



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
WORSHIPPING AT HOME
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 19th 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 Rector, Canon Roy Woodhams 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 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 and Reflection

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 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.**



SEEKERS, EXPLORERS, ADVENTURERS
JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

**SEA CHURCH
EVERY SUNDAY IN
AUGUST!
11:15-11:45**

**02/08: David and Goliath
09/08: Walking on water
16/08: Feeding the 5000
23/08: Jesus and the Children
30/08: Daniel and the lion's den**

**Join us on Zoom for games,
stories, crafts, sweets, music,
puppets and prayer!**

To sign up, contact Gabrielle at 07427
748408/ Gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh
.org.uk

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you such good things as
pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you that we,
loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 forever. Amen.

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Romans 8.12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When

we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and

gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen.”

SERMON (*Written by Canon Roy Woodhams*)

“What are we going to do about the weeds?”

Words that have regularly echoed round the Woodhams households across the (almost) 30 years that Kate and I have been married! Why is it, that we always seem to move to houses that have the dreaded Ground Elder and Bindweed?

“What are we going to do about the weeds?”

As I was alluding in my sermon last week, Jesus’ parables are a Master Class in how to meet people where they are! Last week we heard the Parable of the Sower, and today, Jesus continues teaching the crowd with parables about planting and growing – feeding the minds of his audience of 2,000 years ago with the things that were important to them in their daily lives!

I’m sure that if Jesus were teaching today, his parables would be about Environmental issues, Ipads, Zoom, and perhaps even, Viruses – the things that are important to us now! But enough of that – The Rector’s going ‘off on one’!

This morning’s reading from the Gospel of Matthew appears to be one of those passages that speaks of a divide between those received into God’s eternal kingdom and those condemned to the outer darkness (a bit like the better known ‘sheep and goats’)!

In this story, the focus is on an evil one who has slipped into a farmer’s field under the cover of darkness and sowed weeds among the wheat (the same one who put Bindweed in Mrs Woodhams’ flower bed, no doubt)!

Like the parable of the sower, this one comes with an attached interpretation. Jesus explains to the disciples that the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The good seed represents the children of the kingdom and the weeds are the children of the Devil. At the end of the age, the angels will collect all the causers

of sin – the evildoers and pitch them into the fire. Then, the righteous will shine like the sun in God’s kingdom.

It sounds clear cut, doesn’t it? The age-old battle between good and evil:

- Harry Potter versus Lord Voldemort
- Luke Skywalker versus Darth Vader
- Batman versus the Joker
- Cowboys versus Indians

In our story we know who the wheat is, and we now who is weed. The wheat is in the church and the weeds are those who fail to follow Christ. But it’s not quite so easy to apply this to our own situation today!

Hence, “What are we going to do about the weeds?”

Key to understanding this parable is to remember that Matthew wrote his gospel for a beleaguered minority who were trying to remain faithful in the face of early Christian persecution. He was assuring them that despite their current suffering, and what appeared to be the triumph of the enemies of Christ, there would be a day of reckoning when God would sort it all out, and reward those who remained faithful – the message of Jesus, to their ears was one of ‘revolution’!

And those who were suffering were delighted to hear of the revolution, while those who were benefitting from the status quo were less than enthusiastic.

According to Matthew, those who followed Jesus and supported his revolution were the wheat. They were right with God and they did what was right to others. Those who opposed him and resisted his revolution were the weeds. They were sorely lacking in the justice and mercy department.

In our day, we can quickly jump to false conclusions if we rip the parable out of its original context. We run the risk of imagining that we possess more insight than we actually do have, as to who falls into the categories of good and evil. I'm sure we have all known someone who we thought was a wonderful human being, until we discovered their dark side. Or, on the other hand, apparently dubious characters, who have surprised us one day by their acts of compassion?

Russian writer and winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, was arrested, sentenced to a forced labour camp and eventually exiled from the Soviet Union. He witnessed cruel acts and experienced harsh punishment. He could have easily written about clear distinctions between people who were good and people who were evil, but instead, he wrote these words:

“Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between (social) classes,

nor between political parties, but right through every human heart... This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. Even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained; and even in the best of all hearts, there remains a small corner of evil... If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being."

Here we find the very reason why Jesus taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"! We are all broken human beings, and so our motives are not always pure, and we do not always do what is right. We must turn to a greater power in order to be forgiven and delivered from evil.

"What are we going to do about the weeds?"

There are weeds to be found every community – even within the local church! They are lurking in the best of us, but there is also, wheat which is waiting to be discovered, even in the darkest of human hearts!

That is why we can never allow ourselves to be judge! Only God can judge – he is the only one who can burn away the weeds in each of us and harvest what is good!

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For those working alongside our Diocese in Further Education. Especially for The Surrey University Chaplain (Duncan Myers) and the Royal Holloway College Chaplain (Orion Edgar)
- For those from the Parish who are in Further Education, or hoping to start courses in September
- For our Bellringers (Tower Captain: Chris Robinson)

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 are homeless or destitute
- For all Aid agencies

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Woodland Avenue
- For the Royal British Legion and the Earl Haig Fund

- 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, Judith Wheeler, Jackie Williams, 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 Joan Roberts and Peggy Martin *(and 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!

Time of Led Prayer and Reflection (Each Thursday at 10am in Church): This quiet time in Church each Thursday morning has been scheduled in response to those who asked for worship that didn't include the Eucharist. Last week, The Rector led half an hour of reflection on The Lord's Prayer, using words and music,

but almost nobody came! These sessions will be led differently each week, depending on who the leader is, but please consider coming and giving it a try!

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

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%7C33d435e827>

[1c4845362708d81ff3f3e8%7C61d1bd8f365d40bbb725a3138fb537cf%7C1%7C0%7C637294479910853102&sdata=qNZU7EUxX6ZG612Qw%2BellgPQyUerdBP4pSeM3Kifqc0%3D&reserved=0](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10853/10853-102&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 done and good luck John!

Parish Magazine: You will all be very pleased to know that the next edition of the Parish Magazine will be a printed copy that will be distributed and delivered through your letterbox! A big thank you to all 42 distributors who have agreed to recommence deliveries of the August edition at the end of July. Unfortunately, we are unable to leave any copies in church at present so please contact me if you need a copy delivered. Electronic copies will still be on the Church website and Roy will continue to post copies to those who do not receive a delivered copy. Gordon Cheesman.

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.

Plant Sales: Win Bracking and friends will be holding another plant sale at the Rectory gate on Saturday 25th July from 10am – 12noon, raising funds for the 'Rectory Fete'. The last 2 sales have been very successful, despite the inclement weather conditions on both occasions, but this sale will be 'Weather Permitting' and if the weather doesn't 'play ball' the date will be re-arranged!

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

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.

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?