowledge those who have worked hard towards the Christmas Tree Festival, an opportunity to really reach out and connect with the wider Cuckfield community.

The upcoming week has a special focus on 'children and families'. On Friday, we look forward to the carol service by children from Holy Trinity, our church school. Next Sunday's 945 worship, centred on the nativity, will highlight the children of our parish. This is an apt time to appreciate Charlotte and those working with children and families, and to pray for the wellbeing of all parish families as they anticipate the big day and the arrival of "Father C"

On Saturday, 16th December 2023, the "Friends" will gather in Cuckfield Park's Drawing Room, hosted by Bryan Mayou and Dr Susan Mayou. The event will include a Champagne Reception, wines, canapés, and stunning classical music from Coro Voices.

The week concludes with a traditional Christmas Carol Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday at 6.00 pm. This service interweaves scripture readings with carols, recounting humanity's fall, the Messiah's promise, and Jesus's birth, marrying solemnity and joy. Again, led by our magnificent choir.

Christmas in Cuckfield is indeed a time of wonder and joy.... But my goodness you need some stamina.

Blessings...

Daniel

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:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 10th Gladys Defrates, Robert Tidmarsh; 12th Edith Read, Brian Shrod; 13th Dora Horn, Joan Sowter; 14th Nicholas Martin, Patrick Anscombe; 15th Bill Ridley; 16th Alison Quick, Jack Moulding, Lauren Silverlock; Christopher Bartlett, Anthony Marsden