

Sunday 17th August 2025

9th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome
to our worship!*



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We believe in a Church that affirms all people and challenges exclusion based on disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, mental health, or economic status

Use this QR code to make your **offering** towards our ongoing **outreach, mission and ministry.**



Reflection

The Gospel today has a sense of urgency and of warning. For the audience at the time they would have picked up symbolism that is different from how we might read it today. There are strong links with the religious culture with which they were familiar and with passages from the Old Testament prophets. In Jewish thought fire often symbolised God's judgment on the nations and God purifying His people. Baptism was a ritual washing for purity and also metaphorical immersion into a decisive, overwhelming experience. The hope was for peace and joy but Jesus reminds them of the family-splitting imagery where Micah warns of social collapse during a time of covenant crisis. In Judea and Galilee a West wind from the Mediterranean meant rain while a South wind from the Negev desert meant scorching heat. The audience could interpret the 'signs' but miss the decisive moment in God's redemptive plan. Even those who longed for God's kingdom would have to grapple with whether they were ready for the kind of kingdom Jesus was bringing. By invoking such imagery, Jesus signals that His arrival marks the turning point of history, forcing choices even within the most sacred human bonds.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy 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

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday 17th August - 9th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5.1-7
Hebrews 11.29-12.2
Luke 12.49-56

8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Readers	Graham Johnson
9.45 am	Said Eucharist with hymns*	Readers	Evie Pinhey
Setting	Said		Ian Walden
Pr Hymn	580 Judge eternal	Intercessor	Clive Simmonds
Gr Hymn	258 O thou who camest		
Of Hymn	304 Let saints on earth		
Cm Hymn	51 The Lord will come & not be slow		
Fn Hymn	232 The head that once was crowned		

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

First Reading

God will strike down the unfruitful vineyard, which represents the house of Israel

Isaiah 5.1-7

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Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Second Reading

Hebrews 11.29-12.2

By faith Israel came out of Egypt; many in the cloud of witnesses lived by faith, yet without receiving the promise in Christ

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Gospel

Luke 12.49-56

Jesus brings fire to the earth and division within households

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

This Week...

18/08 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
19/08 Tues	6.00 pm	Movie Night - "Mamma Mia"	Church
20/08 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion*	Judges 9.6-15
		followed by coffee and cake	Matthew 20.1-16

Next Sunday...

Sunday 24th August - 10th Sunday after Trinity
Bartholomew the Apostle

Acts 5.12-16
 1 Corinthians 4.9-15
 Luke 22.24-30

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	Roger Edmonston
9.45 am	Parish Eucharist*	Readers	Robyn Brotherton
Setting	Said		David Reed
Pr Hymn	684 Jerusalem my happy		
Gr Hymn	768i Put thou thy trust in God		
Of Hymn	604 Brother, sister me me serve you		
Cm Hymn	456ii Now let us from this table rise		
Fn Hymn	712 Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us		

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

Notices and Parish News...

Movie Night at Holy Trinity! This Tuesday - We're bringing the fun, the music, and the ABBA magic with **Mamma Mia!** 🍕 **Free pizza** + a feel-good movie = the perfect Tuesday night combo. Don't miss your chance to sing along, laugh, and enjoy a night out - all on us!

Clergy Surgery and Suggestions - In response to feedback from the Pastoral Care Survey earlier this year, we are introducing two new ways for you to share your thoughts on life at Holy Trinity Cuckfield. First, a suggestion box has been placed by the North Door. Suggestions will be reviewed weekly by the Leadership Team at their operations meeting. If you feel able to include your name and contact details, we will do our best to respond directly. However, anonymous suggestions are also welcome and will be considered. Second, starting Wednesday 3rd September 2025, Fr Daniel will be holding a weekly Clergy Surgery every Wednesday from 5.00 to 6.00pm. This is a chance to book a short (15-minute) appointment to speak about parish matters, faith, or anything on your mind. Appointments must be booked in advance via the parish office by phone 01444 456461 or email: pa@holytrinitycuckfield.org. We hope you'll make use of these opportunities—whether to celebrate what's going well, or to suggest what might need a little attention. After all, none of us is perfect!

Services During August - The team is taking a well-earned rest over August. Worship through August will be limited to 8.00 am and 9.45 am (no Evensong); and Weekday 10.30 am Wednesday Holy Communion (with cake!). No services on Thursday or Friday.

5th Sunday Giving - This month we are supporting **Good Neighbours Care**. The charity offers practical help to residents of Ansty, Ardingly, Cuckfield and Haywards Heath providing transport, shopping, visiting and help in the home. Please give either in the offerings bowl, on the card machine or in an envelope marked Good Neighbours Care and pop through the office letter box. Thank you very much. The Outreach team (Part of the Engage Stream)

Emergency household items Thank you everyone for your generosity in donating household items for Emergency Boxes for refugees finding themselves in accommodation with nothing. Your donated items are always very gratefully received. What we are now running short of are sets of **cutlery, cooking utensils, dinner plates and side plates**. If you have any of these items and no longer need them, please put in the box in the tower. To offer a small table or sofa, speak to Hilary or Jane. Many thanks, The Engage Stream.

