

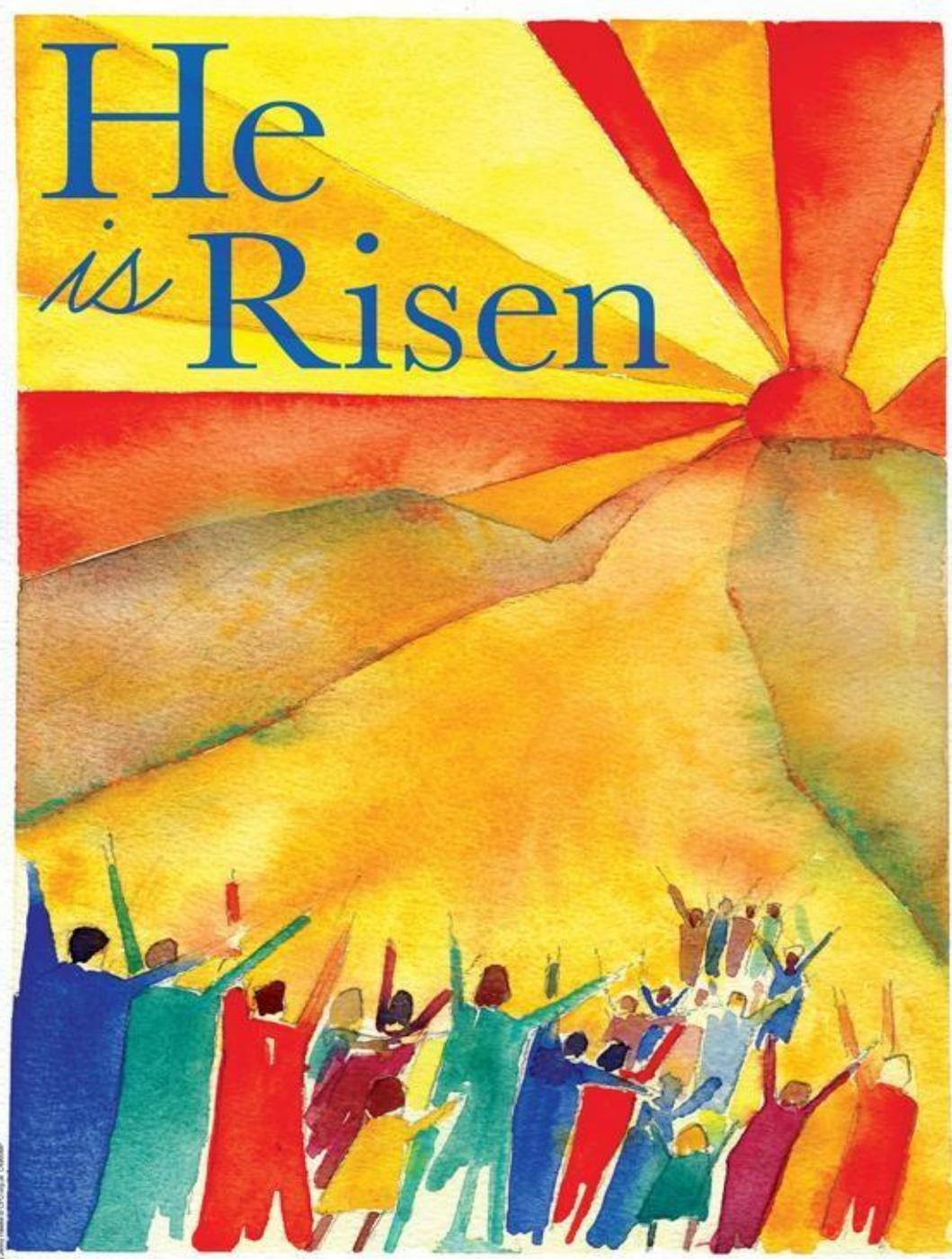


**St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME**

Easter Sunday

Sunday 4th April 2021

WELCOME to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week.



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

Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

8am: Easter Ceremonies and Holy Communion **In church and Livestreamed**

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**

Tuesday 6th April

12noon: Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 8th April

10am: Time for Prayer

Sunday 11th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

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**

EASTER SUNDAY

COLLECTS:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

(or)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING: *Acts 10: 34-43.*

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

GOSPEL READING: *John 20:1-18.*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb

first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON (written by the Rector)

Jesus Died!

