

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

# St Valentine

**“The Gift of Love”**

## Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome  
to our worship!*



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### Reflection

St Valentine's Day often makes us think of love as feeling or romance. Today's readings invite us to something deeper. Through Hosea, God speaks of a love that teaches, carries, and stays faithful...the quiet, patient love of a parent who bends down to help a child walk. St Paul reminds us that without love, even our greatest gifts and achievements count for nothing. Love is not showy or self-seeking, but patient, kind, and enduring. It is love, he says, that truly lasts. In the Gospel, Jesus names this love as a gift we are invited to live within: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you." He calls us friends and asks us to remain in his love, letting it shape how we live and how we love others. As we approach Lent, we are reminded that before anything else, we are held in love... and called to share it.

### Collect

God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you, and you alone are the source of life and love. Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, that we may worship you now with thankful hearts and serve you always with willing minds; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

God of love, we thank you for feeding us at this table and for the gift of your faithful love. Help us to remain in the love of Christ and to bear its fruit in our lives, that we may love as we are loved; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Worship this Sunday...

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday before Lent**

**The Gift of Love - St Valentine**

**8.00 am**

**Holy Communion (CW)**

Hosea 11.1-4; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13

John 15.9-17

Reader:

Graham Johnson

**9.45 am**

**Parish Eucharist - The Gift of Love (LS)**

Pr Hymn

422 Alleluia sing to Jesus

Readers:

Evie Pinhey

Gr Hymn

454 Love is His word

Ian Walden

Of Hymn

383 Lord thy word abideth

Anthem

If ye love me

Intercessor:

Clive Simmonds

Cm Hymn

462 Soul of my Saviour

602 Blest are the pure in heart

Fn Hymn

721ii Love divine

**12.15 pm**

**Baptism**

**6.00 pm**

**Choral Evensong**

2 Kings 2.1-12; Matthew 17.9-2

Introit

Lead me Lord

Hymn

135 Take up thy cross

Responses

Ayleward

Readers:

Roger Floyd

Psalm

84

Philippa Tillyer

Canticles

Stanford

Anthem

Lord for thy tender mercy's sake

Hymn

209 Love's redeeming work

Hymn

16 God that madest earth & heaven

(LS) Live Streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page

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## First Reading

Hosea 11.1-4

### *Love that Leads and Lifts*

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

### *The Gift of Love*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## Gospel

John 15.9-17

### *The Commandment to Love*

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## This Week

16/02 Mon	11.30 am	Goldbridge Care Home	Goldbridge
	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Course	Committee Room, Old School
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Course (online)	
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Course (in person)	
17/02 Tues	1.00 pm	Funeral T/L John Osborne	Church
	4.00 pm	Pancake Party	Old School
18/02 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	Isaiah 1.10-18
			Luke 15.11-end
	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist	Joel 2.1,12-17
			2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10
19/02 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
			Deuteronomy 30.15 - end
			Luke 9.22-25
	1.30 pm	Arts and Craft Group	Church
	2.00 pm	Funeral T/L Kenneth Tingley	Church
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Course	
20/02 Fri	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Church
	11.00am	BCP Communion	Isaiah 58.1-9a
21/02 Sat			Matthew 9.14-15
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church
	10.00 am	Marriage Preparation Workshop	Old School

## Next Sunday...

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15-17. 3.1-7  
Romans 5.12-19  
Matthew 4.1-11

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader:	Roger Edmonston
9.45 am	Worship for All (LS)	Readers:	Young People
Pr Hymn	Lord for the years		
Gr Hymn	Forty days and forty nights		

Of Hymn	Dear Lord and Father
Sanctus	Be Still
Cm Hymn	Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you
	O God you search me
Fn Hymn	Lead us heavenly father

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## Notices and Parish News...

