

Sunday
25th August 2024
**13th Sunday
after Trinity**

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome to
our worship!*



Weekly Reflection...

Life sometimes throws us curveballs. The Jewish people weren't expecting the kind of messiah Jesus turned out to be. Jesus' teaching about who he is in our Gospel reading offends even many of his disciples, literally 'scandalizing' them by presenting a scandalon (a stumbling-block). Some stumbling-blocks are good - God's intervention in the world upsets and scandalizes our expectations. How do we let God scandalize our ways of thinking? Some stumbling-blocks are bad - they trip us up. To whom are we a stumbling-block that gets in the way of God's scandalous saving action in the person of Christ?

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

8.00 am Holy Communion

Reader 1: Roger Edmonston
Reader 2: Roger Edmonston

9.45 am Parish Eucharist (said with hymns)*

Pr Hymn: 291 Christ is made (pt 3 & dox)
Setting: Said
Gr Hymn: 276 Holy, holy, holy
Of Hymn: 780 Soldiers of Christ arise
Cm Hymn: 294 We love the place O God
Fn Hymn: 663 How shall I sing that majesty

Reader1: Richard Whidborne
Reader 2: Caroline Ponder
Intercessions: Anthony Lawrence

* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church homepage.

First Reading

Josh 24.1-2a, 14-18

The tribes of Israel renew their covenant with God

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors-Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor-lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Second Reading

Ephesians 6.10-20

Put on the whole armour of God; pray in the Spirit at all times

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Gospel

John 6.56-69

Jesus has the words of eternal life, but some turn back

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

This Week....

NB Services on Sunday Morning & Wednesday morning only during August

28/08 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion* followed by coffee and cake	2 Thessalonians 3.6-10, 16-end Matthew 23.27-32
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Next Sunday...

**Sunday 1st September -
14th Sunday after Trinity**

Deut 4.1-2, 6-9
James 1. 17-end
Mark 7.1-18, 14-15, 21-23

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Reader 1:	Anthony Van der Willigen
		Reader 2:	Gerry Larnar

9.45 am	Parish Eucharist *		
Pr Hymn:	584 All my hope on God	Reader 1:	Kate Berry
Setting:	Rizza	Reader 2:	Jane Coan
Gr Hymn:	132 O for a heart to praise	Intercessions:	Mark Parker
Of Hymn:	748 O Jesus I have promised		
Anthem	Lord for they tender mercy's sake		
Cm Hymn:	642 God be in my head		
	127 Lord Jesus think on me		
Fn Hymn:	99 Hail to the Lord's 2		

11.15 am	Family Worship		
6.00 pm	Evensong*		Exodus 12. 21-27 Matthew 4.23-5.20

* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page.

Notices and Parish News...

Have you ever been part of a **home group**? Many people find it's a great way to help faith to grow and to meet other people on their faith journey. We are planning two groups starting in September meeting weekly over ten

weeks using the same course, one online and the other in person. The course is called "Being With". It's an introduction to Christian faith and life with a difference. At its heart is the idea that God's greatest desire is to be with us in Jesus. We all already have a wealth of understanding of truth, beauty and goodness that signify God's presence in our lives and experiences. Interested? Want to know more? Talk to Jonathan Berry or email hirsuteshepherd1@yahoo.com. Watch out for the announcement of start dates coming soon

We need YOU! – We are looking for a few more people to augment our team of **Crucifers** (the person that carries the cross at the front of the procession) and **servers**, the person that assists the priest with setting up and clearing the altar. There are also spaces for people to be trained to administer the chalice. In fact, we need more volunteers for all the roles that make church work on a Sunday morning as welcomers, sound desk, coffee makers, readers, intercessors administering the chalice and so on. If you think any of these jobs might be for you, have a word with Rod Montague or email him on condurrow@btinternet.com.

