



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME
Second Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 21st 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 The Rector for this week's worship

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, bibles or the library, so if you wish to use these things, please also 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, and so as not disturb those praying, 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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: *Romans 6:1b-11* What then are we to say?
Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? no

means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 10:24-39* 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them

will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

SERMON (*Written by The Rector*)

Did you notice how today’s readings were full of the language of opposites:

- Death and life
- Darkness and light
- Old and new
- Slavery and freedom
- Lost and found
- Covered and uncovered

- Burial and new life
- Crucifixion and resurrection

Yes – those two readings were full of them – examples of something which is ‘bad’ being turned into something which is ‘good’!

In religious language, the word which we have adopted for this sort of change is ‘transformation’, so it is not surprising that our Diocese has adopted the slogan ‘*Transforming Church, Transforming Lives*’ as its basis for mission!

These ‘Covid Times’ (as I heard somebody call them the other day) have highlighted a lot of areas of vulnerability in our society – perhaps we have all learnt the lesson that we are vulnerable – that none of us are beyond the reach of things over which we have no control! Things which can invade our privacy and our safety! There is a very real sense in which that is what the Coronavirus has done to many of us, both as individuals, and as a community! But I’m not just talking about Coronavirus – these times of isolation in lockdown, have, for me, highlighted many of the disparities that exist in our society and culture!

We're all vulnerable in different ways. For some of us the vulnerability is physical. For others of us the vulnerability is mental or emotional - perhaps we're easily hurt by others, or perhaps we have no self-confidence. And because all vulnerability is painful, we human beings generally do our best to avoid it whenever possible.

And yet, the message of Jesus is that we should become more vulnerable, not less. In this morning's Gospel we hear. *'Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.'*

'Taking up the Cross' as Jesus did, is a risky business, and one which lays us open to all sorts of different vulnerabilities. So, perhaps it's worth putting those words into context for a moment – this passage in Matthew's Gospel comes straight after the passage we used last Sunday.

Jesus is sending his disciples out in pairs with no money, no clothes, no protection, and with a mission to *'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.'*

What a job description – putting into a present day analogy, it's a bit like sending a group of Doctors into a hospital full of people with COVID-19 without giving them any PPE or soap and water! it's a wonder that those disciples didn't run a mile, and yet we are told that they went out willingly, and they returned *'with Joy'*!

So, what with impossible demands, no means of defence, and no money to get them out of tight corners, the disciples must have been feeling very vulnerable indeed. Both Luke and Matthew described it as like being *"thrown to the wolves"*!

But *" . . . take up your cross and follow . . . "* is a central theme of the Gospels. As Christians, following the way of Christ, we should

not expect to avoid hardship and danger, but for the sake of the Gospel, to embrace it and walk forward!

And we do this in the knowledge that God is best able to work in our lives when we are utterly vulnerable. When we're stripped and have nowhere else to turn, then God is able to break through our defences, for at those times we're forced to rely only on him. Perhaps that's why more men are converted to Christianity in prison than anywhere else?

St Paul described it as, *"God's strength being made perfect in our weakness."* In his Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Times of vulnerability are very painful. They're often times when God seems to be absent, and a very human reaction is to say, *"Why has this happened to me? What have I done to deserve this?"*

The answer is to be found in Jesus own example, and in the knowledge that he is able to take our vulnerability, to take all of our weakness, fear and darkness – all of the things that leave us imprisoned in our own selves – and set them free – transforming them from metaphorical 'crucifixions', into metaphorical 'resurrections'!

And if we allow ourselves to be 'crucified' with him, we can also trust that he will grant us the gift of being 'risen' with him!.

The disciples emerged from their mission with a new inner strength which was characterised by joy, and if we do God's work, if we allow ourselves to be 'sent out' in his name, then we will discover in our lives all of those negatives that I spoke of earlier being turned into positives:

- Our darkness being turned to light
- Our 'old selves' being put aside in favour of 'new selves' in Jesus Christ
- Being set free from all of the things which have enslaved us
- Discovering again the important bits of our lives that have become lost
- Uncovering the things that have been covered
- Discovering new life, even when we are surrounded by death
- And finding resurrection from crucifixion in, at least, a metaphorical sense!

