

Sunday 3rd May

5th Sunday of Easter

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

Use this QR code to make your **offering** towards our ongoing **outreach, mission and ministry**.



Reflection

Jesus presents his friends with a powerful image of abiding - that great theme of John's Gospel - in this case, abiding in a household in which there is room for everyone in all our diversity, and in which everyone can enjoy the union with God for which humanity was created. Jesus reveals his own union with the Father as a guarantee of this invitation. When God seems distant and our hearts are troubled, we can always turn to the one who is the way, the truth and the life, rediscovering that heaven is a place we can call home.

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Worship this Sunday...

Sunday 3rd May - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-end
1 Peter 2.2-10
John 14.1-14

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Reader: Anthony Van der Willigen

9.45 am Parish Eucharist (LS)

Readers: Peter Graydon
Eileen Caple

Setting Thorne
Pr Hymn 584 All my hope on God
Gr Hymn 165 An upper room
Of Hymn 208 Light's glittering morn
Cm Hymn 209 Loves redeeming work
456ii Now let us from this table
Pr Hymn 506 The church's one foundation

Intercessor: Anthony Lawrence

6.00 pm Sung Evensong

Zechariah 4.1-10
Revelation 21.1-14

Hymn 18 Light of gladness
Responses Ferial
Psalm 105 v1-15
Canticles Set B
Anthem The Lord's Prayer
Hymn 764 Peace, perfect peace
Hymn 594 Be still my soul

Readers: Pat Montague
Rod Montague

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

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First Reading

Acts 7.55-end

The stoning of Stephen

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.2-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel

John 14.1-14

'In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places'

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This Week

04/05 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group	
05/05 Tue	9.30 am	Heavenly Hugs Baby, Parent & Toddler Group	Old School
06/05 Wed	9.30 am	Heavenly Hugs Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time & Dance	Old School
	10.30 am	Holy Communion followed by coffee and cake	Acts 15.1-6 John 15.1-8
07/05 Thurs	2.00 pm	Art, Craft & Company	Old School
	9.00 am	Iona/Celtic Communion	Acts 15.7-21 John 15.9-11
08/05 Fri	1.30 pm	Arts & Craft Group	Old School
	9.00 am	Morning Prayer	Church
	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Acts 15.22-31 John 15.12-17
09/05 Sat	6.00 pm	Treble Choir Club	Church
	6.00 pm	Fuse Youth Club	Old School
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church
	9.30 am	Cuckfield Local Market	Church

Next Sunday...**Sunday 10th May - 6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17.22-31

1 Peter 3.13-end

John 14.15-21

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Readers:

Charles Solomon

9.45 am Parish Eucharist (LS)

Setting Thorne

Readers:

TBC

Pr Hymn 763i Praise to the holiest
Psalm 66 v 7-18
Gr Hymn 810 Thou whose almighty word
Of Hymn 243 Come thou holy spirit
Anthem If ye love me
Cm Hymn 454 Love is his word
432 Bread of the world
Pr Hymn 238 Come down O love divine

Intercessor:

Eileen Caple

12.00 pm Baptism

4.00 pm Abide - Contemporary Worship

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

Notices and Parish News...

Brighton Gay Men's Chorus - Heroes: On Tour, Saturday 30 May, 7:30pm - We are delighted to be hosting the Brighton Gay Men's Chorus here at Holy Trinity in a jointly promoted concert with the Cuckfield Festival. Their acclaimed show Heroes is a joyful and moving celebration of the artists and stories that have shaped LGBTQ+ life - from Bowie, Freddie Mercury and George Michael to voices and experiences still unfolding today. It promises to be an uplifting evening of music, humour and powerful storytelling, right here in the heart of our village. Tickets are £20 (£15 under 18s) and are available via ChurchSuite <https://cuckfieldandbolneybenefice.churchsuite.com/events/m5gtglus> or by scanning the QR code. Do come along - whether as a regular member of the congregation or simply for a good evening out, all are very welcome. **Booking early is advised we are expecting a high demand for tickets!**



Bishop Martin retires at the end of May, and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at tinyurl.com/next-bishop It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until May 26th. We welcome responses from everyone. Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/



Art, Craft & Company (New Group) every Wednesday, **2-5pm** (Old School - upstairs, lift available). A relaxed, self-led group for art, craft and card making. No experience needed - come along to create, share ideas, or simply enjoy the company. Free to attend. Please bring your own materials (some basics provided). Tea and biscuits available. Drop-ins very welcome.

