

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

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 Palm Sunday Gospel readings (both the Liturgy of the Palms and the Liturgy of the Passion) the crowds play a significant role: they acclaim Jesus as the Son of David, the one who comes in the name of the Lord; then they shout for his condemnation and execution. As we enter into the Holy Week story we do so not merely as witnesses, but as participants, given a voice to 'say what we see' and testify to who Jesus is. Our responses will also testify to who we are.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

9.45 am Festal Eucharist for Palm Sunday (LS)

Setting	Thorne
Processional	159 All glory laud & honour
Gradual	163 There's a man riding in
Offertory	811 Thou didst leave thy throne
Anthem	O Saviour of the world
Communion	147 My song is love unknown; 423 And now, O Father, mindful of the love
Final	161 Ride on, ride on

6.00pm Palms & Passion (followed by refreshments)

Hymn	This is the night, dear friends for weeping
Anthem	The Feast of Palms (Bullard)
Hymn	Drop, drop slow tears
Anthem	O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
Hymn	When I survey the wonderous cross
Anthem	Take up thy cross (Corp)
Anthem	Were you there?
Hymn	O Sacred head
Anthem	God so loved the world (Chilcott)
Hymn	My song is love unknown

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

Isaiah 50.4-9a, Philippians 2.5-11,
Matthew 27.11-54
Reader: Graham Johnson

Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21.1-11
Epistle: Philippians 2.5-11
Dramatised Passion: Matthew 26.14-27.end)

Intercessor: Caroline Curren

Readers: Olly Taylor-Wyatt
Christine Best
Tony Lawrence
Jane Coan

First Reading

The Suffering Servant's humiliation and vindication

Isaiah 50.4-9a

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The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Second Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

Christ emptied himself to die on the cross; every knee should bow and confess him Lord

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

Matthew 27.11-54

The Passion narrative abridged

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!' So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Holy Week

30/03 Mon	All day	Easter Trail	
	7.30 pm	Pilgrim Course	Home Church
	9.00 pm	Sung Compline for Holy Week	
31/03 Tue	All day	Easter Trail	
	9.30 am	Heavenly Hugs Parent and Toddler Group	Old School
	1.00 pm	Easter Fun Day	
	9.00 pm	Sung Compline for Holy Week	Church
01/04 Wed	All day	Easter Trail	
	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	Isaiah 50.4-9a, Hebrews 12.1-3, John 13.21-32
	9.00 pm	Sung Compline for Holy Week	Church
02/04 Thurs	All day	Easter Trail	

	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	Leviticus 16.2-24, Luke 23.1-25
	1.30 pm	Arts and Craft Group	Old School
	8.00 pm	The Supper of the Lord & Vigil	Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14; 1Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35
03/04 Fri	All day	Easter Trail	Church
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	
	12.00 pm	At the foot of the cross	
	12.00 pm	Easter Experience	
	2.00 pm	Liturgy for Good Friday	
04/04 Sat	All day	Easter Trail	
	8.00 pm	Easter Vigil (LS)	

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Next Sunday...

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3.1-4;
John 20.1-18

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Reader: Graham Johnson

9.45 am Festal Eucharist for Easter Day (LS)

Setting Ode to joy, Slane, Repton
 Processional 205 Jesus Christ is risen today
 Gradual 216 The day of resurrection
 Offertory 203 Good Christians all rejoice
 Anthem This joyful Eastertide
 Communion 209 Loves redeeming work is done
 204 If Christ had not been raised
 Final 218 Thine be the glory
 Hallelujah chorus (Handel Messiah)

Readers: Nick Jones
Christine Best
 Intercessor: Jane Coan

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Notices and Parish News...

Good Friday - Please note that the usual 11am service on Friday 3rd April will not be taking place due to "At the foot of the cross" taking place at 12:00pm and Good Friday Liturgy at 2.00pm

Services in Easter week - Please note that there will be a reduced pattern of services during Easter Week. **Holy Communion will take place on Wednesday 8 April**, but there will be **no services on Thursday 9 April or Friday 10 April**.

