



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME
Fifth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 12th July 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 Reverend Martin Booth for our Sunday Worship this week.

Re-opening of St Nicolas Church

The pattern of Worship, in and out of Church, which we will be adopting after this weekend, and for the foreseeable future is as follows, but before coming, please read the safety guidance below:

Sundays:

8am: Said Holy Communion (1662)

10am: *Worshipping at Home (live via Zoom)*

11am: Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Tuesdays:

12noon: Said Holy Communion (1662)

Thursdays:

10am: Time of led Prayer

4.30pm: Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)

During which next Sunday's online Service will be recorded

During this time of transition, as things gradually ease, we are trying to take things slowly and safely, and are very aware that there will those of you who are not yet comfortable with coming back to church. As long as this continues, we assure you that online and printed worship for home use will continue for those who need it (*see below for more details, and for comprehensive notes about what safety features we have in place and what coming to church will be like*)

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.

There will also be **live worship** at 10am led this week by our young people on WhatsApp and Zoom, with a live talk from Annabelle Oxborough. 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

***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!***

Coming to St Nicolas – Safety Guidelines:

- Numbers will be restricted in order that social distancing is observed. We have decided to work for now on the 2 metre rule, as we think this will be a lot safer for all of us. Bearing that in mind, we believe that we can safely accommodate 45 people in a service, in addition to the leaders and stewards. If a service reaches the limit, we regret that we will have to turn people away, but please do not arrive early to be at the front of the queue, as this would be a risk to yourself and others – **ideally, we would not want congregation to arrive more than 20 minutes before a service** is due to start.
- You will be asked to sit in particular spaced places (a couple from the same household will be able to sit together).
- No singing will be permitted at services at present, though at the Sunday 11am service we may listen to music.
- We will not be using any books or notice sheets – all words will be projected on the screens.
- Your name and telephone number will be recorded as you come in, and in the event of a known case of Coronavirus, NHS will be given a list of those who have attended (Track and Trace).
- At Holy Communion, members of the congregation will only receive the bread and not the wine. Communion will be brought to you in your seat.
- The Choir Vestry Toilet will be available but only for emergency please, as if it is used it will need to be deep cleaned before it can be used again.

- **No refreshments will be served after the service.**
- **Some of this will feel strange and unfamiliar, but we do ask you to show respect, and to follow the instructions of the Stewards at all time.**
- **You should not come to a service if you are feeling ill.**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 55.10-13*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up

quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

SERMONS (Today you have the luxury of two very different sermons based on the lectionary readings – the first was preached by Martin for the on-line recording, and will be preached again at the 8am Communion, while the second will be preached at the 11am service by The Rector)

The Reverend Martin Booth’s Sermon: I don’t know about you, but whenever I hear or read this parable I often find myself

thinking: “Which seed am I? I do hope that I am the good seed; the one that flourishes.” It is clear that this is the seed Jesus wishes us to be and indeed, encourages us, and helps us with his Spirit to be.

But I rather fear I am often each of the seeds in turn. Depending on my mood, my circumstances, what has happened during the day or the week; who I’ve met, what I’ve seen on television, whether I am thinking holy thoughts, or the thoughts of a flawed and fallible human being.

The trouble is this - and as Jesus says when he speaks about the fleck in another’s eye and the plank in our own - whichever seed I am at any particular time, I am more willing to point out the flawed ‘seediness’ in others.

Do we not - and forgive me if this isn’t you - say when hearing or reading the parable tell ourselves: “I am glad I am not that kind of seed.” And we go on to fall into the trap of thinking about people we know who are precisely that kind of seed. We might even go on to dwell on that person’s, or that community’s, faults: thinking them in the wrong - either deliberately or without knowing we are actively doing this.

So we have to ask ourselves: Is this Jesus’ purpose in his parable? To set us off thinking ourselves better than others? Is Jesus’ glad that some fail to receive and nurture this gift in the way that it has been freely given to everyone? Of course not. Then why should we be glad? Jesus came to heal not to condemn.

We will, as flawed and fallible human beings, always struggle to rid ourselves of the notion of 'Them' and 'Us'. But struggle we must.

