

Sunday 11th January 2026

Baptism of Christ

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 the gospel accounts, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice from heaven make Jesus' baptism remarkable. Matthew adds detail of the prior exchange between Jesus and John over precedence which further emphasizes the distinctiveness of the occasion. It is a radical act of humility as the Son of God fully inhabits his humanity. However, to focus too closely on what sets Jesus apart risks distracting us from the equally radical and humbling truth that baptism is the highest vocation of each and every one of us, as we are called by name and proclaimed as precious in God's sight.

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 11th January - The Baptism of Christ

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Readers:	Isaiah 42.1-9 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-end Charles Solomon James Sanders
9.45 am	Parish Eucharist*	Readers:	Eileen Caple Peter Graydon
Pr Hymn	99 Hail to the Lord's v1-4	Intercessor:	Caroline Currer
Gr Hymn	109 When Jesus comes		
Of Hymn	104 Songs of thankfulness		
Anthem	Ye Princes that in might excel		
Cm Hymn	108 when Jesus came to Jordan		
Fn Hymn	441 Draw nigh and take		
	320 The great forerunner		

First Reading

Here is my servant, who will bring justice to the nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

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Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Second Reading

Acts 10.34-43

Jesus of Nazareth went about doing good and healing, for God was with him

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel

Matthew 3.13-end

The baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This Week

12/01 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
13/01 Tue	2.00 pm	Bereavement Cafe	Old School
14/01 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	1 Samuel 3.1-10, 19-20 Mark 1.29-39
	1.15 pm	Funeral - T/L David Meredith	Church
	7.00 pm	Eucharist PCC	Church
	7.30 pm	PCC	Old School
15/01 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	1 Samuel 4.1-11 Mark 1.40-end
	1.30 pm	Arts & Crafts Group	
16/01 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	1 Samuel 8.4-7, 10-end Mark 2.1-12
	6.00 pm	Fuse Group	Old School
	6.00 pm	Choir Club	Church
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church

Next Sunday...

Sunday 18th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)	Readers:	Graham Johnson
9.45 am	Parish Eucharist*	Readers:	Ron Tillyer Wendy Allen
Pr Hymn	223 All hail the power		
Gr Hymn	678 In Christ alone		
Of Hymn	810 Thou whose almighty word		
Anthem	The Lamb	Intercessor:	Jane Coan
Cm Hymn	451ii Just as I am		
	448i I come with joy		
Fn Hymn	422 Alleluia sing to Jesus		
6.00 pm	Choral Evensong	Readers:	Carolyn Ponder David Spear
Introit	12 Before the ending of the day		

Hymn	25 We praise you Father
Responses	Ebdon
Psalm	96
Canticles	Walmsley
Anthem	From the rising of the sun
Hymn	103 O worship the Lord
Hymn	739 Now thank we all our God

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

Notices and Parish News...

- **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
- **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.
- **Arts & Crafts 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Pilgrim Course - The Lord's Prayer** - Details of our next Pilgrim Course, based on the theme of *The Lord's Prayer*, are now available. The Monday evening home group is currently full, so we are hoping to start a new **Thursday evening group**. All other groups still have spaces, and we would love more people to join us. If you are interested, please speak to us or complete a course form, available in church.

Prayers...

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Philip Chapman, Rev'd Stephen Caple, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Pam Sutherland, Ken Sagar, Clara Spear, Mary Watts.

Those in long term need: Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, 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, Stephen Jennings, Marilyn Lloyd

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 11th Richard Halsey 2019, 12th Judith Carol Seabrook 2007, 13th Robert Jameson, John Rhodes, Tom Pritchard, Samuel Alexander McCullough 1986, Elspeth Marshall 2004, Mary (Molly) Parry 2010, Katherine Elizabeth Allen Leask (Katie Stewart) 2013, Phyllis Chatfield 2017, Anthony Edward Leader Burbidge 2022, 14th Richard Janvrin, Leonard Starbuck, Dorothy Tuffin 2016, 15th Joan Woodhams, Roger Edwin Clyffe Broome 2012, 16th Frank Stirner 2015, Rita Camp 2017, 17th Jane Annells 2000.

Praying through the week...

Mon Jan 12th - We remember the Christmas message of Christ Prince of Peace. We remember Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, as a young child with his parents fleeing a tyrannical regime in search of asylum, a place of safety. We pray for all seeking refuge, welcome and hospitality in our world today. Locally we pray for the all who live in or around Brick Lane, that they may feel the safety and generosity of stable neighbourhood.

Tue Jan 13th - We pray for the children in the UK; for their schools and teachers; for those involved in their health and social care; for those with special needs; for those with difficulties at home; for those living in poverty and inadequate housing; we pray for those fighting stigma, prejudice and ignorance. We pray that all children here are given their entitlement to a safe, loving childhood. We pray locally for the people of Broad Street, that they may feel the comfort and presence of God, throughout hardship and difficulties.

Wed Jan 14th - We pray for those who are homeless, those who are sleeping rough or in hostels or inadequate accommodation. We pray that we look for God in each person we meet and that they may see in us a reflection of God's love, mercy and joy. We pray for all charities and organisations supporting homeless people. Locally, we pray for the people of Brock End, that they may have peace and joy in their hearts.

Thu Jan 15th - We pray for all who have lost loved ones recently. May they know the strength and healing of our Heavenly Father. Locally we pray for the people of Brook Green; we pray that they may feel the comfort and presence of God in all they do and give thanks for the ways in which they enrich the community and environment around them.

Fri Jan 16th - We pray for greater interfaith connection and understanding. We pray for a greater willingness to listen to people of different faiths, and commitment to celebrate our common humanity. We pray locally for the people of Brook Street, for all their work in building up a sense of community and neighbourhood.

Sat Jan 17th - We pray for those who are sick and those living with debilitating medical conditions, that they have access to adequate, affordable health care. We pray for their families, friends, care and medical staff. We pray for expertise, skills, patience and compassion. We pray for Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts and all local youth work that they may experience the hope and comfort of God, who loves them.

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