

Sunday 23rd March 2025

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome
to our worship!*



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Reflection by The Rev'd Stephen Caple



The Barren Fig Tree

The parable of the fig tree in our Gospel today conveys a profound message about patience and the potential for redemption. In this story, a gardener advocates for a barren fig tree, pleading for one more chance to nurture it before deciding to cut it down. The fig tree symbolizes those who may seem unfruitful or lost in their spiritual journey. The gardener's desire for mercy highlights the theme of grace and the opportunity for transformation. This parable encourages self-reflection, urging us to consider how we can bear fruit in our lives and embrace the chance for growth and renewal.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, talking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday 23rd March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

			Isaiah 55.1-9
			1 Corinthians 10.1-13
			Luke 13.1-9
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	Roger Edmonston
9.45 am	Parish Communion*	Readers	Mark Parker Ted Parker
Pr Hymn	712 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us (LIVING LORD)		
Setting	Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas	Intercessor:	Eileen Caple
Gr Hymn	132 O for a closer walk with God (CAITHNESS)		
Of Hymn	715 Lord, for the Years (LORD OF THE YEARS)		
Anthem	Cesar Franck - Panis Angelicus (Bass Duet)		
Cm Hymn	462 Soul of my Saviour (ANIMA CHRISTI)		
	127 Lord Jesus Think on me (SOUTHWELL)		
Fm Hymn	704 Let All the World (LUCKINGTON)		

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

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First Reading

Isaiah 55.1-9

The Lord gives rich food offering a new covenant - seek him while he may be found

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

God is faithful, and will not let you be tested beyond your strength

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel

Luke 13.1-9

Repent or perish: the parable of the barren fig tree

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

This Week...

24/03 Mon	7.00 pm	Diocesan Course "I believe" - Online Lent Course	Zoom
26/03 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion*	Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-9
		followed by coffee and cake	Matthew 5.17-19
	6.30 pm	Italian Evening with Quiz	The Old School
27/03 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona /Celtic Communion	Jeremiah 7.23-28
			Luke 11.14-23
	12.30 pm	Lunch "n" Linger	Old School
	7.00 pm	Lent Course 'Christ and the Chocolaterie'	Zoom
	7.30 pm	Lent Course 'Christ and the Chocolaterie'	Victorian Hall, Old School
28/03 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Hosea 14
			Matthew 12.28-34
	6.00 pm	Treble Choir	Church
	7.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
29/03 Sat	10.00 am	Marriage Preparation Workshop	Old School

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

Next Sunday...

Sunday 30th March - 4th Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday

Joshua 5.9-12
2 Corinthians 5.16-end
Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end
Roger Edmonston

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Reader

9.45 am Mothering Sunday Communion*

Readers

Young People

Pr Hymn 739 Now thank we all our God (NUN DANKET)
Setting Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas
Gr Hymn 537 For the beauty of the earth (DIX)
Of Hymn 138 Our Father God in heaven (ELLACOMBE)
Anthem Agnus Dei
Cm Hymn 747 O God, You Search Me and You Know Me
137 God of Eve and God of Mary (LOVE DIVINE)
Fn Hymn 394 Tell out, my soul (WOODLANDS)

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

Notices and Parish News...

Welcome Team Meeting - After 09.45 on Sunday 23rd March in the **Victorian Hall** to share thoughts and ideas about the delivery of our WELCOME MINISTRY; if anyone else wishes to join in to listen or contribute please come along with your coffee."

Being on the **Electoral Roll** allows you to take part in church decisions and vote at the Annual Meeting. Forms can be completed in church, online, and via ChurchSuite. Please listen for notices about this on Sunday 23rd March and Sunday 30th March. For more details, speak to David Thunder, Electoral Roll Officer.

Don't miss our **Italian Evening! Wednesday, 26th March 6.30pm Old School**. No Italian speaking needed just enjoy the food (lasagna, salads, garlic bread, a range of tasty desserts, tea/coffee) and a fun quiz. Tickets £15 from Ros Longfield or Hilary. Alternatively contact Hilary at inspirefmhilary@holyltrinitycuckfield.org to reserve a place. Don't forget to bring money for a raffle and your own drink. We look forward to seeing you there. The Engage Team....**Raffle prizes welcome as are offers of puds!**

Lunch "n" Linger will take place again at the Old School on **Thursday 27th March 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**. The menu this month: Roast chicken with stuffing, Cauliflower Cheese, Sprouts, Roast Potatoes and Syrup Sponge & Custard or Fruit Salad. The cost is £6.50 per head (payable on the day). 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.

On **Sunday, 30th March** as a part of our **Fifth Sunday Giving** to local charities we will be collecting for our **local Stroke Association**. Thank you for your support for their amazing work in our community. Money can be given via the giving plate or through the tapping machine by the door.