- **A New Way of Remembering Those We Have Loved and Lost** - From the beginning of Lent, names whose year's mind falls at this time will no longer be routinely printed in the pew sheet. Instead, we are offering a more personal and prayerful way of remembering those who have died. Families and friends are invited to sponsor the church flowers on the Sunday closest to a loved one's anniversary. The person being remembered will be named in the pew sheet, with the flowers given in their memory. The suggested donation is £40. To arrange this, please contact Helen Loosley at [Verger1@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:Verger1@holytrinitycuckfield.org). During Advent and Easter, names may still be included, with flowers displayed on another Sunday. We hope this provides a gentle and fitting way to honour those we hold in our hearts.
- **'Post Haste' display at Cuckfield Museum** - Cuckfield Museum reopens on 14 February with its new spring exhibition, *Post Haste*, exploring the speed, efficiency and importance of the postal system in days gone by. Using examples from the museum's collection, the display looks at Cuckfield's history as a postal town, the impact of the railways, and the vital role of letters and postcards — the emails of their day — especially during wartime. More information at [www.cuckfieldmuseum.org](http://www.cuckfieldmuseum.org)
- **Cuckfield and Bolney Men's Group** - A reminder that our Pizza and Skittles Evening is next Tuesday at the Bull in Henfield at 7.30pm. Please can you confirm your attendance and those who need a lift should meet in the Broad Street Car Park at 7pm.
- Mark the beginning of Lent on **Ash Wednesday, 18 February, with a reflective Eucharist at 7.30pm**, including the Imposition of Ashes. This service offers space for stillness, prayer, and penitence as we turn again towards God at the start of the Lenten journey. The music for the evening will include the Lent Prose, Darke's Mass in F, Attwood's Turn thy face from my sins, and hymns that reflect the depth and honesty of the season, including Forty days and forty nights, Just as I am, Jesu, lover of my soul, Drop, drop, slow tears, and Be thou my guardian. All are warmly welcome.
- **Safeguarding Foundation Information Session - Wednesday 25th February - Tudor Hall At 19.00**. This builds on the Basic Session of last October - attended by Welcomers, Coffee providers, Lesson Readers, Bell Ringers, Group Volunteers and others - some 25 in all. It includes as before a presentation, two short Videos and a chance to discuss and review Safeguarding Scenarios in a Group. Please come along to enjoy fellowship, refreshments and team building. Certificates will be issued -for more information contact Rod: [safeguarding@holytrinitycuckfield.org](mailto:safeguarding@holytrinitycuckfield.org)
- **Supporting Our Community: Near and Far** - Holy Trinity Church supports more than six charities, both locally and overseas. In February, Rev'd Michael Maine's lunchtime organ recital raised **£1,305.50** for Tariro, supporting vulnerable young people in Zimbabwe — adding to over **£2,000** already raised last November. In December, crafts sold at Cuckfield Market raised **£1,233.01** for Samara's Aid, providing medical and humanitarian aid in Syria and the Middle East. Our March fundraising will support Umara Uganda, helping bring hope and education to children. Closer to home, we continue to support Crawley Open House, Family Support Work, Happy Baby Community, and our local food bank throughout the year. *Thank you for your generosity — together we are making a real difference.*
- **Lunch "n" Linger** - will take place at the Old School on **Thursday 26th February**. 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, beef cottage pie or vegetarian cottage pie with peas and carrots and for dessert vanilla sponge with custard or fruit salad. We need to confirm final numbers by the Monday before the lunch (Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February)
- **Thanksgiving for the life of Valerie Ann Poxon** - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Valerie will take place on Thursday 12 March 2026 at 11.30 am, at Holy Trinity followed by a reception in the Old School. All who knew and loved Valerie are warmly invited to come together to give thanks for her life and to commend her to the eternal love and mercy of God.
- A **Prayer Partners box** will be available at the church entrance - please add your name and take a name to pray for throughout the year. Please see posters or speak to Jane Coan for more information
- **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 March 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
- **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.
- **Haywards Heath Eco Fair - Saturday 28 February, 9.30am-12.30pm** at Haywards Heath Baptist Church; free entry, refreshments provided, just turn up.

