



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Sixth Sunday of Easter

17th 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 and on the St Nicolas Church FaceBook page.

NEW!!!!!!! THIS WEEK'S ATTACHMENTS:

Please also find attached this week, the first edition of **Cranfold Sparkle**, the purpose is to keep those isolated connected to the community and for them and other people in the community to send in ideas, jokes, stories, pictures to be published in the newsletter. Please feel free to share this out to other people in Cranleigh area and if you have any ideas, maybe you would like to send in a photo of yourselves and write a brief story of a day in the life of what you do? All items for inclusion should be emailed to Lucy Hunter at lucy.hunter@waverley.gov.uk

You will also find attached a flyer about some **Zoom Classes** that have been arranged for those of you who might be feeling isolated, or in need of a bit of stimulation and outside involvement

***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!***

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

NEW

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECTS:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so, by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
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. Amen.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING (Acts 17:22-31)

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines

made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

GOSPEL READING (John 14:15-21)

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my

commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Post Communion Prayer:

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

SERMON (*Written by The Revd Patricia Hislop*):

There is perhaps in each of us a sense of the 'other', an innate knowledge that there is more than we can either see or understand with our outward senses. In Athens and beyond, gods were invented and almost every aspect of life was covered by an idol representing a separate 'god', including one to an 'unknown God'.

In our Reading from Acts, Paul speaks to the intellectual gathering of people who meet to debate regularly about life, politics, religious practice and beliefs. They enjoyed the debate as much as reaching a consensus of opinion on the issues. Paul presented Jesus to those in the Areopagus as this 'Unknown God'. This other deity for which they had been searching.

The incorporation of 'other' deities and indigenous customs into religious ceremony has been common practice for centuries; It continues with Christianity, because the God we know and worship, revealed in Jesus Christ is in everything and is involved in our needs, concerns, emotions and senses.

One of the roof bosses in our sanctuary represents the Green Man, an ancient figure which signifies regeneration, everlasting life, the cycle of birth, life and death, the search of humanity for its creator – to be in touch with God.

Our Society today is not unlike that in which Paul found himself. We are surrounded by people who question and must have proof of what we believe, following their own instinctive longing for the creator. It is difficult to explain that unless we begin to trust and follow Jesus, the truth does not come to us, because we have not opened ourselves to a relationship with Jesus Christ and being in relationship with us is what Jesus Christ longs for.

The juxtaposition of our readings today; Jesus, on the night of the Last Supper with his friends, promising them the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth. And Saul, now Paul, who had met the risen Jesus in blinding light on the road to Damascus and believed, now telling the Athenian intellectuals of the gift of Jesus Christ.

The gift of knowing the risen Jesus is alive and with the disciples, Paul, and with us in spiritual tangible presence is surely no accident this morning for all of us locked out of our Church building and unable to be physically close to one another. Not

long after these events in Athens, the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and the believers scattered across the world with no central place of worship, taking their faith with them.

We are in a time of great testing – we are excluded from our beloved church building – but not from *being* Church. We are being challenged to find different ways of *being* Church. What I do find difficult is not seeing one another as we join together in sharing our prayers and in the service of Holy Communion. We do receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – in fact the good old Book of Common Prayer makes special provision for the sick who cannot physically receive the bread and wine but who receive spiritually in the service.

As we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus, and celebrate the Holy Communion this morning, the physical separation is immaterial – we all receive Communion as we join together in different places but unite spiritually. For the Holy Spirit is not contained by walls but moves about among us as we turn to God in prayer and worship. We continue in this new way united by the Spirit to worship together following those early Christians.

We travel in this new way and God travels with us and blesses each one of us.

Amen.

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.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession

Church and Christian Ministry:

- From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer, we pray for the Mission Societies supported by parishes in the Diocese and for all their staff and volunteers working across the world.
- 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

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Clarke Place
- For our Vergers, Sue and Colin
- 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, Amanda, Francesca, Hugh)*

The Departed:

- Jean Gough, Ralph Sutton *(And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Patricia Hodge)*

NOTICES:

Emotional Support Helpline: 01483 901493 – Lines are open 11-3 Monday to Friday if you would like to chat to a friendly helpful voice!

Jean Quallington and her family would like to say a very BIG Thank you for all the flowers, letters, phone calls and kindness they have received since Tim's death. When the Coronavirus crisis is over there will be a Memorial Service for Tim in our Church.

Plants: Although the Rectory Fete has been postponed, Win Bracking continues to grow plants for the annual plant stall. We are hoping that Win can have a plant sale at the bottom of the Rectory Drive, keeping to all the Covid-19 rules, in the near future. *So watch this space.* Meanwhile she is continuing to sell a few plants from her house (If interested please phone Win on 275573.)

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

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

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 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!

'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 Fête: Sadly, we have had to take the decision to postpone this year's Fête. 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.

Ordination of Tim Clifford Hill: Our New Curate, Tim, was due to be ordained Deacon on the 5th July, but due to the Social Distancing issues, the ordinations have been postponed until (hopefully) October 10th. This will not stop Tim starting his ministry with us, as he will be licensed as a Lay Minister on July 1st and will, in that capacity, be able to start doing most of the things that he would have done as a Curate. Tim and Alexandra and young Henry will be moving into the Curate's house at the end of May, and we look forward to being able to properly welcome them 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/

- Guildford Cathedral Website www.guildford-cathedral.org where you will find a lot of worship resources, including Choral Services sung by members of the Cathedral Choir from their own homes.
- Bible Society Website (Resources for children and adults) www.biblesociety.org.uk/
- Premier Christian Radio www.radio.net/s/premierchristian
- CMS Website www.churchmissionsociety.org/
- Cranleigh Community Radio weekly broadcast available each week from Friday morning. Visit 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 by **7pm on Tuesday**

NEXT WEEK

We will be posting to you a day early next week as Thursday (21st) is Ascension Day, and we will be producing Special resources for you to use at home which will be prepared by Revd Peter Poole, while next Sunday's worship will be prepared by Revd Martin Booth.

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!