

Sunday 16th November 2025

2nd Sunday before Advent

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 Sunday's gospel, we see the traditional imagery of apocalyptic end-time literature. Imagine the glory of Chichester Cathedral. Imagine, if you dare, what it might look like in ruins. Then you will get a sense of the seismic shock when the Romans destroyed the temple at Jerusalem in ad 70 – the glory departed. Early Christians lived in the shadow of that event and also knew what it was to be persecuted. In fact there is no Christian century in which the Church has not known persecution: hear then the power of Jesus' reassurance – 'by your endurance you will gain your souls'.

Tariro

This Sunday we are delighted to welcome **Fr Nicolas Stebbing**, founder of our partner charity, Tariro. We look forward to hearing the latest update of Tariro's work with the disadvantaged young people it supports in Zimbabwe and whose lives it transforms. **There will be a retiring collection in aid of Tariro's wonderful work. Thank you for your generosity.** The Engage Team.

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Worship this Sunday...

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8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Preacher
Reader

Malachi 4.1-2a
2 Thessalonians 3.6-13
Luke 21.5-19
Fr Nicolas Stebbing CR
Graham Johnston

9.45 am Parish Eucharist with Sunday's Cool*

Setting Shephard
Pr Hymn 2 Christ whose glory fills
Gr Hymn 635 For the healing
Of Hymn 580 Judge eternal
Anthem The strife is o'er
Cm Hymn 468i Thee we adore
437ii Come to me says Jesus
Fn Hymn 646 God is working his purpose

Preacher
Reader 1
Reader 2
Intercessor

Fr Nicolas Stebbing CR
Sue Mayou
Evie Pinhey
Nick Jones

6.00 pm Choral Evensong

Introit Above all praise
Hymn 25 We praise you Father

Reader 1
Reader 2

Daniel 6
Matthew 13.1-9,18-23
Carolyn Ponder
David Spear

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Responses	Ebdon
Psalm	97
Canticles	Carolus Andreas
Anthem	Let all mortal flesh keep silence
Hymn	387 Rise and hear
Hymn	22 Saviour again to thy dear name

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

First Reading

Malachi 4.1-2a

The day of the Lord is coming, burning like an oven

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Avoid the idle; be willing to work if you want to eat: do not be weary in doing what is right

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Gospel

Luke 21.5-19

Signs foretelling the destruction of the temple and the end times; endure and be saved

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

This Week

17/11 Mon	11.30 pm	Goldbridge Home – Holy Communion	
	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Monday Afternoon Course	
	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Monday Evening Course	Home Based
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Monday Evening Course	Online
18/11 Tues	9.30 am	Holy Trinity Primary - Eucharist	Church
19/11 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion*	Revelation 4
		followed by coffee and cake	Luke 19.11-28
20/11 Thurs	5.00 pm	Clergy Surgery	Old School
	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	Revelation 5.1-10
			Luke 19.41- 44
21/11 Fri	1.30 pm	Arts and Craft Club	
	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Revelation 10.8-11
			Luke 19.45-48
			Church
			Old School
22/11 Sat	6.00 pm	Treble Choir Club	Church
	6.00 pm	Fuse Youth Club	Old School
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church
	2.00 pm	Wedding of Leon Smith & Patricia Jones	Church
	6.00 pm	Church Charity Camp Out	Church

Next Sunday...

Sunday 23rd November - Sunday before Advent

Jeremiah 23.1-6

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	Roger Edmonston
9.45 am	Worship For All Holy Communion*	Readers	Young People
Pr Hymn	593i At the name of Jesus		
Gloria	The Gloria will be "Majesty" (recorded).		
Gr Hymn	732 My Jesus, my saviour		
Of Hymn	592 As the deer pants for the water		
San/Ben/Ag	Slane & Repton		
Cm Hymn	794i The King of love my shepherd is		
	838 Jesus remember me		
Fn Hymn	227 Crown him with many crowns		

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

Notices and Parish News...