In fact, Jesus' parable at its very heart is actually about the astounding grace and abundance of God. Our Father, in casting the seed far and wide, is sharing blessings upon everyone. All of us. Whoever we are, however we are going to respond. Given freely because of God's love for humankind. That is the image of the Kingdom of Heaven in Jesus' parable.

So, if Jesus is saying God's grace is for everyone, and that it is shared equally among all humankind, despite how we might receive it, shouldn't we be thinking and acting this way, too? Rather than separating ourselves out from the rest?

Meanwhile, Jesus also leaves his parables open-ended. They are designed to get us thinking and to set us off on a new course. A different way of being. Jesus is always saying: "This is the way things are. But do not be content with the way things are."

Jesus, in his parables - in this parable - asks us what we can do from now on to be alongside, not stand apart from, those who have, for whatever reason, not accepted or been able to benefit from the abundance of God's grace?

The 'good seed' in his parable bears fruit. If we have been blessed by God, we need to bear the fruit of being a blessing to others.

Everyone. Whoever they are, wherever they are on the spectrum of faith and belief. To heal and not to condemn. To love unconditionally. To do as Jesus would do.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Rector's Sermon: Last week, Tim talked about the Church's lectionary of readings, and of how it is set long in advance, and yet, of how it so often speaks into a particular situation or topic with such amazing relevance – and we find that again today!

And, as you have heard me say before, the teaching of Jesus was so often set in the context of the things that were important to his listeners – sheep and shepherds, lost coins, sickness and health, life and death, and so often, as in this morning's teaching – about planting and growing!

But, because, across 27 years in ordained ministry, I have preached so many sermons about the Parable of the Sower, today, whilst referring to it in passing, I'm going to take a side-step and home in on the wonderful imagery from the writer of Isaiah!

'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'

These last chapters of the Book of Isaiah were written at a time when the people of God were picking up the pieces of their lives after a national disaster. Their lives had been uprooted when the Babylonians had defeated their armies, destroyed their cities and farms, and burnt their temple to the ground. Now they had returned to rebuild.

And as they did that, they will have felt, as a people, not at all dissimilar to how we feel, emerging (we hope) from the disaster of COVID-19, disorientated, nervous, lacking in confidence, but with the hope at the bottom of their hearts, that having come through this, things can only get better!

When the temple that Solomon had built, stood, the people believed that God was in it. But when it was destroyed, they had felt that the glory of God had left Jerusalem and gone to heaven.

Even as they rebuilt the city and the Temple itself, they still felt that God was a long way away. Also, there were many people who had chosen not to return to Jerusalem, who had remained scattered around the Persian Empire and beyond.

So, there were big questions about reconnecting with normality (haven't we heard a lot of that language these past months?) and there were questions about reconnecting with God himself?

And so it is for us – whilst some of us have been confident enough to return here to our worship, to 'seek God in his Temple', to use

another Old Testament phrase, there are others who are not yet ready to do that – so how do we all remain connected to each other, and to God?

Well, the prophet Isaiah told the people that God's presence was not confined to some physical place. Although places like the Temple (or our ancient and Holy St Nicolas Church, exist to help people to meet with God, this is not exclusive! God doesn't live in a special holy place on earth. Rather, as Isaiah taught, people can come close to God wherever they are physically placed, seeking him through his holy word – the scriptures – the Bible!

So, the people of God, the ancient Hebrews, began to set up gatherings where believers could come together around scripture – these places were called, in the Greek language, 'synagogues'!

These gatherings or 'synagogues', weren't in grand building, but in any place they could meet – each other's homes, or maybe, as Jesus so often taught, in the open air! But the people of God would come together to read and study God's word. They would have a teacher, a 'Rabbi', to help them to apply God's word to their lives.

And through the study of scripture the people began to experience the presence of God and the deepening of their faith.

According to Isaiah, just as rain comes from the sky to water the crops and make them produce, so too does the word of God come from heaven to nourish faith in our hearts.

But we all know that no amount of planting will come to any sort of fruition unless the conditions are right! Jesus knew that, which is why he told them this story!

The Church today, like every other institution, is being called to re-examine itself, and to respond appropriately to the new world-order, which will emerge, and become the post-pandemic world – what people keep calling the ‘new normal’!

