



# St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

## WORSHIPPING AT HOME

### Epiphany 2

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**WELCOME** to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 3:

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 2:

### COLLECTS:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FIRST READING: *Psalm 139: 1-9.***

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
    you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
    and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
    O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
    and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
    it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
Where can I go from your spirit?  
    Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
    if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
    and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
    and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**GOSPEL READING: *John 1: 43-end.***

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip

called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

God of Glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

### **SERMON (written by The Rev'd Rutton Viccajee, Assistant Curate):**

John chapter 1 verse 47: Jesus says of Nathaniel, who is coming towards him for the first time: *“Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”*

So, is Nathaniel exceptional or ordinary? And what about Philip, also called by Jesus in v 43? Are these two early disciples exceptional or ordinary? And by extension, where does that leave us? For we are also called by Christ. Exceptional or ordinary? You may be reassured to know that I’m not going to ask for a show of hands quite yet!

Take Nathaniel: *“Truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”* The Greek word for truly means *certainly* it is so, you can count on it. It’s a superlative term, and it would seem to imply that Nathaniel has some

*exceptional* qualities of integrity and openness. So, is he exceptional or ordinary? Or take Philip. We don't know much about him. Except that every time he crops up in John's Gospel, he seems pretty ordinary because he always seems out of his depth! If you have time, look him up in John's Gospel, and you will see what I mean. If he's not floundering, he certainly treading water. I don't think it would be unkind to say he may not be the most dynamic of disciples, based purely on the little we know. And yet. And yet he is not to be underestimated. It is Philip who is called personally by Jesus in v43, the same as all the others. It is Philip who finds Nathaniel and gives him a wise answer, 'come and see', when Nathaniel pours scorn on the idea of meeting Christ. So, Philip may not have all the answers, but he's certainly got something quiet and good about him. His gentle invitation, after all, will change Nathaniel's life forever.

So just because somebody is understated, it does not mean to say that they are not exceptional in their own way. Still small voices can sometimes be the most valuable. Examples are legion. At the end of Mendelssohn's Hebrides overture, just when the storm of orchestral fury is at its height, and everyone is playing *fortissimo* or more (in the good old days when you are allowed to play *fortissimo* anyway!) the score requires two trumpets to play a sustained tonic note *pp - pianissimo*. Not even *piano*. And the problem is? No one can hear a trumpet playing a top G VERY quietly when the rest of the orchestra is going for it at full pelt. So why does Mendelssohn write those notes in, notes that no one can hear? Well, because when the storm dies down, and the fury has abated, there they still are: those reassuring tonic trumpet notes; quiet, sustaining, and empowering. Still small voices are not to be underestimated, and so, perhaps, they also are exceptional in their own way.

That's Philip, but what about Nathaniel? Is he exceptional? Yes, I think so. Jesus describes him as exceptionally free of deceit. And Jesus also refers

to Jacob's ladder, in v51, where those angels ascend and descend upon the Son of Man.

Jacob, that's interesting. Jacob, the arch schemer, who dresses up in disguise to steal the inheritance from his elder brother. Jacob, the cheap confidence trickster. And yet Jacob, called by God, beloved of God, and father to God's holy nation to come. Nathaniel the true. One of the very first disciples, called personally by Christ, and father to the Christian Church to come.

Are these people special? Of course they are, in the sense that everyone is. But are they truly exceptional? Yes, they are, in that they have a personal calling from God, and thus share a personal relationship, and a life journey, with an exceptional God. And Jesus planned this all along – this pre-planned personal call is itself no ordinary thing: it is exceptional: Take Nathaniel. Before he even knew about the existence of Jesus, when he was hiding away under his fig tree, in his personal space, having a little bit of down time all to himself, with nobody there to see, *even there*, Jesus saw him in the Spirit, and formed a plan for his very personal calling.

And the same is true for us, for we also are called by Christ. A Christ who knows all about us. And our calling, too is far from ordinary – it is indeed exceptional. So, how do you feel about yourself – ordinary, or exceptional? And how do I?

Well, I suppose different character types come in here. Extroverts might enjoy looking in the mirror and liking what they see. Narcissists certainly do. So, perhaps they don't need to hear that they have an exceptional call for Christ, perhaps their egos are too big already, you might feel.

Me? I'm the opposite, I'm quite introvert, so I find it quite difficult to look in the mirror, and I find it quite difficult to acknowledge my exceptional calling in Christ. And yet it is so obviously there in my friends and colleagues and fellow Christians. And they say the same about me. Despite different personalities – Philip the unspectacular, Nathaniel the king of integrity, Jacob the confidence trickster, *we have been called personally by Christ*. That is *highly* exceptional, and highly wonderful, because Christ, the Exceptional, and the Wonderful, knows us, and loves us, and rates us highly enough for a personal life relationship. The only remaining question is, do we believe it, and what are we going to do about it.

I'm going to end with a quotation from a writer called Marianne Williamson. It's very famous, but I still quite don't know what to make of it. It's often quoted, and it's all to do with self-worth. And this is how it goes.

*“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”*

What about preachers? Are we allowed to be brilliant?

Well, all sensible preachers, in my view, ask themselves why they are doing this job. Because it is anathema to us to take glory on ourselves.

Because it is a glory that belongs to God alone.

And yet we speak his word in the power of the Holy Spirit, and we fully expect it not to return to God empty, but to achieve its purpose. And so, we try and give our very best.

And not just preachers – all of us hear Christ’s calling to follow Him in all our different – exceptional - ways. So, we need to rest in the reality and anointing of our calling, the precious calling and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We need to act and live and speak in the knowledge that we are called by Jesus personally, and are set aside for His work, and gifted, and empowered. This is the call of Philip, the otherwise out-of-depth nobody. This is the call of Nathaniel, the ultimate man of integrity. And this is the call of us: that by the power of the spirit inside us, we can indeed do abundantly more than we can ever ask or think. Amen.

