



**St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh**  
**WORSHIPPING AT HOME**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**WELCOME . . . .**

. . . . to our Church at Home resources for this Sunday. We invite you all to stay connected with each other and the life of the Church Community, by using these Worship and Prayer resources at home.

Also, if you do have internet access, you will find a video version of a said Communion Service, with the sermon on the Church Website [www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](http://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk) and on our FaceBook page.

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***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!***

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For Families, there will also be live worship at 10am with Gabrielle Clarke available via WhatsApp and Zoom. If you want to join: *(this code is the same every week)* Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/148785166> or Meeting ID: 148-785-166

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## COLLECTS:

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING (Acts 7.55-end)

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing

at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

### **GOSPEL READING (John 14.1-14)**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the

Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### **SERMON (*Written by The Rector*):**

As most of us have never seen a ghost, it's difficult to know whether or not to believe in them! There are many well-attested accounts of the appearance of ghosts, and a few photographs to support those accounts, but unless you see one for yourself, you're almost certainly going to be left wondering quite what to believe!

Not surprisingly, the first thought to spring to mind when Jesus was seen by his friends after the first Easter Day, was that he was

a ghost. But Jesus was always at pains to point out that his appearance was not a 'ghostly' one.

In the Gospel reading we heard a few weeks ago, you will remember how he invited the disciples to touch him. You can't touch a ghost, as it would have no substance. The risen Jesus was clearly flesh and blood and he did have substance – the evidence which 'doubting' Thomas needed when he said, "*Unless I touch him for myself, I won't believe.*"

And the things which the risen Jesus did with his disciples were very normal, 'human' things – he ate with them, walked with them, talked with them, broke bread with them and, above all, he taught them.

In fact, some of the clearest teaching of Jesus comes from the resurrection stories – like the teaching in the Upper Room on the first Easter evening, like the teaching by the lakeside after he has cooked the disciples breakfast, and like that amazing teaching and opening of the Scriptures to those two disciples on the Road to Emmaus which we heard a couple of weeks ago.

And there seems to have been something different about the way in which the risen Jesus taught the disciples. It seems as though from the other side of death, Jesus himself had gained tremendous new insight into the Scriptures, and of how they had been fulfilled in and through him! It was as though it had all slotted into place for him, and he was able to clearly explain all this to his friends.

Previously, although he spoke a great deal in parables and stories, much of his teaching was quite obscure and had to be explained to the disciples afterwards. We're told again and again in the gospels that their minds were dull or that they were blind or that they couldn't understand.

That's seen quite clearly in today's Gospel – although we are still in the season of Easter, today's Gospel is not a resurrection story, but part of (indeed, the best known part of) that great discourse of Jesus with his disciples, recorded in John's Gospel, at The Last Supper, the night before he died. And in it, poor Thomas, is again the one to doubt, and then Philip and the others join, in the general lack of understanding.

It's not difficult to see why the lectionary compilers have included this passage here, on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – so familiar, and so often used at funerals. Although pre-resurrection in its setting, it is all about Resurrection.

We, with the gift of hindsight, are able to view it from our post-Easter perspective, but the disciples didn't have that benefit, and so they hadn't a clue what Jesus was talking about. They simply didn't understand!

But that wasn't so for the disciples in the Resurrection accounts – in all of those episodes, they seemed to grasp what Jesus is telling them, and as a result they are filled with fervour and excitement and enthusiasm.

So, is it the case, that the Jesus who appeared in his risen form was not the same as the Jesus who died on Good Friday afternoon? Well, it does seem that this post-death, post-Easter Jesus was somehow different.

Being 'different' is certainly something we are having to learn all about in this strange world of Coronavirus lockdown! And perhaps, when we stop to think about the 'broken world in which we have been 'muddling through' for years, even centuries, there may be just some sense in which, at this time, God is calling us to be 'different', as he called the first Christians to live in a new way?

There has been a lot of talk about 'when we get back to normal' in the press and social media recently! But maybe we have to accept that 'normal' is going to look different in the future? And as we do that, as Christians, perhaps we should look at this opportunity with hope, rather than with any fear? After all, let's remember that the disciples, post-Easter, had to learn a new 'normal', which was a more glorious and Spirit-filled one than anything they could ever have imagined! Maybe, as we come through this, the world may just have learned some lessons, and will begin to move along a better path!

And 'yes', the risen Jesus was different! He certainly was not a ghost, but instead of being 'Jesus the Friend', 'Jesus the Teacher' and 'Jesus the healer', this Risen Jesus was 'Jesus the Christ', 'Jesus the Saviour', 'Jesus the Messiah', and 'Jesus who is Lord'!

# **PRAYERS:**

## **Prayer about the Coronavirus:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful,  
to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love,  
and your love, for your name's sake.  
Amen.

## **For those who are ill:**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **For hospital staff and medical researchers:**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,

that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **A Prayer on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day:**

Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,  
in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage;  
give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always.  
Amen.