Then we will find new strength, coming from within all of the weaknesses that we know we have! We will discover that God's strength really is made perfect in our weakness, and we will find that strength in a new and exciting and glorious and joyful way. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer:

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,

that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with 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 our Diocesan overseas links: the Church in Nigeria (Archbishop Nicholas Okoh), the Diocese of Viborg in Denmark (Bishop Henrik Stubkjaer), and the Diocese of Sialkot in Pakistan (Bishop Alwyn Samuel).
- For our Churchwardens (Katherine and Mike)

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

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Peregrine Close
- For all Teachers as more children return to school
- For the businesses in our High Street that have reopened this week, and for those still not able to trade
- 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, Michael Hart, Anne Horrocks, 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, and especially Barry Williams *(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!

New Church Lighting – We are excited to report, that as a result of two substantial gifts, received through the endeavours of the Charity 1170, plus other donations in response to December's appeal, we are now in a position to move forward with this project. These generous gifts have been given for the dedicated purpose of replacing the lighting system in the Church building. For a resume of the plans and public notice, please navigate to our website and the menu item 'Church Life' and 'Latest News'.

'Every Day with Jesus' Bible notes for July/August now available from Diana Trent 272677. Subject: "Walk This Way" a look at the Beatitudes, eight guidelines to help us live as God intended. £3.25 to pay.

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: Win Bracking's next sale in aid of the Rectory Fete Fund will be on Saturday 27th June from 10am -12noon at the bottom of The Rectory driveway (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

SPECIAL THIS WEEK:

In the light of all that has been going on with the *Black Lives Matter* movement, Bishop Jo's reflection from this week's Diocesan Briefing is particularly topical and appropriate, so we share it with you:

All lives matter. Of course they do, most obviously because our Creator God has intended, invested and takes interest in each and every one of us. But just at the moment it is vital that we acknowledge how Black Lives Matter - in our words, deeds and imagining. This is not knee-jerk, even though awareness is provoked by recent events that are unequivocally (even or especially if unconsciously) racist. The problem is not confined to particular incidents: if it were it would be much easier to address. The problems are deep-seated: buried in egregious problems of history which continue to shape attitudes in the present and the future. That's why the need is far-reaching: to revisit our history, understand our assumptions and uncover our biases. We all have them – it's how we survive in a complex world! But BLM prompts us to discern what they reveal about our power and prejudice in relation to race and ethnicity – what we see and don't see, what we say and don't say, what we think and what we don't even realise – so that we may learn, and be empowered to address the problems, and build a better world. The problems are individual and institutional, and therefore we must address them personally and corporately. That will involve repentance and change, two features that are surely foundational to us as Christians and as a Church, thanks to the transforming love of Christ.

I'm eager for this journey. Even though it may be hard and will demand determination, it will be productive and inspiring... because it leads us toward the glorious destiny described in the book of Revelation in which the saints of every tribe and tongue are united in worship around God's heavenly throne. A

magnificent picture of diverse harmony! How are your steps on this journey I wonder? I urge you not to depend on BAME friends or badgering bishops to urge you on your way (though you should expect them/us to do some of that!). Allow this time of lockdown to enable some reading, listening, lamenting. Can you plan some steps – actions – that make sense in your context? And in the spirit of Ephesians 3:20, I'd invite you to imagine – to dream – what God might wish to address and enable that lies beyond our current capacity and community.

Meanwhile let me propose two small steps for this weekend:

- *Watch Reni Eddo-Lodge for 12 minutes talking about her recent book on racism:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vJZdeSqfFY&t=16s>*
- *Take 2 mins this Monday 22nd June on Windrush Day at 11am for lament, remembering the suffering of the Windrush Generation, and praying for a better, fairer world.*

Bishop Jo

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 Revd Peter Poole.

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!