

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

# The Conversion of St. Paul

## Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome  
to our worship!*



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### Reflection

Paul's conversion is a uniquely public affair, almost as dramatic in the telling as it must have been for the in-person witnesses. We properly mark it as a seminal event for the early church and for the disciples of Jesus in our own time. If Paul is a divisive figure, so are our attitudes to evangelism. Those reading Matthew's Gospel today will be reminded of the cost of true discipleship, though, as Jesus reassures a wary Peter, the prize of renouncing family and property will be none other than the riches of eternal life. Jesus' post-resurrection commission in the longer ending of Mark's Gospel offers evangelistic encouragement with the promise of powerful and spectacular rewards, while the message to those on the receiving end is uncompromising, forging a sharp division between the saved and the condemned. Whatever our own natural inclinations as evangelists, Paul suggests that the task to proclaim the good news to the whole creation is both urgent and beyond resistance.

### Collect

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Worship this Sunday...

**Sunday 25th January - Conversion of Paul**

Jeremiah 1.4-10

Acts 9.1-22

Matthew 19.27 - end

Roger Edmonston

**8.00 am**

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

Readers:

**9.45 am**

Pr Hymn

**Worship for all\***

Here I am to worship/Light of the world  
you stepped down

Readers/  
Intercessions:

Young People

Gloria

Gr Hymn

Of Hymn

Sanctus / Benedictus

Cm Hymn

Majesty, Worship his Majesty

We have a gospel

Amazing grace

Be Still

Come light of the world

The summons/Will you come and follow  
me

Open our eyes Lord

Immortal invisible

Fn Hymn

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

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## First Reading

Jeremiah 1.4-10

*Jeremiah was known and consecrated by God before he was born*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.' Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

## Second Reading

Acts 9.1-22

*Saul is converted by a blinding light on the road to Damascus*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## Gospel

Matthew 19.27 - end

*Anyone who leaves family and friends to follow Christ will be rewarded, but the first shall be last and last, first*  
Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

## This Week

26/01 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
28/01 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	2 Samuel 7.4-17 Mark 4.1-20
29/01 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	2 Samuel 7.18-19, 24-end Mark 4.21-25
	12.30 pm	Lunch 'n' Linger	Old School
30/01 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	2 Samuel 11.1-10, 13-17 Mark 4.26-34
	6.00 pm	Fuse Youth Group	Old School
	6.00 pm	Choir Club	Church
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church
31/01/Sat	10.00 am	PCC Away Day	St Augustine's

## Next Sunday...

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February - Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
(Candlemas)**

Malachi 3.1-5  
Hebrews 2.14-end  
Luke 2.22-40

<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (CW)</b>	Reader:	James Sanders Charles Solomon
<b>9.45 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist*</b>		
Pr Hymn	113 When candles are lit	Readers:	Susan Mayou Brian Cutler
Gr Hymn	452 Let all mortal flesh		
Of Hymn	702 Lead us heavenly Father		
Anthem	841 Jesus redeemer	Intercessor	Isobel Simmonds
Cm Hymn	429 Bread is blessed		
	398 Lord let your servant free		
Fn Hymn	721ii Love divine		
<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>		Haggai 2.1-9 John 2.18-22
Hymn	787ii Take my life and let it be		
Responses	Ferial		
Psalm	122, 132	Readers:	David Spear Carolyn Ponder
Canticles	Mag: 315; Nunc: 312		
Anthem	A Clare Benediction		
Hymn	14ii Eternal light shine in my heart		
Hymn	291 Christ is made the sure foundation		

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

**Notices and Parish News...**

• **New Worship Opportunities**

o **Abide Monthly Contemporary Worship Gathering:** You are warmly invited to the first monthly gathering of Abide, a new contemplative, contemporary worship space at 4.00 pm and the 2nd Sunday of each month. The first Gathering is on **Sunday 8 February 2025**. The theme will be Before Anything Else - The God Who Speaks Light. Set in candlelight and stillness, Abide offers a different way of worshipping - shaped by music, silence, scripture, and shared prayer rather than a formal service or long sermon. We will be led by our House Band, Guest, using a rich mix of contemporary and reflective music - from God of Wonders to modern classics such as Yellow, Fields of Gold, Saturn, and Bridge Over Troubled Water. Together we will listen for the God who speaks light before anything else - the Word present at creation and still speaking hope and wisdom today. This is a gentle, participatory space to pause, reflect, and be renewed, with prayer stations and the chance to stay afterwards for a simple shared supper. Whether you come regularly or are simply curious, you are warmly invited to experience this first gathering of Abide. If you are planning on attending, please drop Gina a line on [office@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:office@holytrinitycuckfield.org) for catering purposes.

o **Friday Morning Prayer: From Friday 6th February 2026**, the staff team and clergy are all invited to say morning prayer together in the Lady Chapel at 9.00 am. We would like to make this an open invitation for anyone to attend to pray the daily office with us once a week and to pray for the needs and concerns of the parish. No need to tell us you are coming, just come along.