### **Weekly Prayers of Intercession**

#### **Church and Christian Ministry:**

- For our national Church – and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Chaplains to the armed forces, Prison Chaplains, and all to whom they minister
- For our own Clergy, Lay Ministers and Admin Staff, working to help us all to stay in touch with the life of our Church during this lockdown

## **National and World Affairs:**

- For all affected by Coronavirus, and for the Governments across the world, seeking to find ways of combatting the virus
- For all scientists working to produce effective drugs and vaccines
- For our Nation as we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day this weekend

## **Community and Family:**

- For those who live Alfold Road
- For the children and families of our 'Little Nics' Toddlers
- For all whose jobs have been put at risk and those already unemployed
- For all those who continue to work in public service, especially for NHS staff, police, fire and rescue, paramedics, and shop workers, keeping us well, safe and fed

## **The Sick and those in Need:**

- For Robin Burnett, Mike Ford, Tony Kenison, Chris Muscio, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Marion Tomkins, Angela Wild, Henry Young *(And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Jeremy Ayden, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Sami Bennewith, Judy Bolt, Sue Bowden, Sally Davis, Sue and Dennis Evans, Jenny Glover, Peter Hutley, Dru Ridley, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Lorna Thompson, Jackie Williams, Paul Wiltshire, Christine Woof, Francesca)*

## The Departed:

- Gerard Croft, Bill Pennant, Ralph Sutton (*And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Patricia Hodge*)

## NOTICES:

**NEW THIS WEEK . . . . Emotional Support Helpline: 01483 901493  
– Lines are open 11-3 Monday to Friday if you would like to  
chat to a friendly helpful voice! (Detailed Flyer attached)**

**St Nicolas Church:** Whilst the Church building remains closed, please keep praying at home, and be assured that the Church is still very much in business and seeking to support those who need our love and care. You can still keep in touch in the following ways . . . .

**The Rector: 01483 800655 or email**

**[roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Parish Office: 01483 273620 or email**

**[elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Young People's Minister: 07427 748408**

**[gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Church Website:**

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

**and on FaceBook**

**Your Giving to Church (White and Blue Envelopes etc.):** In our recent updates we have mentioned that we had been asked by a

number of parishioners who give through the white envelope scheme, or by completing blue envelopes, how they can continue to give during the current emergency, and we outlined three ways. However, we have always said that our long-term preferred option is for them to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), and that we were hoping that the administrators would shortly simplify the process. I am pleased to tell you this has now been done.

For the duration of the Coronavirus Contingency, the administrators have been able to arrange an additional facility for donors to give by phone, following obtaining bank permissions to receive donations by phone. This is available now, so you can set up a regular gift by phone, by completing a simple secure online form. Once submitted you will receive a call from a member of the PGS team to arrange a 'paperless' regular donation through the PGS. You will not have to complete any other forms and you will not have to wait in a phone queue!

You can find out more about the scheme by visiting [www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk) This has a short section giving information on the scheme, and another with the one-page form.

If you do not have web access, then please contact the church office on 01483 273620. We will send you the two-page Parish Giving Scheme information sheet, fill in the on-line form for you, and send you a copy of the confirming email they send once

everything has been set up. All you need do is answer the PGS administrators phone call.

**\*\*\*\*Please also note the letter and Information Sheet sent out recently!\*\*\*\***

**If you need help or would like to Volunteer:** There is now a central point of contact set up by the Parish Council for anyone who needs any sort of help. **The number is 0300 200 1008** (but note that at times you may need to leave a number for someone to get back to you). This number can also be used by those who would like to volunteer to help in any way!

**Plants Ready now:** Win Bracking has some beautiful *Chiastophyllum* – lovely yellow fronds, front of border. Hardy and will spread gently. £3 for Rectory Fête (Church). Could deliver, observing distance rules. (Contact Win on 275573)

**'Every Day with Jesus' Bible reading notes for May/June:**  
Subject: "Imagery of the Spirit". Cost £3.25, now available via Diana Trent - 01483 272677.

**Rectory Fete:** With great sadness, **but** to keep everyone safe, it has been decided to postpone the Fête this year. Although we cannot have our Fête on 4th July we will consider what might be possible later in the year.

**Sunday Roast from Rowleys:** you can now order a roast dinner

from Rowleys. Please speak to Gary or Tina on 277155 and they will help. Their office is open 9am to 2.30pm. You need to:

- 1 Order on a Wednesday for delivery on Sunday
- 2 Make it a regular order of once a week (in a change from normal for the current circumstances, you don't have to order anymore per week if you don't want to.
- 3 The cost is between £6-7 for the roast depending on what it is that week.

**Lent Lunches 2020:** We are pleased to report that the 2 lunches we were able to hold, raised £100 for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund. Many thanks to the Team and our 'Happy Band of Lunchers' who made this donation possible. Keep smiling and we hope to see you all again soon

**GDPR:** If you have not completed a GDPR contact form we will be unable to contact you at all, so if this is you, please complete one as a matter of urgency. You will find them on the website. If you have received your news sheet by post and still have not completed a GDPR Form please contact the Rector on 01483 800655 or Elise on 01483 273620

## **MORE RESOURCES:**

In addition to our own resources, here are a few things that you may like to take note of:

- **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 (Resources for children and adults) [www.cofeguildford.org.uk/](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/)
- Bible Society Website (Resources for children and adults) [www.biblesociety.org.uk/](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/)
- Premier Christian Radio [www.radio.net/s/premierchristian](http://www.radio.net/s/premierchristian)
- CMS Website [www.churchmissionsociety.org/](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/)
- Cranleigh Community Radio weekly broadcast available each week from Friday morning. Visit [www.destinationcranleigh.net/radio](http://www.destinationcranleigh.net/radio)

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

## **NEXT SUNDAY . . . .**

Next Sunday's worship will be prepared and led by Revd Patricia Hislop.

**FEAR (by Khalil Gibran):**

**It is said that before entering the sea  
a river trembles with fear.  
She looks back at the path she has travelled,  
from the peaks of the mountains,  
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.  
And in front of her,  
she sees an ocean so vast,  
that to enter  
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.  
But there is no other way.  
The river can not go back.  
Nobody can go back.  
To go back is impossible in existence.  
The river needs to take the risk  
of entering the ocean  
because only then will fear disappear,  
because that's where the river will know  
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,  
but of becoming the ocean.**

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**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!**