

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Third Sunday of Advent
17th December 2023

Our Gospel today focuses on John the Baptist. John is the voice in the wilderness, paving the path for the divine. He is aware of his identity and his role. He exemplifies a rare combination of confidence and selflessness, qualities that are often seen separately in others. This harmony comes from recognising a higher power and understanding that his (and indeed our) role is not the focal point of existence, refraining from action because of either pride or fear. The divine message emphasises that while the world belongs to a higher power, each individual is granted a unique position and voice – we are granted a unique position and voice. This individuality is irreplaceable, and each voice, if not expressed, will remain unheard. Let your voice be heard...

Daniel

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday of Advent (17th December 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Readers: Ralph Colbran

9.45 Nativity (in church & online)

6.00 Traditional Carol Service (in church & online)

Services during the week:

Tuesday: 10:00 Online prayer group (online)

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

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

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

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Luke 1:39-45

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

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent (24th December 2023):

9.00 Said Communion with hymns (in church)

Christmas Eve

11.15 Midnight Mass (in church & online)

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

The Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of
your Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Parish news

Our regular weekday services are back up and running as usual, but next Sunday—which is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve—we have a bit of a change.

In the morning, there will be no 8.00 or 9.45 service, but we will have a single Said Communion service with Father Stephen at 9.00.

The crib services will take place at 2.30 and 4.30. The 4.30 service is sold out, and there are just a handful of tickets left for the 2.30, so get to <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/holy-trinity-church-cuckfield/e-gdqoxq> quickly if you don't have yours yet!

Father Daniel will be presiding and preaching at Midnight Mass at 11:15 on Christmas Eve, he will also preside at our festal family eucharist at 9.45 on Christmas morning at which this time Father Stephen will be preaching. Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus with various elements for the whole family. Bring your new Christmas gifts with you, as well as your Christmas spirit.

Please remember those for whom we pray:

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

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: Paul Simpson, Margaret Walker, Gladys Constantine

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 17th Michelle Frenzell, Diana Allison, Diane Giles; 18th Dorothy Beard, Daisy Kent; 19th Jack Fleming, 20th George Rowe, Helen Hussey, Irene Sayers; 21st John Handcock, Phyllis Bell; 22nd Maurice Donoghue; 23rd Jim Driver