



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME
Epiphany 1 – Baptism of Jesus
Sunday 10th January 2021

WELCOME to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week, provided for us by The Rector.

COVID-19 – LATEST For the rest of January (and almost certainly into February), **we will only be opening the Church for live worship at 11am on Sundays – all other services are cancelled.**

In order to keep yourselves and others safe, please only come at 11am on Sunday if you are unable to access our Online Worship Resources

Do not Come to Church at all, if

- You have had a positive Covid-19 test, or are awaiting the result of one***
- You are experiencing any symptoms related to Covid***
- You have been in contact with anyone who has Covid, and have therefore been told to self-isolate***
- You have been identified as particularly vulnerable and told that you should shield***

THIS WEEK *(Events in red will be online events)*

Sunday 10th January – The Baptism of Christ:

10am **(Zoom)**: Church at Home.

11.15am **(Zoom)**: SEA Church (for young people)

*(the Zoom joining code for both of these is
ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)*

11am: Holy Communion (CW). **In Church and Livestreamed**

Sunday 17th January – Epiphany 2:

10am **(Zoom)**: Church at Home.

11.15am **(Zoom)**: SEA Church (for young people)

*(the Zoom joining code for both of these is
ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)*

11am: Holy Communion (CW). **In Church and Livestreamed**

EPIPHANY 1 – THE BAPTISM OF JESUS:

COLLECTS:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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.

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 1:4-11*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERMON (written by The Rector, Canon Roy Woodhams):

The Baptism of Jesus is one of a few incidents from his life that is recorded in all four Gospels – It is a hugely significant event, and when we read all four accounts, although we find some variations in detail, we also find that there are common threads:

- John is hesitant, and yet Jesus' baptism seems to be no accident or matter of chance, but rather, it is all part of the plan.
- It is an event which seems to be planned to serve as a springboard for Jesus, as he prepares to begin his time of active ministry.
- It's almost as though, at this point, Jesus is being 'Ordained' into ministry, in the same way that I, and Tim and Rutton, and the rest of the team here, along with countless other clergy, continue to be ordained today!

And from this point onwards it becomes Jesus mission and ministry to 'turn upside down' the old order – the old Jewish way of doing things –

and to proclaim the new Christian way of doing things – the Good News of the Christian Gospel! The event itself, is also highly significant from the fact that it tells us much about this new, Christian way of doing things.

And another reason why it is so important is not so far removed from the message of Christmas. We heard that the baby of Bethlehem would be called “*Emmanuel*” which means “*God with us.*” And now we experience a public demonstration of this truth, as here we see Jesus coming right amongst his people!

As Jesus comes to the River Jordan, he sees the gathering of people who have come to John – and in them he sees a bunch of deeply flawed humanity. And instead of distancing himself from them, he becomes one of them - he actually gets right down in the water with them, both in a metaphorical sense and also quite literally!

So, what we witness here is Jesus being alongside this motley gathering of humanity – we witness Jesus truly being ‘Emmanuel – God with us’! And yet another reason why this event is so important is because it demonstrates the heralding in of something that is new in relation to baptism, and it provides a pattern for our modern baptism services that we so often witness here in the Parish!

John has been baptising his fellow Jews and doing so with a baptism for repentance. He has been challenging people to change the direction of their lives. But with the baptism of Jesus we see much more!

While still symbolising the washing away of sins, in the baptism of Jesus, we witness the presence of the Holy Spirit as Jesus hears the voice from

heaven declaring him to be God's beloved son. And both of these things lie at the heart of Christian baptism.

Yes, there is still the turning from evil by promising to let our lives be transformed in a new direction and to be guided by God. But in Christian baptism we welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that moved over the face of the waters at creation in this morning's Old Testament reading, the one who is the greatest of enablers, still bringing life and health to the living Church today.

Baptism marks our being grafted into membership of God's family in which we are set up to be loved and strengthened, through the life of the local Church, working on behalf of the God who has created us and given us life – which is perhaps the most compelling of reasons to continue to baptise babies, rather than to follow the Biblical precedent, still supported by some Christian denominations, like the Baptist Church, of only baptising consenting, believing adults!

And, baptism not only tells us that we are loved, but it also gives us a task – or in the case of Infant Baptism, the task is handed to the care and trust of the Parents and Godparents!

Jesus was told by the heavenly voice that he was loved but the voice declaring pleasure in him, marks the fact that he also had work to do. Human resource specialists would tell us that being valued and having a purpose are significant motivating forces in our lives.

And there is plenty of both to be found in baptism - the unlimited love of God and the calling on each of us to play our part as signs of God's Kingdom of grace.

