



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 9th August 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 Rev'd Peter Poole and The Rev'd Martin Booth for our Sunday Worship this week.

Important *NEW* Safety Notice

The Government have said that we must wear face coverings in Church at all times.

The risk from the Coronovirus is still significant. The social distancing guidelines for church services are:

- Stay 2 Meters apart at all times**
- Do not engage in conversations inside the church at the beginning and end of services, but do meet each other outside**
- Always show respect and please do as the Steward asks you**
- Go straight to the seat you are asked to sit in and stay in the same place throughout the service**
- Avoid touching surfaces if possible**

Worship at 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

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.

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 Face Book 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:

- **NEW - if you are coming to church services you MUST wear a face covering.**
- 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 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.**

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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.

Gracious Father,
revive your church in our day and make her holy, strong and
faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Romans 10: 5.15.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."
But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or "Who will descend into the abyss?" " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14.22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

SERMON *(Written by The Rev'd Peter Poole)*

We have heard a lot over the last few weeks about St Matthew's Gospel and what he is trying to say about Jesus. Because he is writing some forty years or more after the death of Jesus, his Gospel reflects some of the ideas that people were coming to believe about their Messiah. John Mark, writing earlier, has a much more realistic view of Jesus. But as the years went by more and more ideas about the man had begun to attribute to him events that would elevate him to something akin to a superman. This we must take into account when we read the later Gospels. As an example of what I am trying to say, in St Mark's Gospel, on

one occasion Jesus could not work a miracle because of the people's unbelief. St Matthew, in the telling of the story, cannot believe that Jesus' would be prevented from doing anything, so he says, Jesus did not perform the deed because of the unbelief.

Taking all this in mind, when we come to look at today's Gospel, we have to be a little wary about what actually happened when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water. There may be a lot of overemphasis as things began to be attributed to Jesus as the Christian Community developed.

I think what is important here is to not be distracted by trying to believe something which, in your heart, you find you cannot accept as actually happening. What is important is to see behind the narrative the point that is being made. That is, as far as I can see, the importance of faith. That is clearly shown when Peter is invited to walk towards Jesus. Has he faith enough to do something that is blatantly impossible? The answer seems to be, "no". And this raises the question of what we mean by faith.

You see, this is the difficulty that people these days have when it comes to what they think Christians believe. If you say that they have to believe that Jesus did things that they see as fairy stories, then no wonder that they want nothing at all to do with it. So it is up to us to reinterpret the message and whole event of Jesus in ways that people of the twenty-first century can respond to.

To my mind this means concentrating more on what Jesus did and said in the way of reaching out to people of whatever colour, culture or creed. Let people know that they are valued whoever they are. Let them see that the ways of the world are moving in the wrong direction. Help them to see, what seems impossible, that the way to peace and harmony throughout the world, is love and friendship and kindness. There can be no peace all the while there is hostility and the threat of military force.

This is where real faith comes in and we have been shown it in our own time through the actions of one man, who, against all the odds, maintained his faith, in the face of considerable opposition. I speak of course of John Hume who was instrumental in bringing the warring parties in Northern Ireland together.

As you may know from the news bulletins following his death, he was trained as a priest. That indicates that he had a deep faith in the love of God and was convinced that what Jesus stood for, was the only way to restore peace in his homeland. By going into politics rather than the church he was able to achieve miracles.

What the media has omitted to emphasize is that, throughout the struggle, he never lost his faith. And that faith was, not so much in who Jesus was, but in what he proclaimed and maintained throughout his life. So what is faith? It is a firm conviction that what was at the heart of Jesus teaching is the answer to the problems of national and personal importance. And that must be the message that we present to the men and women, boys and

girls of Cranleigh. How we do it depends entirely on what we believe deep down in our hearts. If John Hume is any example for us, then it is not so much from standing in a Church and speaking words of faith and love, but rather getting out beyond the lych gate and being active in showing the way of peace and love through the way we behave once we have left the worship of the church.

Do you have doubts about that? If you do, then it won't work. If you really believe it there will be a miracle right before your eyes. Mind you it is the hardest thing to achieve. Take another look at John Hume's life. It was tough going, but his faith motivated him. He would not give up anymore than his inspiration, Jesus of Nazareth gave up even unto death. That of course is always a possibility. It takes courage, but then that is what Jesus promised to those who would follow him, and many, when they realized the dangers, went away from him. So the question to all of us is this. Are we ready to take up our cross and follow him in the faith that he is right, or are we turning away because it is not for us?

St Paul, in the context of his own day gave words of encouragement to his friends in Rome. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news""

That is the challenge that is set before us. By the way we live from day to day and by the courage to speak out what we truly believe, we can leave the rest to God to work the miracle.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Holy Father,

Who gathered us here and around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God:

In that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For the Chaplains of General Hospitals, Hospices & Mental Health Trusts in the Diocese.
- For our Parish Finance Team (Chair, Chris Robinson)

National and World Affairs:

- For greater tolerance between nations, cultures and religions
- For all who have been affected by the Terrorist attack in Lebanon
- For all affected by Coronavirus, and for the Governments and scientists across the world, seeking to find ways of combatting the virus

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Elmbridge Road
- For our Seekers and Explorers
- 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, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, Michael Hart, Tony Kenison, Amy Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Henry Young (*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, Roy Buckman, Pat Mills (*from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Henry and Bishop John Neale, Former Rector of St Peter's Hascombe*).

NOTICES:

John Menlove (Cranleigh's Own 'Captain Tom') would like to say a very BIG Thank you for all the support and encouragement he has had with his sponsored walk in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. He was quite overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up to cheer him on!

He has exceeded his target, but can still be sponsored until the end of August, when the final total will be announced. Just follow the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/menlovesponsoredwalk>

For Sale (donation to St Nicolas Church): An original oil painting of St Nicolas Church, by a local artist and member of the Arts and Crafts Society. Size, including frame, 20" x 15" To view the picture please contact Sheila on 01483 274376

Traidcraft: Sue Knight is now offering Traidcraft goods for sale 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. Call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

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



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

Curate Visiting: In order to gain a good understanding of our parish, our new Curate, Tim, is starting to safely visit parishioners. If you would like him to visit you, either socially distantly in your garden, on the telephone or on Zoom/Facetime, please contact him.

September Magazine: To keep the magazine going and interesting the Editors need more articles please from members of our congregation.

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: 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:

- 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 www.cofeguildford.org.uk/
- Premier Christian Radio www.radio.net/s/premierchristian
- Guildford Cathedral Website www.guildford-cathedral.org
- Website www.churchmissionsociety.org/
- Bible Society Website www.biblesociety.org.uk/

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?