#### **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 staff and volunteers of our Cathedral, who help keep it a living place of worship.
- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer – the Anglican Church in Australia.
- At St Nicolas, we pray for our Ministry Team: Roy, Tim, Rutton, Tricia, Peter, Martin, Gabrielle and Judy.

### **National and World Affairs:**

- For our government and nation at this time of crisis.

- For the people of America in this week of transition to a new government.
- For the victims and families of the Indonesian plane disaster.
- For those whose role it is to administer the delivery of Covid vaccinations around the UK.

### **Community and Family:**

- For those who live in Clarke Place.
- For the volunteers and medical staff operating the Vaccination Centre in the Village Hall.
- For the work of our Verger, Sue, and Assistant Verger, Colin, particularly their help in preparing for live-streamed services.

### **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, 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, Jan and Mark Knott, William and James Mason, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy and Paddy Laverty)*

### **The Departed:**

- All we have known and loved, and especially Alan Chivers, Doris Cooper, Mike Ford, Daniel Gibbin, Alan Griffin, Michael Hart, Ivy Shepherd, Jack Sieber, Phil Street *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Norman Edsall, Sheelagh Thomason, Peter Williams).*

## WEEKLY NOTICES:

**NEW INITIATIVE THIS WEEK . . . . \*\*\*JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR COFFEE AFTER 11AM SERVICE\*\*\*** Are you missing meeting up with friends over coffee after Church? This Sunday we are going to trial meeting on Zoom when the 11am Service ends, for a chat and a catch up! The scheduled Zoom Meeting will be open from 11.45 onwards. **Meeting ID: 830 2040 3902 and the Passcode: 'Coffee'**

**MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER . . . .** Members of the Ministry Team say Morning Prayer each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8am. In normal times we meet in Church, but during this lockdown we are meeting on Zoom. If anybody else would like to join us, the Zoom codes are: **Meeting ID: 546 358 461 Passcode: 'MP'**

**ZOOM CHURCH FROM HOME . . . .** Please note, in future, the Zoom Code will include the **Passcode: '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 Passcode: 'Church'**

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Since September, Nicola has been our Interim Church Administrator. We are now looking to make a permanent appointment. Any expressions of interest should be made to The Rector by email [roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk) or telephone 01483 800655 by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**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](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk) or call the Parish Office on 01483 273620.

**GOVERNMENT FURLOUGH SCHEME . . . .** Some of you will have heard me say last Sunday, that as we join the Diocese in balancing the needs of mission and finance in these challenging times, we have made the decision to furlough Gabrielle for 50% of the working week for the next 3 months. This decision has not been taken lightly, and we believe that in the working time left to Gabrielle, she will continue to be very effective in Ministering to our families and young people. Gabrielle's new working days will normally be Monday, Thursday and Sunday. In addition to this, the diocese has agreed to furlough all its curates for one day a week until the end of March, and so Tim will be furloughed on a Saturday for this time. Neither of them will lose out financially as a result of these arrangements.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (18 to 25 January) . . . .** As united services and other joint ecumenical events are not possible this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, Churches Together in Britain & Ireland has produced a number of resources which can be downloaded from the CTBI website - [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk). The THEME for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is ABIDING IN CHRIST - "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" [John 15 1-17].

The resources have been prepared by the MONASTIC COMMUNITY OF GRANDCHAMP in Switzerland where every day the fifty sisters resident in the Community begin the day reciting their Rule of Life, praying that "God may reign" with the focus being on PRAYER AND EVERYDAY LIFE BEING UNITED. This ecumenical Community was founded in the 1930s. The THEMES FOR THE EIGHT DAILY REFLECTIONS are set out on the CTBI website, and for each day it is suggested that we might like to reflect on the day's theme as follows -

#### DAY 1- CALLED BY GOD

Spend time exploring what is unfamiliar to you in another Christian tradition.

#### DAY 2 - MATURING INTERNALLY

Give thanks and pray for children you know.

#### DAY 3 - FORMING ONE BODY

Consider the clothing in your wardrobe and the lives and hands that have touched the clothes. Have they been made with fair pay and in good working conditions?

#### DAY 4 PRAYING TOGETHER

Consider how your own prayer practices inform and influence your action in the world.

#### DAY 5 - BEING TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

Read the Beatitudes through slowly (Matthew 5 vv 3-11). Which of the actions described in the passage are you encouraged to take today?

#### DAY 6 - WELCOMING OTHERS

Identify who "the other" is for you. How might you offer a welcome to them in your next encounter? [NOTE Much of the resource material for the week was prepared before Covid-19 restrictions came into force across the world.]

## DAY 7 - GROWING IN UNITY

Consider and commit to one act of unity.

## DAY 8 - RECONCILING WITH ALL OF CREATION

Take action for climate justice in your own life.

I hope that this brief guide will encourage you to engage with this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. [Each year the "week" actually covers EIGHT DAYS - its title was therefore originally the OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY. It began in 1908, is international in nature and is coordinated annually by the World Council of Churches.]

**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](http://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](http://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**and on Facebook.**

There are some words and phrases in the Bible that appear over and over again! How about this one, as a good start to 2021:

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:34a)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:34b)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 13:35)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 15:12)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (John 15:17)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (Romans 13:8)**

**MAKE YOUR LOVE INCREASE (1 Thess 3:12)**

**LOVE EACH OTHER (1 Thess 4:9)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY (1 Peter 3:8)**

**LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY (1 Peter 4:8)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 3:11)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 3:23)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:7)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:11)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1 John 4:12)**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER (2 John 5)**