

Sunday 11th May 2025

4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

You are very welcome to our worship!



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Reflection

John depicts 'the Jews' as 'the baddies' – to Christians' shame. But here, they too long for a Messiah. The teaching that the human being Jesus is 'one' with the eternal God and Father sounds to them like blasphemy. But for John's teaching about the incarnation (1.14), we Christians might have agreed with them. The bond of trust and love between the Shepherd and his sheep, though, has strengthened over two millennia. And we are one with him because he is one with the Father. We can be utterly different yet still one when bonded by love.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday 11th May – 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.36-43
Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13
John 10.22-30

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	Charles Solomon James Saunders
9.45 am	Worship for all *	Readers	Young People (All Age Worship)
Pr Hymn	At the Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow (Camberwell) AM593i		
Setting	Peruvian Gloria (Unaccompanied)		
Gr Hymn	There is a higher throne		
Of Hymn	The Lord's my shepherd (Townend) AM800		
	Sanctus/Benedictus - Be Still		
Anthem	Brother James Air arr Jacob		
Cm Hymn	All heaven declares AM193		
	Such love, pure as the whitest snow AM785		
Fn Hymn	One More Step Along the World I Go AM 757		

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

First Reading

Acts 9.36-43

Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead and stays on in Joppa with Simon the tanner

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Second Reading

Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13

Noah and the great flood

Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.' So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'

Gospel

John 10.22-30

The Jews reject Jesus when he says: 'My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me'

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

This Week...

12/05 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)
14/05 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion* followed by coffee and cake
	2.00 pm	Funeral T/L Eleanor Befrage

Acts 1.15-end
1 Corinthians 4.1-7
John 15.9-17
Church

15/05 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona /Celtic Communion	Acts 13.13-25 John 13.16-20 Church
16/05 Fri	1.30 pm	Arts & Crafts Group	
	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Acts 13.26-33 John 14.1-6
	6.00 pm	Choir	
	7.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	

Next Sunday...

Sunday 18th May - 5th Sunday of Easter

			Acts 11.1-18 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35
8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Readers	Graham Johnston
9.45 am	Parish Communion with Sunday's Cool *	Reader 1	Susan Mayou
Pr Hymn	748 O Jesus, I have promised (WOLVERCOTE)	Reader 2	Brian Cutler
Setting	Thorne - Mass of St. Thomas		
Gr Hymn	679 In Christ There Is No East or West (KILMARNOCK)		
Of Hymn	460 O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray (SONG 1)		
Anthem	Ola Gjeilo Ubi Caritas		
Cm Hymn	772 Rock of ages, cleft for me (PETRA)		
Fn Hymn	506 The Church's One Foundation (AURELIA)		
6.00pm	Choral Evensong		2 Samuel 7.4-13 Acts 1.14a, 22-32
Hymn	644 God Is Love Let Heaven Adore Him (ABBOTS LEIGH)		
Responses	TBC		
Psalm	16		
Setting	TBC		
Anthem	TBC		
Hymn	212 Now the Green Blade Riseth (NOEL NOUVELET)		
Hymn	Rejoice, the Lord Is King 769 (GOSPAL)		

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

Notices and Parish News...

Lunch "n" Linger will take place again at the Old School on **Thursday 29th May 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**. The menu this month: Fish and chips or chicken and chips, with a selection of ice creams, sparkling wine and coffee. The cost is £8.50 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 Tuesday before the lunch (27th May). The food is freshly prepared by Cuckfish due to school half term. If you can assist with setting up and or with clearing/washing up, please let Jane know as well.

At HTC we have made it our mission to offer the service of evensong twice a month. The third Sunday is choral evensong and if that's unknown to you **"Choral Evensong is a service of sung Evening Prayer where a choir leads the service with composed settings of psalms, canticles, and anthems. It's a reflective and meditative service that offers a pause at the end of the day"** The choir works incredibly hard learning the music necessary for these services and on Sunday May 18th at 6pm you have an opportunity to support friends as well as close down a busy weekend with 40 minutes of peace and quiet. Many churches don't have these services, and many Cathedrals are on the brink of closure creating less opportunities to hear this ancient old tradition. HTC is still going strong. Come and support the tradition and experience the beauty of the building and the music.