And finally, there is assurance in the baptism of Christ. The humanity of Jesus means that like us he had a need to feel assured of God's favour. And in the words of God's voice, there came that assurance.

I suspect that this moment was truly sustaining in the darker moments of Jesus' life, like the time of trial in the wilderness, and the time leading up to his crucifixion. And like Jesus we will all have the times when we need assurance, especially during those dark moments of our lives.

Baptism gives us an assurance of the reality of God's guiding presence. Not for nothing did Martin Luther, that great German reformer, who nonetheless was regularly afflicted by severe depression, in his darkest times, walk around saying repeatedly the words; *"I am baptised."*

So. The baptism of Jesus teaches us, that

- He turns upside down the old order.
- He brings us Good News
- He comes alongside his people
- He shows us the real meaning of our own baptism and our role in the life of his Church, by commissioning us into Christian action and by assuring us of our home in heaven.

OTHER SEASONAL PROVISION FOR THE SUNDAYS OF EPIPHANY:

Invitation to Confession:

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
So let us confess our sins

Introduction to the Peace:

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayer E:

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
Therefore, with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Blessing:

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For the members of the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Board of Finance, as they balance issues of mission and finance.
- For those serving on Diocesan Synod and General Synod.
- For the Diocesan Secretary (Peter Coles) and his assistant (Chris Ellis)

National and World Affairs:

- For our government and nation at this time of crisis.
- For those whose role it is to administer the delivery of Covid vaccinations around the UK.

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Alfold Road.
- For all the young people of our Church, that they may stay close to God during this time of separation.

The Sick and those in Need:

- Ray Corver, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, George Hill, Philip Jones, Amy and Dennis Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Jean Sandow, Jack Sieber, Bert and Eileen Steed, Maureen Steele, Dennis and Rosemary Talbot, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Darcy Wigfield, Angela Wild, Henry Young and Nicholas.
(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin and John Davies, Norman Edsall, William and James Mason, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Ella Tomlinson,

Jacky Williams, Bill and Tracy Wood, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith)

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, and especially Alan Chivers, Mike Ford, Daniel Gibbin, Alan Griffin, Michael Hart, Roy Miles, Phil Street, Frances Webb (*and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: James Dryland, Sheelagh Thomason, Peter Williams*)

WEEKLY NOTICES:

ZOOM CHURCH FROM HOME Please note, from the 17th of January onwards the Zoom Code will include the **Password: Church**. The Meeting ID will remain the same, but please make sure you know the Password if you would like to join us at 10am. Meeting ID: 148 785 166 Password: Church.

A MESSAGE FROM SHEELAGH AND PETER POOLE We want to say a very big "Thank you!" to everyone for the best wishes, cards and gifts that the Church Family sent to us on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. The Service on Sunday was deeply moving and helped to a great extent to make our day very special despite the current restrictions.

COMING TO CHURCH – RULES AND REGULATIONS in connection with **COVID-19** are changing fast at the moment – ******PLEASE SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 1*** Whilst our entry to National Lockdown has not significantly changed the regulations regarding Corporate worship, cases in our area are on very high, and the danger is significant. If you are aged over 70, or clinically vulnerable and are able to access our worship on-line, please consider not coming to church for the next few weeks in order to reduce the risks to yourself and others. We will make**

every effort to keep you up to date with what's happening, but it should always be remembered that our printed material may have gone out of date by the time you read it!

If you know of anyone who does not have internet, and who would like a written communication from us each week, please email:

nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk or call the Parish Office on 01483 273620. I am aware that this Christmas is going to be challenging and difficult for many people, so please feel free to contact either Nicola, or myself (roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk 01483 800655), if you have, or are aware of, any particular pastoral or practical needs during this time.

WHITE ENVELOPES: If you're a member of the white envelope weekly giving scheme, you should have received your envelopes for 2021 this week. If you haven't, please get in touch with the Church Office.

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 for any orders by BACS or she will accept cheques. Call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

KEEP IN TOUCH:

The Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams

(Day off: Monday)

Tel: 01483 800655. Email: roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

The Curate - Revd Tim Clifford Hill

(Day off: Monday)

Tel: 01483 276267. Email: tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

The Part time Curate - Revd Rutton Viccajee

(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)

Tel: 01252 910212. Email: rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Interim Administrator - Nicola Craven-Smith

(Works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30-2.30)

Tel: 01483 273620. Email: nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Young People's Minister - Gabrielle Clarke

Tel: 07427 748408. Email: gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Church Website: www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

and on Facebook.