Everyday Faith - A Lenten Pattern of Prayer - This Lent you are warmly invited to join Fr Daniel in a simple daily rhythm of prayer using Everyday Faith, the Church of England's devotional resource. Each day offers a short Bible reading, reflection, prayer and music - a gentle way to pause and attend to God's presence. Find out more and download the app : <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

Join us as we journey through **Holy Week to Easter**. Our observance begins on Palm Sunday, 29 March, with the Parish Festal Eucharist at 9.45am and Palms and Passion: The Way of the Cross at 6.00pm. Compline will be said at 9.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, 2 April, we gather at 8.00pm for the Supper of the Lord and Vigil until midnight. On Good Friday, 3 April, services are at 12 noon, At the Foot of the Cross, and at 2.00pm, the Good Friday Liturgy, followed by hot cross buns. The Easter Vigil takes place on Saturday at 8.00pm. Then on Easter Day, Sunday 5 April, we celebrate the Festal Eucharist at 9.45am, followed by fizz and refreshments.

Family Easter Events at Holy Trinity - All families are warmly invited to join our Easter activities: **Easter Trail** (30 March - 5 April, churchyard, open daily) - Follow the clues and discover a hidden message with a sweet reward. **Easter Fun Day** (Tues 31 March, 1-4pm) - Bouncy castle, egg hunts, crafts, games and farm animals. **Good Friday - Experience Easter** (Fri 3 April, 12-3pm, Tudor Hall) - Crafts, storytelling and creating an Easter garden, finishing with hot cross buns. ; **Easter Sunday** (5 April) - 9.45am Festal Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at 11.15am. **Family Dog Walk** (Tues 7 April, 2-4pm) - A relaxed walk in New England Woods (dogs welcome but not required). **Family Film Night - Bambi** (Thurs 9 April, 6-9pm) - Film, food and a cosy evening together. See posters or contact **Toby** with any questions at toby@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

Do Something for Lent - Rather than give something up, consider donating a weekly food or household item. This week the suggested item is pasta or rice. "Pasta or rice.....that would be nice!

Do you have furniture, curtains or rugs for a local Refugee family who have moved into unfurnished accommodation and have nothing. Please see Hilary.

We will be supporting the Cuckfield Stroke Association for our Fifth Sunday Charity this month.

Lunch "n" Linger - Thursday 30 April 2026. The Old School - gather from 12.30pm, lunch at 1.00pm. Menu: Roast pork with gravy or vegetable wellington with carrot & green beans and roast potatoes, with treacle & pear ginger cake and custard or fruit salad Please book with Jane or email office@holytrinitycuckfield.org by Monday 23 March.

Thursday Arts and Craft Group are knitting and crocheting for local charities. If anyone has any yarn or needles to spare we would be most grateful. Donations can be left in the container in the Church porch, or at the group on the first and third Thursday's of the month. 2-4pm.

Mens Group - Upcoming social events: **Meal at the Eight Bells, Bolney - Tuesday 21 April**, and **Skittles at The Bull, Henfield - Tuesday 19 May**. Please confirm your attendance. We also hope to join the **Taverners at Cuckfield Cricket Club** in June or July once their programme is released.

Confirmation Preparation - Preparation begins after Easter with five sessions (April-June) ahead of the Confirmation Service on Monday 29 June at 7.00pm. If interested, please contact Clive Simmonds: Reader@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

Now save the date for a Paint Night! Thursday, 23rd April 7pm £10 a head. Follow guided steps to create a masterpiece! Includes refreshments.

Bereavement Café - A gentle space for those who have experienced loss. Next meeting: Tuesday 14th April, 2-4pm, Old School Committee Room. Contact Revd Stephen Caple: pastoral-care@holyltrinitycuckfield.org.

Pilgrim Course - The Lord's Prayer - Our next Pilgrim Course will start after Easter details will be available soon. Please speak to us or complete a form in church.