On **Sunday, 8th September 2024**, our 9:45 am Worship for All Service will be our **Harvest Festival**. This annual church celebration gives thanks to God for the wonder of creation, our place within it, our food, and those whose work and skill bring God's gifts to us. Please bring non-perishable harvest gifts to donate to Family Support Work.

We are thrilled to welcome **Charles Humphries** as our new **Director of Music and Music Mission** starting 8th September 2024! Charles is a renowned countertenor with over thirty years of experience, celebrated for his ethereal voice and passion for baroque and renaissance music. He began his musical journey as a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral at age seven, laying the groundwork for his remarkable career. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music he has collaborated with world-class conductors and recorded numerous albums. Charles is eager to bring his love for music to our community, focusing on the joy of singing, building trust, and forming strong bonds within the choir. He's excited to enhance our worship and make a positive impact in Cuckfield. We're lucky to have him on board! If you're interested in getting involved with the music programme or joining the choir at this exciting time, Charles would love to hear from you. You can reach him at DOM@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

On **Sunday, 6th October 2024**, our 11:15 am Family Praise service will be our **Pet Blessing Service** and will take place outside (weather permitting). Join us for our beloved tradition of blessing the animals! Bring your furry, feathered, or scaled friends to receive a special blessing in the tranquil surroundings of our church gardens. This event is open to all creatures great and small, and their human companions. Highlights include a Pet Blessing Ceremony led by Father Daniel, refreshments for both pets and owners, a Pet Parade showcasing our beloved companions, and a Pet Photo Booth to capture the special day. Come celebrate the joy and love our pets bring into our lives and share in this beautiful community event.

Cuckfield Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market on **14th September 2024**, 9.30-12.30 providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Support local artisans and embrace environmental stewardship with us. The church will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, please let Jane know if you can assist.

Sunday's Cool Is Back! - Next dates are **15th September** 20th October, and 17th November. If you can help at any of those sessions, or our child wants to come along, please let Hilary know by emailing inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org. We really want to demonstrate how committed we are to children and young families in this parish.

Sunday 20th October 2024 will mark the launch of our Stewardship Week. During this week, we will reflect on and celebrate the gifts we receive and how we can give back to our church and community. Stewardship Week is an opportunity to explore the many ways we can contribute our time, talents, and treasures to support our mission. We plan several events, including a fellowship meal, a volunteer fair, a service of prayer and reflection, and a workshop on financial stewardship, and this all leads up to...

Sunday 27th October 2024, which will be "Stewardship Sunday" with a service that celebrates our collective commitment to stewardship. Our 9.45 am service will include an opportunity to pledge your time, talents, and financial support for the coming year. We need volunteers to help organize Stewardship Week. If you can help, please contact our treasurer, Isobel Simmonds, at treasurer@holytrinitycuckfield.org. Let us come together to celebrate the blessings we have received and commit to giving back with joy and gratitude.

Looking Forward... We are now thinking about our Autumn worship.... here's what we have in mind...

- On **Sunday 3rd November 2024**, at 6:00 pm, there will be an evening of music and readings with an act of remembrance for **Commemorating the Faithful Departed**. We hope our choir will be joined by the New Sussex Singers with accompaniment by a string quartet or small orchestra. We are seeking 8-10 people to sponsor the cost of the musicians for this service by pledging £100.00. If you think you might be able to pledge this or any sum, please let Daniel know so that we can make this a very special service remembering those we have loved but see no longer.
- On **Sunday, 10th November 2024**, at 10:30 am there will be a special service at the War Memorial for **Remembrance Day**. We will wear our poppies as we remember those who have lost their lives because of war and observe two minutes of silence at 11:00 am. This will be followed by a Church Parade Service for Remembrance Sunday. We hope that on the same day at 6:00 pm, there will be music, readings, and prayers of remembrance and peace.

Prayers...

