



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME
First Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 14th June 2020

WELCOME

. . . . to our Church at Home resources for this Sunday. We hope you will feel connected to the life of the Church Community, with these resources. Thank you to Tricia Hislop and Judy Wedderspoon for this week's worship.

*****STOP PRESS*** Opening of St Nicolas Church for Private Prayer:**

In response to the Governments relaxation of guidelines, from this week we will be opening the Church doors each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am – 12noon for private prayer.

These times will be carefully stewarded to ensure minimum risk to both stewards and visitors, and only 10 people will be allowed in the Church at any one time (although a couple from the same household who sit together will be counted as one). If those ten places are taken, you will be asked to queue or come back later.

You will also be asked to use the hand sanitisers provided and to sit only in marked pews (which are two meters apart) and to touch as few surfaces as possible – cleaning of surfaces will take place throughout, and all cushions and kneelers will have been

removed from the seating area. PPE will not be provided, so if you wish to use it, please bring your own. You will not be able to access prayer books or bibles, so if you wish to use these, please bring your own with you.

Entrance to the Church will be via the South (main) Door, and exit will be via the West Door. Please maintain a distance of at least two metres from anyone else who is in the church at the same time as yourself.

As these times are specifically for prayer, you are asked not to talk to each other or have conversations with the Stewards inside the Church. There will be a steward outside who will be happy to chat with you at a safe distance. Needless to say, please do not come to the church if you are feeling unwell in any way. Please also note that Stewards will not be able to physically assist you on steps etc., and that we are not currently able to offer toilet facilities.

If you do have internet access, you will also 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.

*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!*

There will also be **live worship** at 10am with Gabrielle Clarke available via WhatsApp and Zoom **and this week there will be a**

live sermon from The Rector. If you want to join: *(this code is the same every week)* Join Meeting ID: 148-785-166
Or click on URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/148785166> . 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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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.

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 18:1-15*

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying,

‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 9:35 – 10:3*

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

SERMON *(Written by Judy Wedderspoon)*

The Old Testament is full of all kinds of surprises. Today's reading from Genesis is a surprise in more than one way. Amid accounts of nomadic movements and battles, there comes this really delightful anecdote of a visit by the Lord or his representatives to Abraham and, off-stage, to Sarah. One commentator describes this passage as "an admirable example of the high quality of Hebrew narrative at its best." I'd agree with that! It is so human, so real.

Look at the detail. Abraham is sitting in the entrance to his tent when three strangers appear from nowhere. Although they don't identify themselves, Abraham immediately recognises them as being of great importance. Perhaps he recognised one of them as the Lord who had come to him a short while before, as described in the previous chapter of Genesis, to establish a covenant with him which included the promise of a son, and as part of that to change his name from Abram to Abraham, and his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah.

Abraham hurries to offer them basic hospitality, water to wash their feet, a "morsel of bread" and a place to rest before they go on their way. But Abraham realises that they are in fact not going anywhere. They have come to him. So he gives orders to his servants to prepare a feast. When it is ready, he himself serves these guests, but he does not eat with them.

But Sarah is curious. You can practically hear the scribe who is writing this narrative, which is based on old Israelite oral tradition,

saying to his own wife “Darling, if three strangers suddenly turned up and your husband ordered a special feast to be prepared for them, what would you do?” And her reply, “Well, I’d want to know what was going on!” “And, if you were ninety years old and childless, what would be your reaction if you heard them say that you were going to have a son?” “Well, I think I’d just laugh!”

And that’s what happens. Sarah, who recognises her changed name and who therefore must know something about the previous visit, stands at the tent entrance and eavesdrops. When she hears that she will have a son, she just laughs. One of the visitors hears her laugh and asks Abraham “Why did your wife laugh? Does she think that she is too old?” Sarah is embarrassed and afraid, and, humanly, she says “I didn’t laugh!” But the stranger reiterates the promise of a son, saying “Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?”

But she did laugh, and she will be proved wrong. She does bear a son who is named Isaac, a name which derives from the Hebrew word for laughter. He will be the second of the great Jewish patriarchs.

So this visit is a surprise for Sarah. She must be forgiven for her human and natural laughter. She and Abraham are only at the beginning of discovering the depths of the love and power and mercy and grace of God. They are only at the beginning of their journey of faith.

The New Testament also contains surprises. Turning now to our Gospel lesson, we should perhaps remind ourselves that Jesus

himself came as a surprise to many people in different ways. The people of Galilee were constantly being amazed at his power of healing, and at the compassion he showed to those in any kind of need. His surprised family thought he was mad. The Jewish authorities were surprised and appalled by his teaching. They could not believe that he would oppose them so overtly and preach what they regarded as black heresy, a message which ran counter to all their tradition and their beliefs.

