

Sunday 28th December 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

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,
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Reflection

The threat that stalks the Holy Family and the massacre of the Innocents stand as haunting reminders of the lust for revenge to which this world is subject, this fallen world into which the Messiah came to be a sign of contradiction. Over the cradle, the cross looms - but so do love and self-sacrificing humility. In juxtaposition with the chilling destruction of young life and Herod's bloodthirsty rage is the quiet, humble, and swift obedience of Joseph. Hearing the message of God through an angel, this upright man acts quickly and unhesitatingly to rescue the saviour of the world.

Collect

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own Image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 28th December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.00 am Holy Communion

Readers:

Isaiah 63.7-9
Hebrews 2.10-end
Matthew 2.13-end
Roger Edmonston

9.45 am Said Eucharist with hymns*

Readers:

Pr Hymn 58 A great and mighty wonder
Gr Hymn 69ii In the night the sound
Of Hymn 715 Lord for the years
Anthem In the bleak mid-winter
Cm Hymn 77 Lully, lulla
456ii Now let us from this table
Fn Hymn 72 Joy to the world

Intercessor:

Olly Taylor
Christine Best
Tony Lawrence

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

First Reading

Isaiah 63.7-9

Isaiah recounts God mercy on Israel, for in his love and pity he redeemed them

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal

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falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.10-end

As Christ shared our flesh and blood, he destroys death and the devil and atones for our sins

it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel

Matthew 2.13-end

The flight to Egypt and the massacre of the innocents

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This Week

Our hardworking team will be taking a well-deserved rest after Christmas. As a result, weekday services will be suspended after Christmas and will resume on Wednesday 7 January 2025. The church will be closed on New Year's Day.

Next Sunday...

**Sunday 4th January - 2nd Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany**

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Reader:	Anthony vander Willigen
9.45 am	Said Eucharist with Hymns*		
Pr Hymn	94 As with gladness men of old	Readers:	Kate Berry
Gr Hymn	103 O worship the Lord		Tim Allen
Of Hymn	72 Joy to the world		
Cm Hymn	429 Bread is blessed & broken		
	448i I come with joy		
Fn Hymn	95 Bethlehem what greater city		
6.00 pm	Festal Choral Evensong for The Epiphany		Isaiah 60.1-9 John 2.1-11
Introit	O Morning star how fair & bright		
Hymn	59 Angels from the realms		
Responses	Reading in A		
Psalm	135 v 1-14		
Canticles	Evening Service in D (Brewer)	Readers:	Pat Montague
Anthem	In the bleak midwinter (Darke)		Rod Montague
Hymn	72 Joy to the world		
Hymn	92 As with gladness men of old		

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

Notices and Parish News...

- **Advent and Christmas 2026 at Holy Trinity Cuckfield - 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.
- **Pilgrim Gathering** - on Sunday 4th January at 2pm in the Tudor Hall. A chance to hear about our Autumn course and find out about our next one which will be in February and March 2026. Why not join us, there are 4 groups at present, but there is always room for more.
- **Prayer Partners** - If you have been praying for someone anonymously, and haven't yet let them know, please do so. A new opportunity to join the Prayer Partners scheme will be offered in the New Year.
- **Sustainability Event - Tuesday 20th January 2026** - Haywards Heath Baptist Church are hosting a special talk, *"From Scorched Earth to A Rocha"*, with Ed Walker MBE, Executive Director of A Rocha International. Join at 7.30pm at Haywards Heath Baptist Church, Sussex Road for an inspiring evening about Christian environmental action. Free entry, refreshments provided.
- **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 13th January 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@holytrinitycuckfield.org or the Parish Office: 01444 456461
- **Arts & Craft Group** - We're delighted to say that the Arts & Crafts Group will be making a very welcome return in 2026. Meeting in the Old School Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, the group offers a friendly, relaxed and creative space for all - no experience needed. Do come along for an enjoyable afternoon of creativity and companionship. All are very welcome.
- **Lunch "n" Linger** - Makes a welcome return at the Old School on **Thursday 29th January**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**, the menu is to be determined. Please let Jane know or email office@holytrinitycuckfield.org confirming your menu choices when available. We need to confirm final numbers by the Monday before the lunch (Monday, 26th January).
- **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
- **Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield local market will take place on **February 14th 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.

