



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 16th 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 Martin Booth and The Rev'd Tricia Hislop for our Sunday Worship this week.

Safety Notice

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

The risk from the Coronavirus 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:

- **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.**

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
Be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
And that they may obtain their petitions
Make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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.

Or

Lord of heaven and earth,
As Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
Give us patience and courage never to loose hope,
But always to bring our prayers before you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8.

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28.

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, ‘Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.’ Then the disciples approached and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?’ He answered, ‘Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a

pit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘Explain this parable to us.’ Then he said, ‘Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.’]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON *(Written by The Rev’d Martin Booth)*

What do we make of Jesus’ behaviour in our Gospel passage? Does he strike us as being, really, quite rude towards the Canaanite woman? It really is quite a crude analogy Matthew

reports Jesus as using: likening the Canaanite people – who in Jesus' time were Gentiles (that is: not worshipping Yahweh the one true God) – to dogs. As we may well imagine – this is actually an incredibly offensive label.

Was then. Is now. Not just in Middle Eastern cultures either.

Some biblical scholars have sought to try and explain the expression by saying Jesus used the diminutive word for dogs in Greek. A more affectionate term like, say, 'puppies'. But, unfortunately, that's only in the record of what Jesus said.

Although Matthew wrote in Greek, Jesus would have spoken to the woman in Aramaic.

There is no diminutive in Aramaic. A dog is a dog. It means exactly what we think it means.

Can Jesus really be so out of character as to speak to a Gentile in this way? Well, the clue's right there – 'out of character'. To use such language with strangers, outsiders, foreigners, women? No. Never. So... something else must be going on.

A number of other suggestions have been made. We can't be sure... but here's the one I favour. Not least because it fits all the facts as we know them. The Canaanites were clearly considered 'dogs' by some - if not the majority - of the people who believed themselves to be the good, decent, honest, religious folk of the day.

It seems to me that, as some bible commentators have it, Jesus was quoting perhaps the way some other Temple Jews and those who considered themselves ritually pure were saying - about Canaanites and other foreigners.

Perhaps, he still had his Pharisee audience with him when the Canaanite woman began her plea?

Perhaps therefore Jesus was challenging his audience and their prejudices - whilst at the same time inviting the woman to respond to this very offensive view others had of her?

We don't know of any time in Scripture where Jesus was offensive - speaking in this way about people on the margins of society as dogs. But we do know throughout the Gospels of times when Jesus was theatrical and threw out challenges of this nature to his audience.

So – by inviting a response from the woman – “what do you say to people who consider you as foul, and to be as despised, as dogs...?” Jesus is meeting the woman where she is. Is in fact *taking her side*. But is also not presuming to answer for her.

Many, many times in scripture it is Jesus – and only Jesus – who shows the women of his time such dignity and respect. And, indeed, even women who were not Jewish ... the Samaritan woman at the well for example.

The woman is encouraged by Jesus to answer for herself and for her people.

And so she does.

And - whilst Jesus makes clear the theological position: that salvation will come from the Jews first and then the Gentiles - he blesses her. And he assures her that her faith has made her daughter well.

But what does this mean for us?

From the very beginning. From the book of Genesis and creation, God has declared everyone and everything good. Everyone and everything in God's eyes is good.

God so loved the entire world, everyone, that he sent Jesus to save us.

It's okay to be human; react in a human way - and struggle when we prejudge someone or something.

However, it's also beholden on us to be a follower of Jesus. To react in the way Jesus asks and expects us to.

Even if that means leaving us seemingly on the margins of today's society.

Leaving us standing alongside Jesus as he - and we - challenge others as to their preconceptions, self-righteousness and prejudices.

Thanks be to God. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

God of our pilgrimage,
You have willed that the gate of mercy
Should stand open for those who trust in you:
Look upon us with your favour
That we who follow the path of your will
May never wander from the way of life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For all licensed Pastoral Assistants in the Diocese.
- For our own Pastoral Assistants at St. Nicolas.

National and World Affairs:

- For all affected by the train derailment in Stonehaven on Wednesday
- For all who have received exam results this summer
- 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 Thurlow Walk, Napper Place and Ellery Close.
- For all who have received exam results this summer

- For all who work in the fields of Science and Technology
- 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

LAVENDAR: If anyone would like to harvest my Lavendar with a view to making Lavendar Bags, they would be most welcome contact Win Bracking on 01483 275573

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?