Lunch “n” Linger will take place again at the Old School on **Thursday 28th August 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**, on the menu this week we have **fish pie or cottage pie** with a choice of deserts. There are only 40 places, and these will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Please let Jane know or email office@holytrinitycuckfield.org confirming your menu choices. **We need to confirm final numbers by the Tuesday before the lunch (26th August).**

Poppy Appeal - We're creating a stunning poppy display for **Remembrance Sunday**—and we need your help! Please donate **knitted or crocheted poppies** of any size or pattern (leave extra wool for tying). A collection box will be in the church porch until **October 1st**. Let's honour and remember together—**everyone welcome to contribute!**

Cuckfield Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday 13th September 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are 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.

Sunday's Cool - **We are delighted to confirm that Sunday's Cool will run every week** during our 9:45 AM service (except for 4th Sunday which is Worship for All). School aged 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!

Holy Trinity Cuckfield Joins the Inclusive Church Network - We're delighted to be part of the Inclusive Church Network, a national movement promoting a Church where all are truly welcome - regardless of disability, mental health, ethnicity, gender, identity, sexuality, or background. This affirms our belief that God's love and the life of the Church are open to all. Inclusion is central to our mission and to the Gospel we live by. Learn more at www.inclusive-church.org. *Whoever you are, and whatever your story—you are welcome here.*

Prayers...

Those to be married: James Norris and Georgia Morison

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Tatyana, Eileen Knight, Eileen McDougall, Sarah

Those in long term need: Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, 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, Valerie Poxon,

The recently departed and those who mourn: Peter Morgan, Netta Poxon,

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 18th Dian Theresa Bryson 2006, 19th Edith Hildegard Herta Burstow 2019, Cyril William Tarry 2020, 20th Leslie King 1993, Lorna Michie 2009, Robert McLachlan Alexander 2010, Rosemary (Rose) Powell 2021, 22th John McNamara 2000, Dennis Glaister 2001, George Morrison 1999, Dorothy Long 2015, Kenneth Hugh Manvell 2018, 23rd Max Laing 2003, Ann Pritchard Berry 2008, Margaret (Maggy) Williams 2016, 24th Peter Brown 2021

Praying through the week...

Mon Aug 18th - We pray for people living alone, with the particular joys, concerns and anxieties that may bring. We pray that they may always feel able to connect with others and be appreciated by others. We pray for those who feel lonely or isolated, young and old. We pray for the people of Bylanes Close, that they may experience the hope and comfort of God, who loves them.

Tue Aug 19th - World Humanitarian Day. Recent years have been some of the deadliest on record for humanitarian workers. The world is failing humanitarian workers and, by extension, the people they serve. Despite universally accepted international laws to regulate the conduct of armed conflict and limit its impact, violations of these laws continue unabated, unchallenged and unchecked. And while civilians, including aid workers, pay the ultimate price, the perpetrators continue to evade justice. We pray that attacks on humanitarian workers, on civilians and civilian infrastructure are stopped. We pray for an end to such violations and for those in power to end impunity and #ActForHumanity. We pray for the people of Callender Walk, for their health and well-being, that they may feel drawn to acts of friendship and kindness this week.

Wed Aug 20th - Remembering International Orangutan Day (19th) we recognise the threats to many endangered species. From 1992-2000, the population of the Sumatran orangutan is considered to have declined by more than 50%. Its relative, the Bornean orangutan population fell nearly 43 percent in the past decade, from 35,000 in 1996 to 20,000 in 2006. We pray for the world's wildlife and for those trying to find ways to maintain balance and respect between animals and humans. We pray for those involved in protection of wildlife. We pray locally for the people of Chapel Road, for a sense of well-being and peace in their lives.

Thu Aug 21st - International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism. Despite international condemnation of terrorism, victims and survivors of terrorism often struggle to have their voices heard, their needs supported, and their rights upheld. We pray for victims often feeling forgotten and neglected once the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack fades. We pray for all those working to alleviate the often-profound consequences they live with. Locally we pray for the people of Chapelfields, that they may sense the beauty and joy of God's creation.

Fri Aug 22nd - International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Beliefs. We pray for greater friendship and understanding between people of different religion or beliefs. We pray for those in positions of leadership and influence to encourage the building of bridges rather than the erection of barriers between people. We pray that we personally resist easy and careless language, prejudices, discrimination and blaming; we pray that we learn to reflect more honestly on our own words, views and behaviours. We pray locally for the people of Charles Peel Place, for their health and well-being.

Sat Aug 23rd - International Day for Remembrance of the Slave trade and its Abolition. The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Saint Domingue (today the Republic of Haiti), saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. "It is time to abolish human exploitation once and for all, and to recognize the equal and unconditional dignity of each and every individual...." Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO. We give thanks for the victims and freedom fighters of the past and pray that they may inspire ourselves and future generations to build just societies. We pray locally for the people of Chatfield Road and give thanks for the ways in which they help to enrich and support their families, friends and local community.

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