The challenges are huge, and require a ‘back to basics’ approach! Which is why today’s readings – the Parable of the Sower, encouraging the right conditions for planting, and the message of Isaiah to another group of faithful, emerging from disaster, are so appropriate and poignant in our present predicament.

When we first closed the church doors and cancelled worship in mid-March, I rather naively thought that in a few weeks’ time we would be able to open the doors again, and pick up where we left off! But, of course, that is not so – and the reality of the situation is very different!

I believe that we have learnt much from these times and we continue to learn! We have discovered that there are new and exciting ways to worship, using modern technology, and we have learnt, like God’s people returning from the Babylonian Exile, that we don’t always need a church building to be close to God!

But, I do believe that there are yet more lessons to learn, and that perhaps we need to start sowing the seeds afresh! And maybe, more than anything, we just need to learn that all we actually need is his living Word, which, in Isaiah's own words '*. . . . will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*'

God continues to speak that word, even through disaster, and he knows that it will not return to him fruitless, or until it has, though his faithful people (that's you and me, brothers and sisters) accomplished its purpose! Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by
your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all
godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS:

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 members of the Bishop's Council and the Diocesan Board of Finance as they balance issues of mission and finance and for those serving on Diocesan Synod and those from this diocese serving on the General Synod.
- For Peter Coles in his role as Diocesan Secretary and for Chris Ellis in his role as Deputy Diocesan Secretary
- For our own Parish Administrator (Elise Whittington) and PCC Secretary (Rob Isherwood-Crook)

National and World Affairs:

- For all affected by Coronavirus, and for the Governments and scientists across the world, seeking to find ways of combatting the virus
- For all who feel marginalised in society
- For all Aid agencies

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Beaumont Square
- For the Cadet Forces
- 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, 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, 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 from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Henry)*

NOTICES:

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

Paying Money to the Church – If you wish to pay any monies to St Nicolas, cheques should always be made payable to 'Cranleigh PCC'

Ministry Team News: The Reverend Rutton Viccajee: Rutton is going to be joining St Nicolas Ministry Team in September as a Self-Supporting (non-stipendiary) Curate. He is currently Curate in the Parish of Tongham, where he has been ministering for 5 years (3 as a lay minister during his ordination training, and the past 2

as Deacon and Priest.) However, it has been agreed by the Diocese, Tongham Parish, and Rutton himself, that it would be beneficial for him to complete his curacy by gaining experience in a different context, and I am pleased and excited that it has been agreed that he will do this here at St Nicolas. He will work in the Parish for 2 days a week in addition to Sunday until he completes his curacy in 2022. Rutton, a semi-retired accountant, brings with him a wealth of experience in business and life in the local church, and is passionate about mission and pastoral care. I really look forward to welcoming him and his wife, Kate, amongst us. Rutton's last Sunday at Tongham will be on the 19th July, after which he will take a well-earned break before taking up his new duties. Please pray for him and for his family in this time of transition.

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'.

Traidcraft: Sue Knight is now offering Traidcraft goods for sale. Traidcraft has continued to trade during lockdown 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.

Cranleigh's Own 'Captain Tom'!



90 year Rotarian and Church member, John Menlove, will be doing a sponsored walk around the Cricket Green between 20th-31st July, aiming to complete a lap per day! Raising money for

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care, donations can be made on Just Giving by following this URL:

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F3i61YMK&data=02%7C01%7C%7C33d435e8271c4845362708d81ff3f3e8%7C61d1bd8f365d40bbb725a3138fb537cf%7C1%7C0%7C637294479910853102&sdata=qNZU7EUxX6ZG612Qw%2BellgPQyUerdBP4pSeM3Kifqc0%3D&reserved=0>

John's target was to raise £1,000, but we are told that he has raised over £800 before he has even started! Well don and good luck John!

'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.

St Nicolas Church: During these changing times you can still keep in touch in the following ways

The Rector: 01483 800655 or email
roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Curate to be, Tim Clifford Hill: 01483 276267 or email
tim@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.

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

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**

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

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!

Alternatively, with the church re-opening, if you no longer require this weekly publication delivered to you, please can you let Elise know?