- **Supporting the family of The Late Mike Gardner RIP.** A GoFundMe has been set up to support the family of Mike Gardner's after he died in a car crash. Please consider clicking the link below to contribute or share it with others who might want to help. <https://gofund.me/02a33bf4e> and <https://takethemameal.com/RUUQ3963#> This is in support for Charlotte Gardner who sadly lost her husband Mike and their 5 children who lost their father recently in a tragic car accident in Balcombe. There are 3 children at HT Primary (Reception, Year 1 and Y6) as well as 2 children at Warden Park (Year 9 and Year 10).
- **Cursillo Ultreya Gathering - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February** - All are warmly invited to an Ultreya Gathering at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield. Join us for a day of worship, fellowship and sharing, with coffee/tea from 11am, Eucharist at 12 noon, and time together over BYO lunch. You are very welcome to **drop in for any of the sessions** as suits you. Tea and cake before we leave at around 4pm. Further details from Jane Coan.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Michael Maine will be giving the lunchtime concert on **Friday, 6th February** in aid of our partner charity Tariro. Put the date in your diary so as not to miss this wonderful concert!
- **Lunch "n" Linger** - Makes a welcome return at the Old School on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**. We gather from 12.30, **lunch is served at 1.00 pm**. Please let Jane know or email [office@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:office@holytrinitycuckfield.org) confirming your menu choices which are, very mild chilli con carne with rice, or vegetable & bean chilli with rice and for dessert Iced vanilla sponge or fruit pot. We need to confirm final numbers by the Monday before the lunch (Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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

- **Haywards Heath Eco Fair** - Saturday 28 February, 9.30am-12.30pm at Haywards Heath Baptist Church; free entry, refreshments provided, just turn up.
- **Cuckfield Local Market** - Holy Trinity Cuckfield local market will take place on **February 14<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Bereavement Café** - A gentle, welcoming space to talk, listen, or simply be. If you have experienced loss, you are warmly invited to join others for understanding, quiet companionship, and care over tea and coffee. The next café is on **Tuesday 10th February 2-4pm**, at **The Old School, Committee Room**, and meets on the **second Tuesday of each month**. For more information, contact **Revd Stephen Caple** ([pastoral-care@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:pastoral-care@holytrinitycuckfield.org)) or the **Parish Office** on 01444 456461
- **Old School has a new website** - for bookings & information please visit: [www.oldschoolcuckfield.com](http://www.oldschoolcuckfield.com)

### 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, Daphne Stuart.

**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:** Stephen Jennings, Sue Guy-Jones, Tesser Boyer

**Those whose year's mind falls at this time.** 25<sup>th</sup> Beryl Hodges 2003, Phyllis Ellen Choppin 2012, 26<sup>th</sup> Joyce Sears, Joan Nash, Mervyn Adams 2002, Bernard Godsmark 2010, Vera Chandler 2019, 27<sup>th</sup> Roger Kirkbell, Frank Hemstead 1999, Frances Elfreda Gunston 2005, Keith Morgan, 28<sup>th</sup> Sybill Cheesman, Deborah Robbyns, Hilda Saunders, Clarence (Charles) Mathers 2016, 29<sup>th</sup> Edith Stopes, 30<sup>th</sup> Margaret Wratten

### Praying through the week...

**Mon 26 Jan** - On the International Day of Clean Energy, we pray for all working towards cleaner, fairer energy through investment, commitment and education. We pray for climate activists across the world who speak out with courage to protect the environment and vulnerable communities. Locally, we pray for those on Bylanes Close, and for all in our parish who are struggling with financial pressures or debt.

**Tue 27 Jan** - As we commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, we pray for the brokenness of our world, where discrimination, oppression and violence persist. We pray for all those suffering through conflict, torture and genocide, and for organisations such as Amnesty International that work to bring truth and accountability. Locally, we pray for the people of Bylanes Crescent, that they may know God's loving presence, especially in times of sadness or isolation.

**Wed 28 Jan** - On the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence, we pray for a renewed commitment to dialogue and understanding across divisions. We pray for wisdom and integrity in national and international leaders, mindful of the words they use, the fears they stir, and the decisions they make on behalf of others. Locally, we pray for the people of Callender Walk.

**Thu 29 Jan** - We give thanks for wild birds and the beauty and joy they bring into our lives. We pray for the RSPB and all organisations working to protect habitats, prevent cruelty, and safeguard endangered species. Locally, we pray for the people of Chapel Road, that they may have a deep sense of God's love in creation around them.

**Fri 30 Jan** - We pray for storytellers across the world, and for the wisdom to listen deeply and learn from one another. Locally, we pray for Chapelfields, giving thanks for neighbours who look out for one another and help to build a sense of care, safety and belonging.

**Sat 31 Jan** - We pray for all who continue to hope amid sorrow, violence and pain. We ask for the courage to imagine and work towards a world shaped by God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. Locally, we pray for the people of Charles Peel Place, that they may experience warmth, welcome and community.

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