

Sunday 16th February 2025

St Valentine

“The Gift of Love”

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome
to our worship!*



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Reflection

Love, as celebrated in our reading this Sunday commemorating St Valentine, is not merely an emotion but a deep, unquenchable force. The Song of Solomon speaks of love as strong as death, a fire that no flood can extinguish. This reflects the sacred commitment of marriage—a love that endures all trials and stands firm through life's storms. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that love is the highest virtue. Without love, all achievements and gifts are empty. True love in marriage and out is patient, kind, and selfless, always seeking the good of the other. It is a love that grows, forgives, and endures, reflecting God's love for us. Jesus, in washing His disciples' feet, teaches that love is service. In marriage and in life, love is not about power or status but humble giving. The blessing of love is found not in self-sufficiency but in communion, like the tree drawing from hidden waters in Jeremiah. True love thrives when rooted in God. On this day, as we honour St. Valentine, we pray for all who commit to love in marriage, that their love may be steadfast, sacrificial, and a witness to the divine love that never fails.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

Almighty God, source of all love, You have revealed the depth of Your love through Christ, who humbled Himself to serve and gave His life for the world. As we commemorate your servant St. Valentine, we ask Your blessing on all those we love, and those with whom we chose to spend our lives. Strengthen this love with patience and kindness, that it may endure all trials and reflect Your divine faithfulness. Root our unions in Your grace, that, like a tree planted by living waters, they may bear fruit in joy, peace, and selfless service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sunday 16th February - “Celebrating the gift of Love” for the commemoration of St Valentine

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Reader

Song of Solomon 8:6-7
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
John 13:1-17, 34-35
Graham Johnson

9.45 am Holy Communion (with Sunday's Cool)*

Pr Hymn 721 Love Divine, all loves excelling (BLAENWERN)

Setting Rizza

Gr Hymn 794 The King of Love My Shepherd is (St Columba)

Of Hymn 238 Come down, O love divine (DOWN AMPNEY)

Anthem “Thou visitest the earth” Greene (Solo - Jerry Evans)

“If ye love me” Thomas Tallis

Cm Hymn 602 Blest are the pure in heart (FRANCONIA)

Fn Hymn 348 O Perfect Love (O PERFECT LOVE)

Readers 1

Reader 2

Ron Tillyer

Christine Best

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12.00 pm **Baptism**

6.00 pm **Choral Evensong***

Wisdom 11.21-12.11

Hymn 135 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said (O WALY WALY)

Gal 4.8-20

Responses Smith

Psalm 83 vs 1-18

Setting Stanford in C

Anthem Sibelius Be still my soul

Hymn 629 Father, hear the prayer we offer (SUSSEX)

Hymn 676 Immortal, invisible, God only wise" (ST DENIO)

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

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

First Reading

Many waters cannot quench love

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Second Reading

The Gift of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

John 13:1-17, 34-35

Gospel

A new commandment

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This Week...

17/02 Mon	11.30 am	Goldbridge Care Home - Holy Communion	Goldbridge Care Hom
	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
18/02 Tues	7.30 pm	Cuckfield & Bolney Men's Group	The Bull Inn, Henfield
19/02 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion* followed by coffee and cake	Genesis 8.6-13, 20-end Mark 8.22-26
20/02 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona /Celtic Communion	Genesis 9.1-13 Mark 8.27-33 Church
	1.30 pm	Arts & Crafts Group	
	7.00 pm	Home Group (Online)	
21/02 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Genesis 11.1-9 Mark 8.34-9.1
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	

Next Sunday...

Sunday 23rd February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end
Revelation 4
Luke 8.22-25

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	Roger Edmunston
9.45 am	Holy Communion*	Reader 1	Evie Pinhey
Pr Hymn	227 Crown Him With Many Crowns (DAIDEMATA)	Reader 2	Ian Walden
Setting	Rizza		
Gr Hymn	781 Son of God Eternal Saviour (EVERTON)		
Of Hymn	623 Eternal Father, strong to save (MELITA) .		
Anthem	Sibelius: Be still my soul		
Cm Hymn	702 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (MANHEIM)		
	276 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! (NICAEA)		
Fn Hymn	704 Let All the World (LUCKINGTON)		

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

Notices and Parish News...

Ash Wednesday - 5th March 2025 - There will be a Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at Holy Trinity Cuckfield at 7.00 pm

Confirmation or Admission to Communion - If you have a child in year 6, please let Fr Daniel know so that we can make arrangements for them to be admitted to communion. Similarly, if there are any members of the congregation who have not been confirmed, please speak to Fr Daniel also so that this can be explored.