Heavenly Hugs - Parent/Carer, Toddler & Baby Group - Launched in February and already a great success. Tuesday's at 9.30am in the Old School, £3.50 per family. More information is available on the website: www.oldschoolcuckfield.com/heavenly-hugs

Garden of Gethsemane Installation - For Maundy Thursday we are creating a small Garden of Gethsemane in the Lady Chapel. Please donate portable potted plants if you can. The garden will be set up on **Wednesday 1 April** after the 10.30am Eucharist. Plants can be taken home after Easter. Contact Eileen Caple or office@holyltrinitycuckfield.org.

Abide - Contemporary Worship Gathering. Our monthly contemplative worship gathering followed by a simple supper takes place at **4.00pm on Sunday 12th April**. A mix of contemporary and reflective music. Please email Gina (office@holyltrinitycuckfield.org) if you plan to attend.

Help Our Voices Shine - New Choir Robes Appeal - After nearly 35 years our choir robes need replacing. We are raising £12,000 to provide robes for our adult and junior choirs. You can donate, sponsor a robe in memory of someone, attend fundraising events or share the appeal. Thank you for helping our music flourish.



Plant & Seed Sale - Cuckoo Fayre (4th May) - If you've sown a few too many seeds or find yourself with spare seedlings, we'd love your donations! Or, if you're just about to start planting, perhaps grow a few extra for Holy Trinity's stall at the Cuckoo Fayre. All proceeds will support our community garden project. For more information, please contact Helen Loosley: Verger1@holyltrinitycuckfield.org

Save the Date: Parish Pilgrimage & Retreat - We are planning a parish pilgrimage and retreat to the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, from **Friday 25th to Sunday 27th September 2026**. This Anglican religious community in West Yorkshire is a place of prayer, worship, and theological formation, and holds a special connection for us, as both of your last two vicars trained for the priesthood there. The visit will also deepen our links with Fr Nicholas and Tariro, the charity he founded to support deprived and orphaned teenagers in Zimbabwe, reminding us that a life of prayer is always bound up with a life of service. The weekend will offer space to step back from the pace of daily life, to share in the Community's rhythm of prayer, and to spend time together as a parish. Places will be limited, so if you may be interested, please do register your early interest with Revd Elaine Dando (evd.macrina@btinternet.com). Further details will follow.

Prayers...

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Philip Chapman, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Pam Sutherland, 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, Sally Williams

The recently departed and those who mourn: Yaraslav Gavrilv

Prayer Intentions for Holy Week

Monday of Holy Week (30 March) - Lord Jesus, as you were anointed with costly love, teach us to offer ourselves to you not sparingly but wholeheartedly. Free us from the need to measure or hold back, and help us to honour you in the poor, the overlooked, and those in whom your presence is easily missed. Shape our lives as a generous response to your grace. Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week (31 March) - Lord Jesus, in the face of confusion, fear, and betrayal, you remained steadfast in your purpose. Strengthen all who struggle with doubt or disappointment, and sustain your Church when faith is tested. Help us to walk in your light while we have the light, trusting you even when the way ahead is unclear. Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week (1 April) - Merciful Lord, you know the frailty and contradiction of the human heart. Where there is sin, bring forgiveness; where there is guilt, bring healing; and where there is division, bring reconciliation. Turn us again to you, that we may not despair of ourselves, but trust in your boundless mercy. Amen.

Maundy Thursday (2 April) - Lord Jesus, who loved your own to the end and knelt to wash your disciples' feet, teach us the way of humble service. Gather your Church into deeper unity around your table, and shape us by your commandment of love, that we may serve one another with grace, patience, and generosity of heart. Amen.

Good Friday (3 April) - Crucified Lord, in your suffering you have borne the weight of the world's sin and sorrow. Draw near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, to those who are oppressed, and to all who feel abandoned. As we stand at the foot of your cross, deepen our faith, enlarge our compassion, and hold us in the mystery of your redeeming love. Amen.

Holy Saturday (4 April) - God of the silent tomb, in the stillness of this day you teach us to wait and to trust. Be close to those who live with grief, uncertainty, or unanswered prayer, and sustain all who keep watch in darkness. Prepare our hearts, through patience and hope, to receive the new life you bring in the resurrection of your Son. Amen.

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