

**First Sunday after Trinity  
Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



Dear Friends in Christ,

***‘Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’*** (Luke 8: 39)

Goodness – what a scorcher of a week it has been! I pray you have been able to enjoy something of this glorious June weather, and that you have found rest and shade from the heat. This heatwave comes hot on the heels of nationwide Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June – and what celebrations they were.

It was wonderful to have been able to dip into so many of them around the parishes and to see first-hand how our communities have joined together as one to give thanks for the reign and Christian witness of our beloved Monarch and Defender of the Faith, Queen Elizabeth II. This comes with my admiration and thanks to all who organised and contributed to so many patriotic and creative events, and to all who joined in with such good humour and gusto to commemorate Her Majesty’s 70-year reign.



As a faith community, last weekend found us celebrating Trinity Sunday at Northwood Park Farm, set in the beautiful countryside between Sparsholt and Crawley, thanks, yet again to the generosity of the Craig Harvey family. Although rain clouds threatened at one point, we were truly blessed with beautiful weather which meant we were able to hold our Holy Communion outdoors, with hay bales doubling as an altar and seating for all.

The greatest blessing was to hear an understanding of the Holy Trinity from some of our young theologians, as pupils from Sparsholt Primary School gave a thoughtful and spiritually charged account of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their sermon gave us an understanding of the idea that God is one, but can be experienced in three different Persons - the central mystery of Christian faith and life. My thanks to all of the pupils for a truly joyful service, enjoyed by one and all!



***'The Holy Trinity by Nicoletto Semitecolo'***

Sadly in this past week, our benefice has been saddened by the deaths of two of our dear friends and neighbours, Austen Hooker and Margaret Heaps. Many of you will have read dear Littleton Lad, Austen's top gardening tips in the pages of this very newsletter, and Margaret will have been known to a great number of people through her work as a City Centre Courts Chaplain across many years. Jesus told the people who saw his miraculous healing of the Gerasene man, *'Return home and tell how much God has done for you.'* In this way, just as we have seen in the faithful witness of Queen Elizabeth in her 70 year reign, so Austen and Margaret have each shone out their faith in the way they have lived their lives among us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours, in the healing grace of Christ,

Jax

**Revd Jax Machin**, Rector, The Downs Benefice

## Prayer for HMQ on her Official Birthday – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Though Her Majesty's official birthday was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> June this year, because of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations across the country, we are marking it this weekend in our benefice. This photo of her was taken at Royal Ascot in 2018, and we hope she is able to enjoy the races there this weekend.



Almighty God,  
we pray, that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,  
who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm,  
may continue to grow in every virtue,  
that, imbued with your heavenly grace,  
she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil  
and, being blessed with your favour  
may, with the royal family,  
come at last into your presence,  
reunited with her consort and husband, Prince Philip,  
through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life  
and who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **Collect Prayer for the First Sunday after Trinity**

God of truth,  
Help us to keep your law of love  
And to walk in ways of wisdom,  
That we may find true life  
In Jesus Christ your Son.



### **Luke 8:26-39 - Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man**

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” 29 For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. 30 Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who

had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

### Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> June</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm - Peace & Wholeness	8am - Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>22<sup>nd</sup> June</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>26<sup>th</sup> June</i>	Thanksgiving Service for the Fete ( <i>in the Fete Marquee</i> )		Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) <b>PLUS</b> 6pm – Spring Meditations
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> July</i>	Morning Prayer		4pm – Café Church ( <i>in the Church Room</i> )		
<i>10<sup>th</sup> July</i>			Holy Communion		Morning Prayer
<i>17<sup>th</sup> July</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm – Peace & Wholeness	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>24<sup>th</sup> July</i>			Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)

<i>27<sup>th</sup> July</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>31<sup>st</sup> July</i>		5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Holy Communion			