

Sunday 31st August 2025

11th 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

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Reflection

In our Gospel today Jesus offers a powerful lesson in humility and hospitality. At a Pharisee's dinner, he notices guests choosing places of honour and responds with a parable and says, "Take the lowest place." His words challenge our desire for recognition and invite us to live differently seeking not status, but service. Jesus then urges us to welcome those who cannot repay us: the poor, the disabled, the blind. This isn't just social advice—it's a vision of God's kingdom, where grace is given freely and dignity is restored. This passage calls us to examine our own tables. Who do we invite? Who do we honour? In God's economy, love rewrites the guest list, and the humble are lifted high.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday 31st August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 2.4-13
Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16
Luke 14.1,7-14

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|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion (CW) | Readers | Charles Solomon |
| 9.45 am | Parish Eucharist * with Sunday's Cool | Readers | Mark Parker |
| Setting | Said | | Ted Parker |
| Pr Hymn | 116 Be thou my guardian | | |
| Gr Hymn | 675 Immortal love (omit 4&5) | | |
| Of Hymn | 666 I cannot tell | | |
| Cm Hymn | 563 Jesus Christ is waiting | | |
| Fn Hymn | 630 Father Lord of all | | |

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 2.4-13

God accuses the people of turning away from him and trusting in false gods

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, 'Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt,

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who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?' I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Second Reading

Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

Be hospitable, honour marriage, be content, for here we have no lasting city

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.^[a] ⁴Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' ⁶So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?' ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel

Luke 14.1,7-14

Do not take the place of honour, but sit at the lowest place

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

This Week...

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|-------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 01/09 Mon | 7.30 pm | Home Group (In Person) | |
| 03/09 Wed | 10.30 am | Holy Communion* | Colossians 1.1-8 |
| | | followed by coffee and cake | Luke 4.38-end |
| 04/09 Thurs | 9.00 am | Iona/Celtic Communion | Colossians 1.9-14 |
| | | | Luke 5.1-11 |
| | 1.30 pm | Arts and Craft Meet up | Church |
| | 7.00 pm | Wedding Rehearsal | Church |
| 05/09 Fri | 11.00 am | BCP Communion | Colossians 1.15-20 |
| | | | Luke 5.33-end |

Next Sunday...

Sunday 7th September - 12th Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 18.1-11

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14.25-33

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---------|-------------------------|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion (CW) | Readers | Anthony vander Willigen |
| 9.45 am | Parish Eucharist* with Sunday's Cool | Readers | Alan Currer |
| Setting | Shephard | | Jane Coan |
| Pr Hymn | Awake my soul | | |
| Gr Hymn | 790 Teach me my God & King | | |
| Of Hymn | 57 Ye servants of the Lord | | |
| Anthem | 441 Draw nigh and take | | |

Cm Hymn 455 My God and is thy table
Fn Hymn 630 Father Lord of all

11.15 am Family Praise

6.00 pm Sung Evensong

Hymn 737 New songs of celebration
Responses Ferial
Psalm 121
Canticles M: 54; N: 147
Anthem From the rising of the sun
Hymn 7 This is the day the Lord hath made
Hymn 549 The heavens declare

Readers

Roger Floyd
Carolyn Ponder

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

Notices and Parish News...

Clergy Surgery and Suggestions - Following feedback from our Pastoral Care Survey, we're introducing two new ways to share your thoughts on life at Holy Trinity:

Suggestion Box - now by the North Door. Ideas will be reviewed weekly by the Leadership Team. Named suggestions will receive a response where possible, but anonymous ones are equally welcome.

Clergy Surgery - from Wednesday 3rd September 2025, Fr Daniel will hold weekly 15-minute appointments (5.00-6.00pm) to talk about parish life, faith, or anything on your mind. Please book in advance via the Parish Office (01444 456461 / pa@holytrinitycuckfield.org).

We hope you'll use these opportunities, whether to celebrate what's going well or to suggest what needs attention.

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.

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!

Lunch "n" Linger will take place again at the Old School on **Thursday 25th September 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**, the menu is to be determined. 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 Monday before the lunch (23rd September).**

Prayers...

Those to be married: James Norris and Georgia Morison

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Eileen McDougall, Philip Chapman

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:

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 2nd Phyllis Porter 1998, Nelson Jones 2002, Olive Caroline Carrington 2002, Ronald James (Jim) Clark 2019, Leonard Albert Meredith 2021, 3rd Jonathan Ranger, Frank William Marshall 2017, Jillian Christine Pullen 2023, 4th Cpt. Donald Thomas Lewis Bairdow 2008, Cosmo Roy Vicari 2020, 5th Mother Theresa of Calcutta 1997, James 1968, David James Neen 2007, Nancy Rebekah Pforter 2011, Jennifer Susan Tapp 2018, 6th Ivor John Owen 1998, Annie Voller 2001, Albert Smith 2017
7th Bob Rowley 2001, Emily Sarah Bone 2007, Sir John Herbecq 2021.

Praying through the week...

Mon Sep 1st - We pray for all who depend on the holiday trade; for those towns that have suffered because of it; for all in need of a holiday. We pray for restoration and refreshment for families, communities and towns. We pray locally for the people of Cleavers Lane, that they may have a sense of the wonder and diversity of God's creation.

Tue Sep 2nd - We pray for all beginning a new term at school, college, or university. We pray all who are beginning new jobs, apprenticeships, internships. We pray for Ken our rector as he begins his sabbatical, that he may find rest and renewal; we pray too for his family, that they too will feel enriched by this change. Locally we pray for the people of Colwood Lane, that they may sense God's presence with them, whatever they are facing.

Wed Sep 3rd - We give thanks for writers; for those whose books have taught us so much, have expanded our minds, stimulated our imaginations, introduced us to new ideas, new stories, and have given us great pleasure. We pray for those fighting to maintain our libraries and accessibility to books etc. Locally we pray for the people of Copyhold Lane, that they may have a sense of being cherished, and that they too may feel able to be loving towards others this day.

Thu Sep 4th - We pray for all who are raising awareness of the large number of endangered species of animal and plant. We pray for all who work to enable humans and wildlife to coexist in harmony. We pray for those in areas where there are tensions and difficulties in doing this. We give thanks for the wonders of our world. Locally we pray for the people of Courtmead Road, for a neighbourhood of understanding, hospitality and care.

Fri Sep 5th - On this International Day of Charity we remember the many charities, working to alert us to injustices and needs of so many people, communities, animals and environment, working to alleviate the suffering and respond to crises. We pray for all charity workers and all who volunteer in fundraising and giving of their time, skills and effort.

Sat Sep 6th - As we look to the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (7th) we lament pollution in the air. We pray for those harmed by it and pray that those companies that cause so much air pollution take some responsibility for the clean-up, helping to mitigate the damage. We give thanks for clean air and blue skies and the freedom to enjoy God's creation. Locally we remember the people of Cowfold Road, that they may feel part of a safe, supportive, neighbourly community.

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