- **“Abide” Monthly Contemporary Worship Gathering:** The next monthly gathering of Abide, our new contemplative, contemporary worship space at 4.00 pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month will be on **Sunday 8 March 2025**. We will be led by our House Band, Guest, using a rich mix of contemporary and reflective 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.
- **The New Sussex Singers** return to Holy Trinity, Cuckfield with Reflections of Light, a richly varied choral concert exploring themes of light, mystery, and joy. The concert takes place on **Saturday 14 March 2026 at 7.00 pm**. Tickets are £16, with a concessionary price of £5 for under 16s and students. Tickets can be booked online at [www.newsussexsingers.co.uk](http://www.newsussexsingers.co.uk). All are warmly invited to this evening of beautiful and reflective music.
- **Friday Morning Prayer:** Our Friday Morning Prayer is now underway. The staff team and clergy meet each Friday at **9.00am in the Lady Chapel** to say Morning Prayer (the Daily Office), and this is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us. It's a quiet and prayerful way to begin the day, and to pray together for the needs and concerns of the parish. No need to let us know you're coming - just come along.
- **The Quiet Revival: Myth memory or movement?** A symposium in Cambridge on **March 21<sup>st</sup>** available on-line is the short description of the apparent increase in the number of young adults, particularly men attending church, not only in Britain but in Finland and Sweden as well. To find out more enter quiet revival in your search engine or go to <https://simonjcross.substack.com> and search quiet revival or ask Jonathan Berry to email links
- **Save the date: Italian Evening and Quiz** Wednesday, **11th March 6.30pm Tudor Hall**. A fun evening with great food!

### Prayers...

**Those in immediate need:** Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Eileen Knight, Philip Chapman, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Pam Sutherland, Mary Watts, Daphne Stuart, Libby Heald

**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, Sally Williams

**The recently departed and those who mourn:** Kenneth Tingley, John Osborne, Valerie Poxon, Paul Duffy

**Those whose year's mind falls at this time.** 15<sup>th</sup> Mary Lisle 1997, Ruby Emma Murrell 1999, Frances Vera Barrett 2005, Jean Douglas 2006, Gladys May Smith 2007, 16<sup>th</sup> James Law Forsyth 2005, John Reginald Cyril Bourne 2005, 17<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Smith 2000, Janet Inch 2002, Alan Page 2002, Mary Eleanor Harris 2009, Michael John Gower Sadd 2013, Harold Selwyn Chandler 2021, 18<sup>th</sup> Thelma Dixon 2017, Sidnall William Stenning 1983, 19<sup>th</sup> Gladys Webb 1993, Barbara Susanne Hastings 2007, Eleanor Springall 2011, Betty Winifred Fry 2013, 20<sup>th</sup> Ronald Alfred John Middleton MBE 2004,

### Praying through the week...

**Mon 16 Feb** - We pray for birds and wildlife, and for those working to protect habitats and endangered species. We give thanks for organisations such as the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology. Locally, we pray for the cricket club community.

**Tue 17 Feb (Shrove Tuesday)** - As we prepare for Lent, we give thanks for God's forgiveness and pray for humility and hope. Locally, we pray for the people of Cross Colwood Lane.

**Wed 18 Feb (Ash Wednesday)** - We pray for space and stillness as Lent begins, and for all attending the Ash Wednesday service. May we see, love and follow Christ more closely. Locally, we pray for the people of Crossways.

**Thu 19 Feb** - We pray for volunteers supporting those who are homeless and give thanks for their compassion. Locally, we pray for those living on Crouch Fields.

**Fri 20 Feb** - We pray for refugees and asylum seekers, and for all who offer welcome and support. May our hearts remain open in love. Locally, we pray for the people of Crouchlands Farm.

**Sat 21 Feb** - We pray for justice, responsibility and compassion in tackling poverty and inequality. Locally, we pray for the people of Cuckfield Baptist Church.

### Contacts

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