

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



## Weekly devotions, prayers and news **First Sunday of Christmas** 31st December 2023

Our Gospel this coming Sunday highlights the humble circumstances of Jesus' birth. The infant Jesus is placed in a manger unlike most other children who have cots or beds.

The shepherds, who were among the lowest in society, were chosen to witness this event, emphasizing God's message of hope for all people. This passage sets the stage for Jesus' life and ministry, emphasizing his humble beginnings and his role as the Saviour of the world.

That can be difficult to believe for people who feel that they are outcasts but the shepherds' response obeying the angel's message and going to see the baby, demonstrates their faith and willingness to accept the Good News.

At this time of year we think about the homeless and the outcasts. In the Gospel Mary treasures what is happening in her heart and the challenge to us is to treasure all of God's people especially the humble.

David

Church website: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **First Sunday of Christmas (31st December 2023):**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

*Readers: Graham Johnson*

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

*Hymns: 58, 89, 88, 692, 84, 86*

*Readers: Susan Mayou and David Reed Intercessor: Mark Parker*

#### **Services during the week:**

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

*1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:35-42*

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

*1 John 3:7-10; John 1:29-34*

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

#### **Next Sunday: (7th January 2023):**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

**9.45 Parish Eucharist** *(in church & online)*

**11.15 Family Praise** *(in church)*

**18:00 Evensong** *(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**

God in Trinity,

eternal unity of perfect love:

gather the nations to be one family,

and draw us into your holy life

through the birth of Emmanuel,

our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

#### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### Luke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Parish news

Our midweek services are back to normal this week,

Next Sunday, Father Daniel will preside and preach at both our 8:00 and 9:45 services as we celebrate Epiphany: ('manifestation') is an opportunity to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Family Praise, a short, informal service, will take place at 11:15, and at 6:00 we welcome Kevin Carey for Evensong.

Many of you remember Margaret Walker, who sadly passed away earlier this month. Her family send the following message:

Margaret Walker died peacefully on 1st December, aged 96. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held in Cuckfield Parish Church at 2.45pm on Friday 5th January and her family warmly invite those who knew her to come and join them at the church and for tea afterwards in the Old School. If you would like to contact Jean her number is 07963 070 154.

Our prayers are also with the family and friends of another former church member, Sue Walder. Sue died peacefully on 13th December and her funeral will take place at Holy Trinity on 3rd January at 1:30pm followed by a reception in the Old School.

### 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: 31<sup>st</sup> Dennis Bennett, Earnest Palmer, Margaret Page, Phyllis Bowring, Florence Martin, Darryl McIlvride, John Skeldon; 1<sup>st</sup> Amy Tutton, Jack Small, Ronald Lower, Vivian Stevens; 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Armistead, Ronald Nye; 3<sup>rd</sup> Gladys Nash, John Mullens, Arthur Lee, Clare Roberts, Colin Bugden, Cecile Sadd; 4<sup>th</sup> Peter Grimwade (Priest); 6<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Hill, Noel Scarborough, Tessa Lord, David Saunders MBE