



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Fourteenth Sunday after

Trinity

Sunday 13th September 2020

WELCOME

. . . . to our Church at Home resources for this Sunday. We hope you will feel connected to the life of the Church Community, with these resources. Thank you to Judy Wedderspoon for our Sunday Worship this week.

Safety Notice

The risk from the Coronovirus is still significant. The social distancing guidelines for church services are:

- Stay 2 Meters apart at all times**
- Please wear face coverings at all times in church**
- Do not engage in conversations inside the church at the beginning and end of services, but do meet each other outside**
- Always show respect and please do as the Steward asks you**
- Go straight to the seat you are asked to sit in and stay in the same place throughout the service**
- Avoid touching surfaces if possible**

Pattern of Worship at St Nicolas Church

*****NEW*** We will no longer be holding a Communion Service on Thursdays at 4.30pm to record the Sunday Service. Instead, from Sunday 6th September onwards we will be live streaming the 11am service each Sunday morning, which will then be available to watch on FaceBook and Youtube for the rest of the week.**

The pattern of Worship, in and out of Church, which we will be adopting for the foreseeable future is as follows, but before coming, please read the safety guidance below:

Sundays:

8am: Said Holy Communion (1662)

10am: Worshipping at Home (live via Zoom)

11am: Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Tuesdays:

12noon: Said Holy Communion (1662)

Thursdays:

10am: Time of led Prayer

During this time of transition, as things gradually ease, we are trying to take things slowly and safely, and are very aware that there will those of you who are not yet comfortable with coming back to church. As long as this continues, we assure you that online and printed worship for home use will continue for those who need it.

If you do have internet access, you will find the live-streamed version of a said Communion Service, with the sermon on the and on the Church Website www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk and on the St Nicolas Church Face Book page each Sunday from 11am onwards.

There is also an opportunity to join church friends for a **Virtual Afternoon Tea and Chat on Tuesdays at 4pm!** The Zoom joining code for this is ID: 804-694-233

This Week we continue to welcome Home Worshippers from the Churches at Dunsfold and Hascombe – it's a pleasure to have you join with us!

Coming to St Nicolas – Safety Guidelines:

- **If you are coming to church services you must wear a face covering.**
- **Numbers will be restricted in order that social distancing is observed. We have decided to work for now on the 2 metre rule, as we think this will be a lot safer for all of us. Bearing that in mind, we believe that we can safely accommodate 45 people in a service, in addition to the leaders and stewards. If a service reaches the limit, we regret that we will have to turn people away, but please do not arrive early to be at the front of the queue, as this would be a risk to yourself and**

others – **ideally, we would not want congregation to arrive more than 20 minutes before a service** is due to start.

- You will be asked to sit in particular spaced places (a couple from the same household will be able to sit together).
- No singing will be permitted at services at present, though at the Sunday 11am service we may listen to music.
- We will not be using any books or notice sheets – all words will be projected on screens.
- Your name and telephone number will be recorded as you come in, and in the event of a known case of Coronavirus, NHS will be given a list of those who have attended (Track and Trace).
- At Holy Communion, members of the congregation will only receive the bread and not the wine. Communion will be brought to you in your seat.
- The Choir Vestry Toilet will be available but only for emergency please, as if it is used it will need to be deep cleaned before it can be used again.
- No refreshments will be served after the service.
- Some of this will feel strange and unfamiliar, but we do ask you to show respect, and to follow the instructions of the Stewards at all time.
- **You should not come to a service if you are feeling ill.**

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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.

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: ROMANS 14 1:12

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with

contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants

saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

SERMON (*Written by Judy Wedderspoon*)

Sermon: Romans 14. 1-12

Livestream HC 13.09.20

“We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.” When I read that verse in today’s epistle, I thought “how absolutely appropriate that is to the circumstances of our world today.” Then I realised how amazingly appropriate the whole passage is to our lives today. Yet it was written almost 2000 years ago.

Paul wrote this letter in about 58 A.D. from Corinth to the Christians in Rome. He had never been to Rome but hoped one day to get there. He had not founded the Christian church in Rome. He had no immediate personal knowledge of it. But he was sure that the church there would be facing the same problems and issues as the churches which he did know, not least the church in Corinth.

Rome and Corinth had much in common, despite obvious differences. Rome was, well, Roman. Corinth was Greek. As the city centre of the Mediterranean empire, Rome had immeasurably the greater status. Corinth, in view of its strategic location, was probably the greater trading centre. But both had large multicultural communities. Both had fluctuating populations, visitors and settlers coming from all over the Empire. (Does this sound a bit familiar?) So the Christian community in each city was constantly receiving newcomers, who often had their own customs and ideas.

I used just now the word “community” which may have resonated with you. Recently Peter [Poole] preached a sermon in which he pointed out that Jesus did not come into the world to found an institution, but a community. Rutton last Sunday took that theme further when he pointed out that sin in the community affects the whole of the community.

Paul comes at this same theme from a different angle. He himself profoundly believed that in Jesus Christ we are freed from the demands, requirements and superstitions of all the various religious beliefs. But he recognised that to some persons who are “weak in the faith”, these matters could be supremely important. Christians in community must recognise this. They must make the newcomers welcome. They must not get annoyed about their insistence on particular beliefs, nor must they express ridicule or

contempt for these beliefs. No person should treat with disrespect a belief which another person holds sacred.

As one instance of these differing beliefs, Paul advises about the eating of meat. He is adamant that this must not become a reason for quarrelling and dissension. Those who truly believe that eating meat is wrong must not be judged and treated as sinners. Similarly, those who eat meat must not be judged by the vegetarians as sinners. (Doesn't this too sound a bit familiar?) Only God can judge each person for him- or herself. Judgments of these matters by human beings will disrupt and upset the community.