Cuckfield & Bolney Men's Group Activities for Q1 2025 - On **Tuesday 18th Feb 7.30-9.30 pm** for our usual Pizza & Skittles evening at the Bull in Henfield. Please email clivesimmonds@btinternet.com to confirm your attendance. *There will be no meetings in March during Lent or April in Holy Week.*

Family Board Games Club, Thursday 20th February 1.00pm - 5.00pm join us on Thursday for an afternoon of fun, food and drinks. Drop-In session, No tickets needed and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Lunch "n" Linger will take place again at the Old School on **Thursday 27th February 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**. The feedback from the first club was excellent. The cost is £6.50 per head (payable on the day). The menu for this month is beef & onion pie (shortcrust pastry-base & top)

or squash, lentil & almond wellington (contains nuts), carrots & peas, mashed potato followed by chocolate profiteroles or fruit Salad. There are only 40 places, and these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. If you would like to attend please let Jane know or email office@holyltrinitycuckfield.org confirming your menu choices. We need to confirm final numbers by the Monday before the lunch. The food is freshly prepared by the Kitchens at Warden Park Academy, pupils from the school will assist with serving and clearing. If you can assist with setting up and or with clearing/washing up, please let Jane know as well.

Cuckfield Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday 8th March 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th 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.

Diocesan Lent Course - This year's Diocesan Lent Course is following the focus of the last two years on the Old and New Testaments, as we continue to reflect on the Mystery of Faith. We are invited this year to consider the Nicene Creed. This Creed unfolds for us the transforming Mysteries of Christ, because Christianity is not just about ideas but about lives transformed by God's revelation, each evening will consider the Creed's doctrines through the image of a particular person who lived that faith intensely. The course will be held online using the Church Zoom Blue button and will start at 7pm on Monday evenings following Ash Wednesday. or more information please contact Clive at clivesimmonds@btinternet.com

Deanery morning, to mark 1700 years since the Nicene Creed first emerged. Entitled: Uncovering the Nicene Creed, it's on **Saturday 15 March 2025 10am - 1pm, at Ascension Church, 110 Vale Road, Haywards Heath RH16 4JS**. The speaker will be Rev Canon Dr Earl Collins (Vicar of St John's Hove and Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Development Officer). All are welcome.

Save the Date! - Coro Nuovo Concert in the church - 22nd March 2025, 7pm 'Handel by Candle' - a Baroque programme of Handel, Bach and Vivaldi. The Coro Nuovo singers and orchestra will be joined by the Sussex Young Musician of 2024, Riya Hamre, an excellent young cellist. This concert has been organised by The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield. To purchase tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/fohtcc
Sunday's Cool - March 2025, 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.

Prayers...

Those in immediate need:

Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Evelyn Stenning.

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, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card,

The recently departed and those who mourn:

Antony Davis, Serita Burrowes, Shonali Allemand, Tina Owens

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 16th James Law Forsyth 2005, John Reginald Cyril Bourne 2005, 17th Charlotte Smith 2000, Janet Inch 2002, Alan Page 2002, Mary Eleanor Harris 2009, Michael John Gower Sadd 2013, Harold Selwyn Chandler 2021, 18th Thelma Dixon 2017, Sidnall William Stenning 1983, 19th Gladys Webb 1993, Barbara Susanne Hastings 2007, Eleanor Springall 2011, Betty Winifred Fry 2013, 20th Ronald Alfred John Middleton MBE 2004, 22nd Leigh McKay 2017.

Praying through the week...

Mon Feb 17th - We remember world Hippo Day (15th) and the ongoing fight to prevent their extinction by poachers who hunt them for meat and their teeth. We pray for all the big game animals hunted for sport too, all at risk of extinction. We give thanks for the courage and compassion of rangers and educators committed to supporting this wildlife and local diversity. We pray locally for the people of Brainsmead Close for a sense of well-being and peace in their lives.

Tue Feb 18th - We pray for peace and justice across the world. We pray for those seeking hope and practising compassion, despite living amidst pain and destruction. We pray for all working hard to enable a real peace in the Middle East, which recognises the humanity, human rights and dignity of all living there. Locally we pray for the people of Brick Lane, that they may feel the safety and generosity of a kind neighbourhood.

Wed Feb 19th - We pray for the natural world. We give thanks for our green spaces, for the wild places of the world. We give thanks for our local parks, meadows and for all that they provide, in terms of habitat, beauty, education, health and wellbeing. We pray for all who work to maintain our green spaces, that we may value them fully and treat them with respect and care. We pray for the people of Broad Street for their health and well-being, that they may feel drawn to acts of friendship and kindness this week.

Thu Feb 20th - On this World Day of Social Justice we pray for all people across the world belittled, undermined, oppressed and discriminated against through repressive laws, societal expectations or stigma. We pray for the courage to stand up to injustice, to encourage hospitality and kindness, to recognise our own limitations and flaws, and expect accountability in our leaders. Locally we pray for the people of Brock End; we pray that they may feel the comfort and presence of God in all they do and give thanks for the ways in which they enrich the community and environment around them.

Fri Feb 21st - We pray for people who are homeless, for refugees and asylum seekers. We pray for charities and organisations campaigning on their behalf. We pray for those providing night shelters, daytime shelter, work and training opportunities, advice and support. Locally we pray for the people of Brook Green, that they may sense the beauty and bounty of God's creation.

Sat Feb 22nd - We pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for a just end to war in Ukraine. We pray for all those who have lost so much in war and violence across the world. We give thanks and pray for all those who work tirelessly to achieve a sustainable peace and a rebuilding of homes, schools, places of work and hospitals. We pray for all that goes into rebuilding people's lives and communities. Locally we pray for the people of Brook Street, that they may find the support, and strength they need in their lives, the joy and light of a new year.

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