- **A message from our new Verger, Helen Loosley:** As the new Verger at Holy Trinity Church, I'm delighted to join this wonderful community and to help care for our beautiful church. My hope is to help create a warm and welcoming space for everyone - whether you've been part of Holy Trinity for many years or are visiting for the first time - and to foster a sense of peace and belonging for all who come through our doors. I look forward to meeting you all personally over the coming weeks.
- **Fr Peter Sutton** will be licensed by Bishop Ruth as Associate Priest in this Benefice with responsibility for St Mary Magdalene, Bolney on Monday 8th December 2025 at 5.30 pm at St Mary Magdalene in Bolney. Please do come and support Fr Petr as he takes up his new ministry with us in the benefice.
- **Lunch "n" Linger** will take place at the Old School on **Thursday 27th November 2025**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**, the menu is Sausage, peas & Mash (vegetarian version also available) and for dessert fruit salad or tray bake, if you would like a vegetarian option, please let us know. 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 (Monday, 24th October).
- **Volunteers Needed for the Christmas Tree Festival** - We're looking for a few more helping hands to make this year's Festival run smoothly! There are plenty of ways to get involved — from setting up and stewarding to serving refreshments or helping with the clear-up afterwards. If you can spare just a couple of hours, please fill in a volunteer form and return it as soon as possible so we can organise the rota. Forms are available in church or on the CTF website. We're also in need of **homemade cakes** for our refreshments stall. If you can bake something, please sign up on the list in church or contact Eunice at eunice1569@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your support — it really makes all the difference!
- **Cuckfield & Bolney Men's Group Activities** - On Tuesday 18th November 7.30-9.30 pm for our usual Pizza & Skittles evening at the Bull in Henfield Please email Clive clivesimmonds@btinternet.com to confirm your attendance. There is no meeting in December.
- 2025 marks **30 years since The Old School opened** as Cuckfield's community hub. We're creating a new time capsule to be buried on Sunday 14th December at 11.30am - please share your photos or ideas with the Parish Office or email reader@holyltrinitycuckfield.org.
- **Bereavement Café - A Space to Talk, Listen, and Simply Be** - If you've experienced the loss of someone close, you are warmly invited to our Bereavement Café-a gentle, welcoming space to sit, share, or simply be. Whether you feel like talking or prefer quiet companionship, this is a place of understanding and care. Grief can feel isolating, but gathering with others who are walking a similar path can bring comfort and connection. Over tea and coffee, we offer space for gentle conversation and quiet presence. Our first Bereavement Café will be held on **Tuesday 9th December, 2pm-4pm** at The Old School, Committee Room (opposite Holy Trinity Church). It will continue the Second Tuesday of each month, at the same time and place. For more information, please email the Revd Stephen Caple pastoral-care@holyltrinitycuckfield.org or the Parish Office: 01444 456461
- The **Bishop's Certificate** is being piloted from January 2026 in various locations. The Bishop's Certificate is an exciting opportunity for lay people across the diocese to deepen and grow in their understanding of Christian faith. Whether you're exploring lay ministry or seeking to enrich your discipleship, this course is designed to support and inspire you. **Course Overview** - Duration: 20 weeks + 3 study days, over three terms, **Start Date: January 2026**, Church of the Ascension, Vale Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 4JS. Start date Wednesday 28th January 7.15pm - 9pm. All details are also on the Chichester Diocese website - **Bishop's Certificate - Diocese of Chichester**
- **Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield **last market of the year will take place on December 13th from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. 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.
- **SAVE THE DATE! Flowers for Christmas. Wednesday 15 December 2025, 12.00 pm** in church. Come and enjoy an inspirational demonstration of festive flower arrangements with local florist Belinda from Chez Fleur. Tickets £8 with light lunch included. Limited places available, secure your place and book a ticket at following this link: <https://cuckfieldandbolneybenefice.churchsuite.com/events/xbzljn6n> or scan the QR code.