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 Thursdays of the month. 2-4pm.

Mens Group - Upcoming social events: **Meal at the Eight Bells, Bolney - 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.

Bereavement Café - A gentle space for those who have experienced loss. Next meeting: **Tuesday 12th May, 2-4pm**, Old School Committee Room. Contact Revd Stephen Caple: pastoral-care@holytrinitycuckfield.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. **Tuesdays and Wednesday's at 9.30am** in the Old School, £3.50 per family. More information is available on the website: www.oldschoolcuckfield.com/heavenly-hugs

Abide - Contemporary Worship Gathering. Our monthly contemplative worship gathering followed by a simple supper takes place at **4.00pm on Sunday 10th May**. A mix of contemporary and reflective music. Please email Gina (office@holytrinitycuckfield.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.



Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May, is fast approaching! Come and enjoy an afternoon of tea and cake on **Wednesday, 13th May 2.30 - 5.00pm** in the Tudor Hall. All proceeds will go to the amazing work of Christian Aid, lifting people out of poverty. Pick up a devotional at the back of the church to find out more about what Christian Aid does and

the people it supports like Fridah and Belinda living in the slums of Nairobi but who with the help of Christian Aid partners have been taught how to create urban farms in their concrete and steel jungle! Truly amazing! Any offers of cakes for this event will be most welcome. Please see Hilary or Jane. Thank you.

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...

For the recently departed: Daphne Stuart

Those in immediate need: Becky Parker, Ralph Colbran, Jill Brotherton, David Meares, Mary Watts, Brian Mayou.

Those in long term need: Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen MacDougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, Yvonne Godsmark, Philip Chapman

Those in care homes: Mary Watts, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Sally Williams

Praying through the week...

Mon May 4th - We pray for all involved with the Independent State of Cuckfield Cuckoo Fair, for all involved in the organisation beforehand and volunteering on the day. We pray for a successful fund raiser and a successful community event, with fun, companionship and good weather. Locally we pray for all those connected with Princess Royal Hospital

Tue May 5th - We pray for all those living with the stresses of poverty, discrimination and conflict, which exacerbate illness and poor health conditions. We pray for all who work to create a healthier society and world, enabling people to connect, communicate and care. We pray locally for those who live in Rosemary Close.

Wed May 6th - We pray for those travelling, often hundreds of miles to reach safety, struggling still to find a place of refuge. We pray for all who flee danger, all who seek refuge. We pray for those working in refugee centres and charities like the partners of Christian Aid providing hot food, hygiene kits and warm clothes for stranded people. Locally we pray for the Cuckfield Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Thu May 7th - We pray for all who are suffering or in pain. We pray for all who minister to the sick and give thanks for the compassion, care, dedication and skills of those working in both the health and social care. We give thanks for our NHS and pray that we find ways to enable it to grow in strength and sustainability. Locally we pray all those involved with Hayward Heath Rugby Football Club.

Fri May 8th - We pray for all those suffering from stress, through work situations, family expectations, difficulties in relationships, or health problems. We pray for all involved in caring and supporting people suffering from stress.

Locally we pray for the people of Ruthven Close, that they may feel part of a warm, robust, safe environment, where all can thrive. May they sense God's presence with them, whatever they are facing.

Sat May 9th - Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War. We pray for Jewish communities in our own country and across the world, living with higher levels of fear, intimidation, ignorance and threat as anti-semitism rises, urged on by unscrupulous politicians, political parties and others. We give thanks for all who live on Rycroft Road, that they may feel the benefit of a safe, caring, neighbourly community.

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