You may think that an odd statement for me to make on Easter Day, when we are celebrating Resurrection! But, actually it is important,

because Jesus' death is the starting point – the 'launch-pad' – the place from which Resurrection comes! It's important, too, because what I want to say today is very simple and easy to understand, but only if you remember the sequence of events. First death, then resurrection. Or to put it another way: 'no death, no resurrection'! The 'new life' which Jesus was given by God, and which we celebrate this Easter Day, could not have happened if he had not first given himself up to Death.

And I'm not so sure that we 21st Century Christians are very good at taking that on board - if we were, there would be the same number of people in our Churches each Good Friday as there are on Easter Day, but that is not the case - it has not been the case in any Parish where I have ever worked, and although this is an exceptional year, where our worship attendance is so affected by COVID-19, it was no exception no exception.

So, surely we can't demand Resurrection, unless we have first visited the other place? Which is why, our starting point today must be the acceptance that Jesus died!

But God is not a God of death - he is a God of Resurrection! That is the truth which we celebrate today. So, what is this 'Resurrection'? Or more to the point, what does it mean for us, all these years after the time of Jesus?

What is the evidence that Christ is Risen today, in Cranleigh? Well, the answer can be found all around us, in the signs of new birth that we can see in our church:

- In the amazing work that Gabrielle has done in the past year with our families and children on Zoom and Youtube.
- In the renewed engagement we have had with those families and children during this time of isolation.

- In those who are engaging with the Bible Course that Rutton and Gabrielle are running on Wednesday Evenings.
- In the increased interest in vocation and calling to Ministry, which has brought Tim to us, and which has led to Gabrielle's recommendation for Ministry (along with at least two others from our Deanery, recommended this year).
- In all the things that we are doing in our Church to make it welcoming and inclusive – our desire to be a church which is Caring, Sharing and Daring!
- In the engagement we are having with, and new church members arriving from, the new developments in Cranleigh.
- And in all those little conversations we have about our living faith, with our families, friends and neighbours!

These are all Easter moments, times of miracle, when we are seeing things which we thought could never happen. And surely God is behind this, because God is behind all movements for resurrection!

And yet, in so much of this, for resurrection to come, as our church moves through change and re-birth, some aspects of the church may have to die. There is a great struggle going on in our church (and I mean worldwide and nationally, as well as locally) between those who see God in the traditions of the past, and those who see God in the new wind of the Spirit challenging our old assumptions.

It is the same struggle which Jesus faced when he chose the way of compassion over the way of conformity. And it leads to a kind of 'death' for those of us who have cherished and loved the old church we know and which we have served most of our lives. But something wonderful is coming out of this turmoil. And all of that is because Jesus died - because Jesus died for you and for me!

So, back to my starting point - Jesus died! But, because he died, he is now alive! And in this post-Easter age, the age in which we are now living, God is on the loose! So those of us who think that we have God tied down, right where we want him, are in for a bit of a shock – we need to tremble in fear!

Because, if God is on the loose – if Christ is Risen – then there can be no forcing of God into any of the things that we want him to be!

And so, in this Easter Festival, to truly celebrate resurrection, to truly welcome God on the loose, we need to be constantly willing to hand over control to him! And we must allow God to be God: crucified and risen, and on the loose in our world.

And when we do that, just think of the thrill of imagining the unimaginable:

- The one who made the sun, the moon and the stars.
- The one who was born in a stable.
- The one who brought dead people back to life.
- The one who died on the cross.
- The one who met Mary Magdalene on the path in the Easter Garden and told her to go announce his resurrection.

Yes Him! He is not just bursting forth from the tomb in the Easter Garden, but from every box into which we stupid human beings try to put him. And he is striding free, totally out of control, into all our lives, challenging us, and summoning us to be free - just like him! Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us

from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- Those who have been affected in any way by the Covid virus and are now trying to return to a more normal way of life.
- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
- At St Nicolas, for our Tech Team, especially Howard Cherry and Mike Roberts.

National and World Affairs:

- For Justice and compassion in the hearts of the world's leaders.
- For those whose role it is to deliver Covid vaccinations around the world, especially the staff and volunteers working in our Village Hall.

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Charts Close.
- For the Rotary Club of Cranleigh and all involved in Rotary International.

