

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fourth Sunday of Advent
24th December 2023

“Greetings favoured one! The Lord is with you.” With these words, the Angel announces God’s call to Mary. Mary is unique in all creation, with the young woman from Nazareth being offered a pivotal role in the redemption of all creation. We see in Mary’s faithfulness the model for the way the grace of God can and will, albeit in smaller ways, use each of us. As we journey to the manger once more, may we seek once again to be surprised by a God who finds favour in us, who has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things. May we in our lives and our living magnify the Holy One, may we be messengers of God who seek the divine in the midst of the ordinary and may we, in joyful song, proclaim the Lord's greatness.
Stephen

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent (24th December 2023)

9.00 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 52 (omit v3), 85, 315, 313, 421, 394

Readers: Eileen Caple and Roger Edmonston Intercessor: Nick Rowe

14:30 Crib service *(in church; ticketed)*

16:30 Crib service *(in church; ticketed)*

Christmas Eve

23.15 Midnight Mass *(in church & online)*

Hymns:

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Graham Johnson Intercessor:

Christmas Day

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 CANCELLED

Thursday: 9.00 CANCELLED

Friday: 11.00 CANCELLED

Next Sunday: First Sunday of Christmas (31st December 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Romans 16:25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Parish news

After a long period of preparations and events, we have finally made it to Christmas! A huge thank you to everybody who has been involved in preparing our Christmas services. Not wishing to single anybody out, but I really must mention the work of our Children & Families team and the parish children in preparing the Nativity, and our singers and musicians for their wonderful music.

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.

Our usual weekday services have been cancelled this week, as our ministry team enjoys a well-earned break! Services will resume on 31st December, the First Sunday of Christmas, with Holy Communion at 8:00 and Parish Eucharist at 9:45. Father David will both preside and preach at these services.

The Parish Office is also taking a break and will close on Tuesday 19th December and reopen on Thursday 4th January.

The Holy Trinity team wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing those of you who can make it at our Christmas services and into the New Year.

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, Sue Walder

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 24th Amy Barnes, William McKay, Jeremy Tapp; 25th Emily Barnard, Phyllis Taylor; 26th Doris Cutler; 27th Doreen Shrapnell, Muriel Wheeler, George Flower; 28th Ann Carr, Eileen Gerrish; 29th Peter Burrowes, Kathleen Knight, Margaret Hall, Matthew Gallagher; 30th John Fisher, Harry Grieve, Rosemarie Cruse, John Tomkins, Alan Searle, Anthony Harris