And Jesus' choice of disciples is also deeply surprising. Matthew sets out their names in detail. We know something about some of them. Peter, Andrew, James and John were fisher folk. Matthew had been a tax collector until he gave it up to follow Jesus. Simon is described as a Canaanite, but Luke tells us that he is a Zealot, a member of a rabid and aggressive patriotic sect. We don't know about the background of the others. This may be the first time that they have all come together as a select group, chosen out by Jesus from among his many followers. And while some of them may have been saying "Why me?", some of them will surely have been saying "Why him? Why Matthew, that untrustworthy tax man? Why Simon, who is always so ready to pick a fight?" None of them seems to have preaching or teaching ability, yet they are being sent out to proclaim "the good news of the kingdom" – which none of them really understands.

I can only wonder how each of them individually may have reacted to Jesus' mission statement. They were being given power to do the miracles which Jesus had been doing: cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. While perhaps some of

them may have felt pride in the trust which was being reposed in them, I suspect that underneath each of them will have been just plain scared. “Lord, I’m not ready for this. This is not what I’m good at. Can’t you find someone better than me to do this for you? I don’t want to let you down, but I’m scared of lepers and demon-possessed sick people. I didn’t expect that you would ask this of me when I came to follow you. And you’re telling me to go out without money, so I have to be totally dependent on the people I meet. I’m not sure I can do that. I’m not good with people.” Probably none of them will have laughed, but more than one of them may have thought “Me? You must be joking!”

There are many other surprised people in both Old and New Testaments. Think of Moses, Gideon and David, each called out of nowhere to become leaders of their people. Think of Mary, called to be the Mother of the Lord. Think of Paul, the persecutor of the new Christians, called suddenly to be the apostle of Jesus to the Gentiles.

What can we take from these examples? Two things. First, let’s try not to be too surprised by God’s surprises. We none of us know what God has in store for each of us, though we may think we do. Whatever our first reaction may be, let’s be ready to accept God’s call. And second, most important, let us remember that God gave to each of the surprised people whom he called the strength, power and reassurance that they could do it. And they did. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer:

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS:

Prayer about the Coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 new medications.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving, wherever we are,
whatever it costs, for as long as it takes,
wherever you call us. Amen.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For Church Musicians, Organists, Choirs, Music Groups, Bell Ringers and all who enhance worship through music.
- For our own Director of Music, Michael Clarke, and our choir and music group

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 our own Prime Minister and Government
- For all scientists working to produce effective drugs and vaccines
- For the people of the USA amid civil unrest

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Taylor's Crescent
- 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, Stella Goldsmith, Tony Kenison, Libby O'Brien, Jill and Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Angela Wild, Henry Young (*And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Barbara and Des Crabb, Jenny Glover, Henry, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jackie Williams, Christine Woof, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Francesca, Paul Wiltshire, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley.*)

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, especially John Floud (*And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Sue Bowden*)

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!

Traidcraft: As lockdown eases, Sue Knight is able to offer Traidcraft goods for sale. Traidcraft has continued to trade during this time and has picked up more online customers. It will be more important than ever to help the poorest farmers in the world in the future. So, if you are missing the Ginger biscuits, chocolate tea or coffee, she is open for business. She has all her stock boxes on shelving in her garage so would be able to sell from there 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. Sue will also be writing in July's magazine about the situation in Uganda but she was able to send £100 from the Traidcraft account to the appeal for money for food launched by the Guildford Mukono link . So please consider supplementing your larder, and call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

Plant Sale: Although the Rectory Fete has been postponed, Win Bracking and others continue to grow plants for the annual plant stall, and sales at Win's gate have been very encouraging so far. Win held a very successful sale last morning at the bottom of The Rectory driveway (Saturday 6th) and raised £230! There will not be a short break to allow some more of her plants to come to readiness and the next one will be one on Saturday June 27th from 10am - 12noon (social distancing rules will be observed). Callers at Win's house are also welcome by appointment. (ring Win on 275573).

St Nicolas Church: Whilst restrictions on worship continue, please 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

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!

Meals from Rowleys: Please note that Rowleys do NOT provide lunches at the weekend, but only from Monday to Friday. They do provide a roast on Wednesdays only. Apologies for the previous inaccurate information. Orders to Gary or Tina on 277155. Their office is open 9am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

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. However, 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 an Ordained Curate. Tim and Alexandra and young Henry have already moved into the Curate's house – please pray for them.

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.
- 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

. . . . our Sunday worship will be prepared by The Rector.

**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!**