The Sick and those in Need:

- Chris Ashworth, Charlie, Stella Goldsmith, Barbara Haine, George Hill, Helen and David, 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, Darcy Wigfield, Angela Wild, Henry Young and Nicholas. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin, Mark Knott, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy Laverty)*

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, those whose anniversaries fall at this time, and especially Michael Simpson. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Ann Ide-Smith and Mence Wilkinson)*

WEEKLY NOTICES:

COVID-19 the Church will continue to be open for live worship at 11am on Sundays, on Tuesday at 12noon for Communion and Thursday at 10am for Lent Thought/Time for Prayer. Infection rates are now very low in Cranleigh and throughout Waverley, and **whilst all social distancing and quick dispersal rules will remain in place, we do believe that now is the time for many of you to think about returning to church. We are all missing the personal interaction that has been missing for the last year, and we would love to see you in person!**

THANK YOU to all who have decorated the Church so beautifully for Easter again this year.

THE ELECTORAL ROLL has to be updated for the APCM on Wednesday 28th April.

If you are not sure if you are on, if you wish to change your entry or if you wish to be added and need to complete an application form, please

contact Margie Nursey on 273693 or email:

notices@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

A reminder: Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the APCM but only those on the Electoral Roll can vote on any decisions.

GROUP VISITS TO IONA . . . It is now hoped that Roy's previously postponed Group visit to Iona in September this year will be able to take place. He has additionally secured dates for April 2022 – because of the need for it to be in the school holidays, and with the late date of Easter, it is, the week before Holy Week. So the dates I have on offer, are:

September 17th-24th 2021 (for which there are only a few places left) and **April 3rd-9th 2022** (for which there are currently plenty of places). If there is anybody who hasn't previously expressed an interest, please contact Roy to let him know which dates you may wish to go. Exact cost are not certain (and it will partly depend on which rooms are available at The Argyll Hotel, but all inclusive costs are likely to be in the region of £1950 for a couple, and £1000 for a single room.

RUNNER BEANS Would you like me to grow a pot of Runner Bean plants for you to plant out in your garden? 10 plants for £3, 6 for £2.40. Ready mid to late May. Orders to Win Bracking 275573. I can deliver. All proceeds to Plant Stall /Rectory Fete.

PERENNIALS - Please don't forget me if you are dividing yours. Watch out for sales tables at my gate.

WANTED! CAN YOU HELP? If anyone has any bowl-shaped plant pots which they no longer need I would love to have them. I'm looking for the shallow plastic bowls which are used in garden centres for pansies and polyanthus, so that I can prepare some more "Tete - a Tete "daffodils for sale NEXT SPRING! Many thanks. Win Bracking 275573

THE ARTS SOCIETY CRANLEIGH is providing talks to members **via zoom at 2.00 pm** on the fourth Wednesday of the month, until July, as due to covid-19 these cannot take place in the Cranleigh Arts Centre as usual. Non-members can take part by contacting the Membership Secretary in advance at www.theartssocietycranleigh.org . It is hoped that as from September talks can be resumed in the Arts Centre with our normal afternoon and evening talks.

April 28th 2021: Ian Swankie – Great Railway Stations.

In this talk we will take a journey around some of the most evocative and splendid of them, looking not only at the magnificence of the architecture and the brilliance of the engineering, but discovering numerous artworks within the stations and examining many depictions of stations in art. These include Claude Monet's Gare St Lazare and William Powell Frith's Paddington.

May 26th 2021: Peter Medhurst - The Genius of Beethoven

To celebrate the anniversary of 250 years after Beethoven's life. We will learn more about the subtlety of his music from our much-celebrated speaker.

June 23rd 2021: Anna Moszynska – Modern British Sculpture

Anna shows us why British Sculptors during the 20th Century pioneered sculpture throughout the world.

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER Members of the Ministry Team say Morning Prayer each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8am. We have returned to meeting in Church, but we continue to Zoom as well. If anybody else would like to join us, the Zoom codes are: **Meeting ID: 546 358 461 Passcode: 'MP'**

KEEP IN TOUCH:

Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams

(Day off: Monday)

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

Curate - Revd Tim Clifford Hill

(Day off: Monday)

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

Part time Curate - Revd Rutton Viccajee

(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)

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

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

(Currently only working Monday, Thursday and Sunday)

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

Church Website: www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

and on **Facebook**.