Those to be married:

At Holy Trinity, Cuckfield: 14/09/2024 Hugh Alexander Radajev and Kirsty Elizabeth Brown. At St Mary, Bolney: 31/08/2024 Alastair James Dyer Robertson and Emily Isobel Elizabeth McKinnell; 07/09/2024 Jack Edward Heywood Berryman and Daisy Elizabeth De Baerdemaecker

Those in immediate need:

Becky Parker, James Watson, Pam Sagar, Mark Herring and Ralph Colbran,

Those in long term need:

Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Eileen Knight, Jim Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen MacDougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, and Yvonne Godsmark

Those in care homes:

Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card, Tina Owens

The recently departed and those who mourn: Freida Noakes

Those whose year's mind falls at this time: 25th Vera Elizabeth Bousell 2022; 26th Richard Thomas Lindsey 2001, Elisabeth Kyrle Matthews 2020, Peter Lewington 2023; 27th Peggy Higginson, Barry Heath 2001, Marjorie Church 2001, John (Jack) Knight 2002, Nicholas Bennett 2017, Wendy Grover 2018; 28th Hilda Saunders 1995; 29th Diana, Princess of Wales 1997, Jessie Punnett 1999, 30th Stuart Ingram 2016, 31st Brian Wright 2019.

Praying through the week...

Mon Aug 26th - As we look toward our Autumn programme at Holy Trinity Cuckfield, we pray for all involved in the preparation of particular events and services. We pray that we are successful in reaching those in need and in maintaining a positive relationship with the local community. We pray that we may reflect the love, welcome, peace and mercy of God. Locally we pray for the people of Blunden Drive, that they may find the support, joy and strength they need in their lives.

Tue Aug 27th - We pray for all who are jobless, all who feel undervalued, all whose financial situation is precarious. We pray locally for the people of Blunts Wood Crescent, that they may see something of God's love in their lives and in their environment.

Wed Aug 28th - We pray for victims and for perpetrators of crime. We pray for those imprisoned, for prison officers, police and those working in probation. We pray that our prison service is reviewed and renewed, that our prisons may be made fit for purpose and no longer overcrowded. We pray that our sentencing structure be overhauled, that prisoners may be given better opportunities to maintain relationships with family, find work and make a responsible, independent life for themselves beyond prison. We pray for the people of Blunts Wood Road, that they may know the generosity and compassion of their community.

Thu Aug 29th - We pray for all whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife. We pray for Ukraine and for the Holy Land, for Sudan and for the many areas of conflict around the world. We pray for all those who have suffered loss, death and injuries, for refugees fleeing war and violence. We pray for all agencies responding to emergency situations to repair, restore and rebuild, to bring aid and supplies, to witness and report to the rest of the world. We pray for the people of Bolney Road, for their health, wellbeing and joy.

Fri Aug 30th - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. Enforced disappearance has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. The feeling of insecurity generated affects the close relatives of the disappeared, but also their communities and society as a whole. It's often used as a means of political repression of opponents, involving harassment of human rights defenders, relatives of victims, witnesses and legal counsel. Hundreds of thousands of people have vanished during conflicts or periods of repression in at least 85 countries around the world. We pray for all victims of such disappearances and for all challenging such practice and working for peace and justice. Locally we pray for the people of Bolnore Farm Lane, that they may experience love and beauty in their lives.

Sat Aug 31st - International Day for People of African Descent "I urge States to take concrete steps, with the full participation of people of African descent and their communities, to tackle old and new forms of racial discrimination; and to dismantle entrenched structural and institutional racism." UN Secretary-General António Guterres We pray for all people tackling and dismantling entrenched and institutional racism around the world. We pray that we too may play our part in solidarity with those who continue to suffer the effects of racism in its many different forms. We pray for the people of Borde Hill Lane, that they may enjoy the safety and joy of a welcoming community of friendship.

Please stay in touch!

If you would like to know more of what happens at Holy Trinity, please check us out online:

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

You can also sign up for our weekly email newsletter, using the link at the bottom of the church homepage.

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