Prayers...

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Philip Chapman, Rev'd Stephen Caple, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Pam Sutherland

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: Olga Lydia, David Meredith

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 29th Ann Carr 2016, Eileen Gerrish 2019, 30th Peter Burrowes, Kathleen Knight 1995, Margaret Eleanor Hall 2006, Matthew James Gallagher 2019, Gladys Constantine 2023, 31st John Fisher, Harry Grieve 1995, Rosemarie Cruse 1998, John Tomkins 1999, Alan Dennis Searle 2006, Anthony Harris 2015, Dennis Bennett 1999, Earnest Palmer 1999, Margaret Page 2000, Phyllis Ruth Bowring 2007, Florence Elsie Martin 2008, Darryl McIlvride 2016, John King Skeldon 2013, 1st January Amy Tutton, Jack Small, Ronald Joseph Lower 2014, Vivian Stevens 2017. 2nd Charles Armistead, Ronald Hayes (Joe) Nye 2012, 3rd Gladys Nash 1994, John Mullens 2002, Arthur Frederick Lee 2003, Clare Marie Roberts 2005, Colin Bugden 2014, Cecile Sadd ,2019, 4th Peter Grimwade (Priest) 2005

Praying through the week...

Mon Dec 29th - We pray for all feeling stuck in a legal system, unable to cope with the pressures and demands. We pray for all involved in working for justice; we pray for all waiting for justice. We pray for those who feel unheard or confused, and for those with little access to legal support and advice. We pray locally, for the people of Barrowfield, that they may have a sense of God's love and creation around them.

Tue Dec 30th - We pray for all who live and all who work in care homes. We pray for skills, for humour, for patience, understanding and compassion. We pray that the rights and dignity of all are respected and maintained in our society. We pray for the people of Bennetts that they feel the security of a safe, welcoming neighbourhood.

Wed Dec 31st - We pray for those, who feel low, despondent or despairing; those for whom the party atmosphere of New Year's Eve serves to isolate them further or feel more disconnected. We pray for those who will be working, coping with the heightened emotions or desperation of people in their bars, clubs, restaurants. We pray for all who seek to alleviate the suffering and loneliness of others. We pray for those working and responding to emergency or accident situations. We pray for the people of Bevan Bank, that they may feel the cheer and hospitality of the Christmas season.

Thu Jan 1st - New Year's Day. We pray for all who are hoping for new beginnings or facing new elements or stages in their lives; for those new to a school, class, home, country, job or role; for those having to adapt to new circumstances; we pray for strength, support and healing. We pray for our government and a new year of wise, skilled, compassionate leadership. We pray locally for the people of Bishopstone Lane, that they may have a sense of the wonder and diversity of God's creation.

Fri Jan 2nd - We pray for all who have suffered and are suffering now from domestic abuse. We pray that they are given the strength and support to find a way to safety and renewed self-esteem. We pray for the perpetrators of domestic abuse, that they too find the courage and self-awareness to own the part they play, and enable them to seek help. We pray for those, who in daily life continue to casually dismiss and undermine women, children and all situations of domestic abuse. Locally we pray for Blunden Drive that they may feel the joy, security and value of belonging within a caring and supportive community.

Sat Jan 3rd - We look to World Braille Day (4th) and pray for those living with disabilities of all kinds. We give thanks for all those who work to encourage and enable greater independence and flourishing of skills and self-esteem. Locally we pray for the people of Blunts Wood Crescent, that they may have a sense of being cherished, and that they too may feel able to be loving towards others this day.

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