

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51.1–6

Even when all else fails, we can rely upon the Lord. He will enrich our barren lives, he who is our life and salvation now and eternally.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

PSALM 138

**O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the work of your hands.**

The Psalm and the Second Reading are omitted this week.



SECOND READING

Romans 12.1–8

In working together harmoniously as one body, the community best conforms to the will of God, growing closer to the authenticity of his original creation.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16.13–20

Naming is important, it describes the person and their function. Peter is given a new name to celebrate his insight, faith and his new responsibility.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymns - (AMRW):

Introit	AMRW 506 – The church's one foundation
Gradual	AMRW 246 – Holy Spirit, come, confirm us AMRW 592 – As the deer pants for the water
Offertory	AMRW 321 – Thou art the Christ, O Lord
During Communion	AMRW 634i – Firmly I believe and truly AMRW 653 – Happy are they, they that love God
After Communion	AMRW 787i – Take my life, and let it be

Today we rejoice as we welcome **Annabel and Emily** into the family of God through baptism.

May they grow in faith, hope, and love,
surrounded by the prayers and support of this
church community.-



Keep on keeping on

In the church year, we've now come to that long season – it seems to go on forever – variously called 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time'. Each of those labels tells us something about the approximately six months between Pentecost and Advent Sunday. 'Trinity' reminds us that with Pentecost, God has made Himself known to us in all His fullness as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Ordinary time' tells us that this is the season where, now armed with the insights and power of the Holy Spirit, we can revisit the life of Jesus with new eyes, new heart, see new things in the faith, see new opportunities to serve God.

Next Sunday, 30 August is
the 13th Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist: 10.30 am

with the Revd Prof Anthony Bash

Readings:

Jeremiah 15.15-21;
Romans 12.9-21;
Matthew 16.21-28

We don't take a **collection** during the service. *But offerings may be left in the plates at the back of church.* Thanks for your support!

Refreshments follow the Parish Eucharist in the Church Hall. Please join us.

Parish of St Cuthbert, Benfieldside

The Parish is currently in vacancy please contact:

Wardens: Mrs Linda Short ☎ 01207 503750/07734 355911

Mrs Carol O'Malley e-mail: carolomalley@talktalk.net

Web-site: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13511/

Facebook pages : facebook.com/benfieldside

12th SUNDAY after TRINITY

23 August 2026

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" In this Eucharist we renew our recognition of Jesus as the risen Lord, and our commitment to follow him. We rejoice in his continuing presence with us.

Eucharist: 10.30 am – We welcome the Revd Prof Anthony Bash today and the family, Godparents and friends of Annabel and Emily Smith who are to be baptised.

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith
and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.



Gospel acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. **Alleluia!**

Eucharistic Prayer E is used

*We welcome communicant members of any Christian Church to **receive communion** - people who don't receive communion are invited to receive a blessing*