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus faced His struggles in the Garden of Gethsemane. He went to a quiet place on the Mount of Olives to prepare for the events leading to His sacrifice on the cross. We are creating a miniature replica of the Garden of Gethsemane in the Lady Chapel to honour this significant moment. We invite you to contribute by donating portable potted plants for the Garden. We plan to set up the Garden on **Wednesday, April 16th, after the 10:30am** Eucharist and any help would be warmly welcomed. You can take your lovely potted plants home after Easter Sunday. If you can help with this project, please get in touch with Rev'd Stephen Caple or Eileen

There are three Lent groups running: On **Thursday evenings 'Christ and the Chocolaterie'** - a course based on the film *Chocolat*: In the Victorian Hall, 7.30-9.00pm (facilitated by [Caroline Currer](#)). On Zoom, 7.00pm-8.00pm (facilitated by [Peter and Tina Hutchinson](#)).

Diocesan Lent Course - Following the Diocesan Course **'I Believe'** (facilitated by Clive Simmonds). 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 we consider the Creed's doctrines through the image of a particular person who lived that faith intensely. Use the **Church Zoom Blue button** for more information please contact Clive at clivesimmonds@btinternet.com

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 Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday 12th April 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are, 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.

Prayers...

Those in immediate need:

Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Evelyn Stenning, Tina Heath, Sam Lawrence, Alison Openshaw, Totyana

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:

Diana Walker, Vanessa Crocker, Carol Blackburn

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 24th Nina Mackie 2002, Valerie Bray 2006, Michael Josling 2017, 25th Michael Leonard Buck 2006, Phyllis 'Peggy' Green 2009, Sheena Berkeley 2016, 26th Russell Murphy 1996, Joseph Heyman 2015, 27th Joan Audrey Wampach 2004, David Davidson 2022, 28th Peggy Small, Ethel Mildred Riddle 2006, Anne Rosemary Atkinson 2020, Stephanie Gilpin 2022, 30th Kathleen Turner 1993, Ken Sutton 2006, Stanley Norman Hallett 2011, Mary Williams 2015, Vera Platt 2018, David William Bedding 2019

Praying through the week...

Mon Mar 24th - Today we pray for all those victims of gross and systematic human rights violations. We pray for all who promote the importance of truth and justice and give thanks for all who have devoted their lives to and many who have lost their lives in the struggle to promote and protect human rights of the most vulnerable. We give thanks for the life and inspiration of Monsignor Óscar Romero (murdered on 24th March 1980, after years of highlighting human rights violations in South America). We pray locally for the people of Cowfold Road, that they may have a sense of the comfort and strength that comes from God.

Tue Mar 25th - Today we remember the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, (between 15th and late 19th centuries), which involved the horrific trafficking of millions of women, men and children, mostly from West Africa to the Americas. Whilst this forced displacement enriched imperial and other powers. It also gave rise to false narratives of white supremacy and racial inferiority, which were used to justify this shameful practice and which continue to plague our societies today. Today we remember the past: both victims and perpetrators, and pray for all those, acting today to dismantle the structures that continue to hold back people of African descent. We pray locally for the Cricket Club, for layers members and supporters.

Wed Mar 26th - In our fractured world, we pray for all those whose countries, communities and families have been torn apart through war and violence: Sudan, Rwanda and DRC, Ukraine and Russia, Gaza and Israel. We pray for all searching for truth, responding with humanity and compassion amidst devastating lack of humanity and acts of genocide. We pray locally for the people of Cross Colwood Lane, that they may feel the security and dignity of a warm, inclusive community.

Thu Mar 27th - We pray for all who work in the world of the Arts: theatre, cinema, music, visual arts, dance; for those who work to enable greater access for all. We give thanks for the skills, talent and expertise we witness in these areas; we give thanks for the way in which participation in these areas can improve self-esteem and confidence, can give voice to our fears, concerns, awe, wonder and delight. We give thanks for the courage of those who work to tell stories which authorities wish to silence. We pray locally for Crossways, and give thanks for the ways in which they help to enrich and support their families, friends and local community.

Fri Mar 28th - We give thanks for the humour, laughter, fun, moments of comedy and companionship we experience in our lives. We give thanks for the many ways people come together for Comic Relief to celebrate the best of humanity; for the money raised and the compassion shown in responding to the difficulties, hardships and suffering of others. We pray locally for the people of Crouch Fields, that they may see something of God's love in their lives and in their community.

Sat Mar 29th - We give thanks for Spring, for all the signs of new life, hope and energy. We pray for all who bring light and joy into our world. Locally we pray for the people of Crouchlands Farm, that they may feel God's loving presence when they feel alone, sad or lost.

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