

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Christ the King

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

George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community, wrote: 'Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on a town garbage heap.' This is our God, who shows his power both in the crib and on the cross. What sort of power does this king wield? It is vulnerable, suffering and redemptive love, the power of love which subverts all the love of power in the world. It takes one of the criminals to recognize this and receive an amazing response from Jesus: 'today you will be with me in Paradise'.

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 23rd November - Sunday before Advent

Jeremiah 23.1-6
Colossians 1.11-20
Luke 23.33-43
Roger Edmonston

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Reader

9.45 am Worship For All Holy Communion*

Reader

Young People

Pr Hymn 593i At the name of Jesus
Gloria "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 homepage

First Reading

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Woe to the shepherds who have scattered God's sheep

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: it is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah

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will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Second Reading

Colossians 1.11-20

God has rescued us from the powers of darkness; Christ is supreme in all creation

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel

Luke 23.33-43

Crucifixion at Golgotha with the penitent thief

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This Week

24/11 Mon	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Monday Afternoon Course	
	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
26/11 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion*	Daniel 5.1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
		followed by coffee and cake	Luke 21.12-19
	5.00 pm	Clergy Surgery	Old School
	7.00 pm	Eucharist PCC	Church
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Old School
27/11 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	Daniel 6.12-end
			Luke 21.20-28
	12.30 pm	Lunch "n" Linger	Old School
28/11 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Daniel 7.2-14
			Luke 21.29-33
	6.00 pm	Choir Club	Church
	6.00 pm	Fuse Youth Club	Old School
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church
29/11 Sat	9.00 am	Winter jumper & coat collection	Church
	7.00 pm	Ensemble Reza Concert	Church

Next Sunday...

Sunday 30th November - 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2.1-5
Romans 13.11-end
Matthew 24.36-44

8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Reader	Graham Johnson
9.45 am	Parish Eucharist (BCP)*	Readers	Mark Parker
Pr Hymn	6 v1 Advent candle lighting		Wendy Bloomer
	327ii Awake, awake fling off		
Gr Hymn	649 God of mercy, God of grace	Intercessor	Isobel Simmonds
Of Hymn	38 Hark a thrilling voice		
Anthem	Advent Prose		
Cm Hymn	33i Creator of the starry height		
	430 Bread of heaven		
Fn Hymn	41 Lo he comes with clouds		

6.00 pm	Candlelit Advent Carol Service	Genesis 1.1-5
Pr Hymn	Advent prose	Isaiah 45.1-8
Hymn 32	Come, thou redeemer of the earth	Ezekiel 47.4b-12
Anthem	O radiant dawn	Luke 1.57-68
Anthem	The King shall come	Luke 3.1-16
Anthem	Jesus Christ the apple tree	Isaiah 7.10-15
Hymn 37	Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing	The Gospel Luke 1.26-38
Hymn 46	On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry	
Hymn 39	Hills of the north rejoice	
Hymn 45	O come, O come, Emmanuel	
Anthem	Gabriel's Message	
Anthem	How shall I fitly meet thee	
Hymn 41	Lo, he comes with clouds descendin	

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

Notices and Parish News...

- **Fr Peter Sutton** will be licensed by Bishop Ruth as Associate Priest in this Benefice with responsibility for St Mary Magdalane, Bolney on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.30 pm at St Mary Magdalane 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 November)
- **Coat & Jumper Collection - Saturday 29th Nov, 9-12am** - As the weather turns colder, we're collecting good-quality coats, jumpers and children's outerwear for homeless people and refugees in Crawley. We also welcome **toiletries, socks, pants, hats, scarves, gloves, umbrellas, thermos flasks, torches and pac-a-macs** (for men and women). At the same time, we'll be gathering items for **Christmas food hampers** for local families via FSW. A small luxury item would be especially appreciated. **Thank you for your generosity - The Engage Team**
- **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!
- 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. 
- **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.

Booking for the Christmas Eve Crib Services:

Crib service 2.30 pm use this QR Code or follow this link...

<https://cuckfieldandbolneybenefice.churchsuite.com/events/7j1sld0g>



Crib Service 4.00 pm use this QR Code or follow this link:

<https://cuckfieldandbolneybenefice.churchsuite.com/events/jomxmugg>



- **Deanery Day 2026 - Art & Prayer - Saturday 7 February 2026.** The Ascension Church, Vale Road, Haywards Heath 10am-1pm. **Speaker:** Rev Charles Pickstone, former vicar of St. Laurence, Catford, London and a trustee of Art & Christianity Enquiry. He is on the editorial board of Art & Christianity, and until recently a visiting scholar at Sarum College. Charles regularly contributes articles to books and magazines on art and spirituality, as well as lecturing in the UK and abroad. He is on the board of the UK branch of AICA (the International Association of Art Critics) and is chair of the Fabric Advisory Committee of Southwark Cathedral

Prayers...

Those to be married:

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. 24th John Ashley Talbot Guest 2020, John Douglas Smith 2021, Jill Doreen Froud Rocky 2022, 25th Ambrose Upton 1993, Christopher Collins 2001, Queenie Violet Searle 2006, Janet Bradbury 2018, 27th Marjorie Harrison, Lillian Carter 1994, David John Hansom 2013, 28th Roger Coleman 1996, Seonaid Mary Collins 2006, 29th Joseph Millband, Tom Dawson 2005, 30th Madge King 1995, Douglas Albert Roy Candfield 2002, Julie Sears 2003.

Praying through the week...

Mon 24 Nov - We pray for all who suffer prejudice and discrimination. We remember the Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ movements, and all who face hostility, exclusion or danger. Locally we pray for the people of Springfield Close, that they may find joy and light.

Tue 25 Nov - On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we pray for all women and girls who face abuse. We pray for justice, accountability, and proper support for survivors. Locally we pray for Spronketts Lane.

Wed 26 Nov - On World Sustainable Transport Day, we pray for efforts to build sustainable systems that protect our planet. We pray for the people of Stairbridge Lane, giving thanks for all that is good in their lives.

Thu 27 Nov - We give thanks for writers whose work inspires, teaches and brings joy. We pray for those protecting access to books and libraries. Locally we pray for Staplefield Road, that they may feel God's loving presence.

Fri 28 Nov - As we approach the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Chemical Warfare, we pray for all affected and for renewed global commitment to peace and security. We pray for the people of Stocklands Close, that they may know God's comfort and strength.

Sat 29 Nov - On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, we pray for peace, justice and an end to suffering. We remember all who have died through war and conflict and pray for wise and compassionate leadership. Locally we pray for The Brambles, that they may know God's love around them.

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