We're Hiring - Are you comfortable with technology? We're looking for someone to take over the role of **Newsletter Editor** to collate and edit content, then prepare and send out the weekly parish email newsletter. ALSO a **Video Editor** to download recorded services, edit (usually for the sermon) and post to the HT channel on YouTube. Interested to find out more? Contact Peter Hutchinson on emails@holyltrinitycuckfield.org

Cuckfield & Bolney Men's Group Activities - On **Tuesday 20th May 7.30-9.30 pm** for our usual meal at the Whyte Harte, Cuckfield. Please email clivesimmonds@btinternet.com to confirm your attendance. *Dates for the diary for the next meet up is Tuesday 15th July.*

Sunday's Cool - Sunday's Cool runs on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month during our 9:45 AM service. Children enjoy Bible stories, crafts, play, and space for reflection in a welcoming setting. They leave after the first hymn and return before communion. All are welcome to join the fun and grow in faith!

Admission to communion - If you have a child in year 6, please let Toby know so that we can plan for them to be admitted to communion. There will be a fun course for preparation and a special service in the summer with the opportunity for a party. Please let Toby know so that this can be arranged for your child.
Toby@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

Cuckfield Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday June 14th 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are, 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 to be married: Michael Anselmo Lord and Tricia Tanya Gina Luczak - Christian John Brough and Deena Annabel Sammakia.

Those in immediate need:

Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Tina Heath, Tatyana, Wendy Bloomer

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:

Eleanor Belfrage, Diann Carter

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 12th Ronald Bailey, Ellen Harford 1997, 13th Robert Brinley Codd 1999, 14th Robert Affleck Aspinall 2012, Dan Batchelor 2011, Cyril Kenneth Dixon 2020, 15th Peter Grimwade 1990, Donovan Thornton 1999, Frances Edward Barrett 2006, 16th Robert Leonard Goldsmith 2003, 18th Christina Watling 2010.

Praying through the week...

Mon May 12th – On this International Day of Plant Health we recognise that we depend on them for 80 percent of the food we eat and 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Losing as much as 40 percent of crops to pests, we pray for all working to ensure renewed global efforts to ensure food security, precious biodiversity and positive impact on economies and livelihoods. Locally, we pray for the people of Longacre Crescent, that they may have peace and joy in their hearts.

Tue May 13th – Locally we pray for the people of Magdalene Rise, that they may have a sense of being cherished, and that they too may feel able to be loving towards others this day. *Lord, Rouse us from our apathy, deliver us from cosiness, Teach us the lessons of the cross.*

Wed May 14th - We pray for all supporting Refugee Aid and all organisations supporting refugees. We give thanks for the generosity in terms of time, effort and goods. We pray for all living in refugee camps, all fleeing their homes, all undertaking dangerous journeys to escape violence, conflict and extreme privation. We pray for refugees around the world and all, offering refuge. We pray locally for the people of Manor Drive, that they may feel the comfort and presence of God, throughout hardship and breakthrough.

Thu May 15th – On this International Day of Families, we pray for those coping with the worst effects of the climate crisis. We pray that we in the wealthier Western world become more accountable and responsible and play our part in trying to hold back further destruction. Locally we pray for the people of Mayfields; may they be blessed.

Fri May 16th - On this International Day of Living Together in Peace we pray that we may learn better to accept differences, listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as to live in a peaceful and united way. Locally we pray for members of the Cuckfield Society; 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.

Sat May 17th – During this UN Global Road Safety Week, we pray for all road users: drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, and especially those most vulnerable—children, the elderly, and those in low-income regions where infrastructure is fragile. We pray locally for the people of the Parish Council, for a sense of well-being and peace in their lives.

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