At the time when Paul was writing, Jews had been banned from Rome under an edict published by the Emperor Claudius in 52 A.D. Fearing persecution, most Jews had fled, including Jews who had converted to Christianity. Paul knew that his letter would therefore at least initially be read primarily by Gentiles.

So when he goes on to say that some members of the community may strongly believe that one day of the week should be kept holy, he carefully avoids mention of the Sabbath. He simply acknowledges this belief, and recognises that others may think that such importance need not attach to one particular day. Again, Paul says, do not judge. The underlying theme is the primary importance of building up the community.

“We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves.”

As I thought about this passage, I could not avoid thinking about the restrictions and demands imposed on us in our present situation, and the profound concerns about the effect and possible spread of the Covid19 virus. This has forced on most of us the realisation that we have a responsibility to the whole community, not just to each other as Christians.

I believe this to be right. So when recently I was in Sainsbury's in the late afternoon, I was masked. I noticed that all the shop assistants save for those protected by screens were also masked. Then a young couple, maybe in their twenties, came in. Neither of them was masked. Both refused to put on the masks offered them. I was surprised and shocked. Later I realised that I was judging and condemning them. Belatedly, I was ashamed.

I wondered what Paul would have said. He would have recognised the fundamental difference between our situation and the meat-eating or not meat-eating situation about which he wrote, primarily because of the uncertainty. We do not know whether wearing masks or not wearing them really makes a difference to the health of the community. It just seems that it may. So most of us are doing it.

But what about that young couple? Would it have helped or achieved anything if I, as a vulnerable person at risk, had spoken with the couple to try and persuade them to wear masks, pointing out that they were putting me, and others, at risk? Difficult, because I'm not really sure. In the event they left fairly quickly.

What I am sure Paul would have said, as he said to the Romans, was “Do not judge.” After all, what did I know about that young couple? Maybe they were both exempt?

I believe that Jesus would have been more positive. He taught us to pray “Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,” a command reinforced by today’s Gospel reading. And he further commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

That is where our responsibility to our community begins. To love, and not to condemn. May the grace of God help us to do that. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For our Bishop, Andrew, and all who sit on the Diocesan Synod.
- For all involved in ‘Messy Church’ across the country.

National and World Affairs:

- For Governments across the world
- For all members of Parliaments throughout the UK
- For all affected by Coronavirus, and for the Governments and scientists across the world, seeking to find ways of combatting the virus

Community and Family:

- We give thanks for Elise, our Parish Administrator, as she comes to the end of her time with us.
- All who live in Wyndham Crescent and Stanton Close.

The Sick and those in Need:

For Robin Burnett, Mike Ford, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, Michael Hart, Louise Harbutt, Tony Kenison, Amy Loveless, Libby O'Brien, John Parry, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Chrissie Thompson, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Henry Young *(from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Barbara Crabb, Doreen Nunney, Sally Rivett, Jacky Williams, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Paul Wiltshire, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley.*

The Departed:

All we have known and loved, John Parry, Peggy Craig, Pat Mills and Liz Hoad and from Dunsfold & Hascombe: Des Crabb

NOTICES:

Notice is given of rescheduled APCM: The Church Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm – The meeting will be in hybrid format – you will be able to come to the Church in limited numbers or take part via Zoom from the comfort and safety of your own home. More details to follow.

Parish Office: The interim Parish Administrator will be Nicola Craven-Smith from 1st October. From 18th September until then please continue to use elise@... to contact the Parish Office. This address will be redirected to Roy.

Traidcraft: Sue Knight is offering Traidcraft goods for sale by appointment or would be willing to deliver to Cranleigh on receipt of an order. She will have catalogues or you can go on line at traidcraftshop.co.uk to see the whole range and if she has to order it in, this usually takes about a week. You can pay by BACS or she will accept cheques. Call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

Paying Money to the Church: If you wish to pay any monies to St Nicolas, cheques should be made payable to 'Cranleigh PCC'

Curate Visiting: In order to gain a good understanding of our parish, our new Curate, Tim, is starting to safely visit parishioners. If you would like him to visit you, either socially distantly in your garden, on the telephone or on Zoom/Facetime, please contact him.



SEEKERS, EXPLORERS, ADVENTURERS
JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

**SEA CHURCH
EVERY SUNDAY IN
AUGUST!
11:15-11:45**

**02/08: David and Goliath
09/08: Walking on water
16/08: Feeding the 5000
23/08: Jesus and the Children
30/08: Daniel and the lion's den**

**Join us on Zoom for games,
stories, crafts, sweets, music,
puppets and prayer!**

To sign up, contact Gabrielle at 07427
748408/ Gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh
.org.uk

St Nicolas Church: During these changing times you can still keep in touch in the following ways

The Rector: 01483 800655 or email

roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Curate: 01483 276267 or email

tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Parish Office: 01483 273620 or email

elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Young People's Minister: 07427 748408

gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Church Website:

www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk and on FaceBook

Please send notices for next week to Margie Nursey at 1, Elm Cottages, Smithwood Common (01483 273693) notices@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk by **7pm on Tuesday**

MORE RESOURCES:

- DAILY HOPE The Church of England has set up a Telephone Worship Service with Hymns, Reflections and Prayers – the content changes every day and it is totally FREE TO CALL on 0800 804 8044
- Diocese of Guildford Website www.cofeguildford.org.uk/
- Premier Christian Radio www.radio.net/s/premierchristian
- Guildford Cathedral Website www.guildford-cathedral.org

- Website www.churchmissionsociety.org/
- Bible Society Website www.biblesociety.org.uk/

If you know of anybody who would like to receive a printed communication like this each week, please call us on one of the numbers above! Alternatively, with the church re-opening, if you no longer require this weekly publication delivered to you, please can you let Elise know