- **Coat and Jumper collection** It's getting cold so we will be holding a coat and jumper collection on **Saturday 29th Nov 9-12am**. Please bring clean items, in good condition to church and we will distribute to the homeless and refugees in Crawley. Hats, scarves, socks and children's coats and jumpers also needed. We will also be collecting items for **Christmas food hampers** at the same time, to be given to local disadvantaged families via **FSW** in the hope of making Christmas a little special. If you could also provide a little luxury item for this that would be most welcome. Thank you for your generosity The Engage Team.
- **Looking forward to Advent and Christmas 2026 at Holy Trinity Cuckfield** - a season of hope, light, and joy for all ages. Our celebrations begin on **Sunday 30 November at 6.00 pm** with a beautiful candlelit Advent Carol Service of readings and music. On **Sunday 7 December at 9.45 am** we hold our Toy Service during the Eucharist, part of the Christmas Tree Festival weekend - please bring new, unwrapped toys for children in need. On **Sunday 14 December at 9.45 am** Bishop Ruth will preside and preach at the Parish Eucharist, and at 6.00 pm the Choir of Holy Trinity sings a traditional service of Lessons and Carols at St Mary Magdalene, Bolney. On **Monday 15 December at 7.30 pm** we host a special Carol Service for the Royal British Legion and Sussex Army Cadet Force. Our traditional candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols follow on **Sunday 21 December at 6.00 pm**. On Christmas Eve, **Wednesday 24 December**, we have Crib Services at 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm for families and children, followed by Midnight Mass at 11.15 pm. On **Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December**, join us at 9.45 am for our Festal Eucharist celebrating the birth of Christ, and on **Sunday 4 January at 6.00 pm** we conclude the season with a Choral Service for Epiphany marking the visit of the Magi and the revelation of Christ to the nations.

Prayers...

Those to be married: Leon Smith & Patricia Jones

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Eileen McDougall, Philip Chapman, Judith Aspinall, Rev'd Stephen Caple

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, Valerie Poxon, Sally Williams

The recently departed and those who mourn:

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 17th Jean Doublebeiss, Phil Goodwin, Anthony (Tony) Graham Giles 2019, 18th Enid, Sheila Sanchc, Phyllis Violet Brinley Codd 2004, 19th Cicely Selby 1995, Roderic James 1999, David Pardey 2001, Cyril Thomas Carter 2010, Juliet Pegler 2017, 20th Elsie Dean 1994, Gertrude Mary Grainger 2005, 21st Phyllis Smale, Alfred Thomas Humphries 2006, Brian Gehlcken 2015, Rodney Guy Berkeley 2020, 22nd Derek Ernest Tidey 2011, 23rd George Pinney 2004, Colin Shivers Stockton 2006, Jaqueline Clinton 2012

Praying through the week...

Mon 17 Nov – As we recall the International Day for Tolerance, we pray for greater understanding between peoples and cultures. We remember the Royal British Legion, asking that they may know God's hope and comfort.

Tue 18 Nov – On the World Day for the Prevention and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, we pray for all victims and survivors, for protection, justice and access to compassionate support. We pray for leaders working to end abuse. Locally, we pray for the Rugby Club, for well-being, friendship and kindness.

Wed 19 Nov – On World Toilet Day, we pray for all who lack safe water and sanitation, and for the organisations working to provide it. We remember communities affected by disease, poverty and climate challenges. Locally, we pray for the people of Ruthven Close.

Thu 20 Nov – On World Children's Day, we pray for children everywhere: for safety, dignity, education and care. Locally, we pray for the people of Ryecroft Road, that they may know the beauty and joy of God's creation.

Fri 21 Nov – We give thanks for all who work in medicine and caring professions, for their skill, patience and compassion. We pray for young people entering these fields. Locally, we pray for the people of South Street, for peace and well-being.

Sat 22 Nov – As we look to St Clement's Day, we pray for steadfast faith, unity and cooperation in our communities. Locally, we pray for the people of Sparks Lane, giving thanks for all they contribute to family and community life.

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