



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 23rd 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 Peter Poole for our Sunday Worship this week.

Safety Notice

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

- Stay 2 Metres apart at all times**
- Please wear face coverings in church**
- 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.**

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

O God, you declare your almighty power
Most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
That we, running the way of your commandments,
May receive your gracious promises,
And be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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.

Or

God of glory, the end of all our searching,
Help us to lay aside
All that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
And to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price,
Through our saviour Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING: Romans 12: 1-8.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16: 13-20.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the

kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

St Matthew was a very organized person who liked to have everything sorted out and in order. So, when he looked at what was being said about Jesus, he saw him as a second Moses, someone who had come to reinterpret the person and teaching of that giant of Hebrew history who had released God's people from the slavery of Egypt and given them a code of living. When writing his Gospel he based it very closely on the life of Moses and saw parallels between the two men. As the Scriptures had five books of Moses, so Matthew arranges his writing into five sections, each including a section of teaching.

There is not time now to go into more detail. That would mean a far longer session, but I hope that that gives you some introduction into how Matthew describes the moment when the disciples, through the voice of Simon, finally recognize Jesus for who he was. But what is striking in Matthew's telling is the bit about Jesus naming Simon as his rock, that is Peter, on which the Church will be built.

If the read the account in Mark and Luke you will find that bit is not there. On the contrary Mark is quite scathing about Peter,

for, in his account, when Jesus starts talking about his forthcoming death, Peter rails at him and is subsequently called “Satan”. That could not possibly have happened as far as Matthew is concerned, for by the time he was writing Peter was a prominent member of the community, although, surprisingly enough, not the head. That position went to James, the Lord’s brother.

However, Peter was having a deal of influence, together with Paul to establish what would become a new religion eventually called Christianity. The question is was this what Jesus wanted? It certainly seems like it from what we have in today’s Gospel if we think of the word Church as an organization. But the Greek does not imply that. It simply means a community, or a collection of people with a common purpose, Which raises the question of whether, almost from the start, the followers of Jesus, did what we humans are prone to do, that is, get a society together with rules and regulations, dos and don’ts.

As soon as that happens you get tensions and conflicts between those who are in and those who are out. To my mind that is not what Jesus wanted. He came to bring about reform, not start a new Religion. This is brought out clearly in the sections of teaching in St Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus is constantly saying, “You have heard this, but I tell you something else” Whereas there was tit for tat and an eye for an eye and so on, Jesus said “Love your enemies. Be good to those who hate you.” As the Christian Church developed over the next three hundred years all

that was forgotten in establishing this new religion. What was important was the keeping to the rules that were laid down. If you did not keep them, then you were out on your neck.

Yes the Christian community which is, in theory based on the love of God being shown to all of his creation, has much to answer for. And we have to be very careful in being critical about the past. For are we as pure as the driven snow in this respect? Do we put the Church before Christ? Are we more concerned in maintaining the minutiae of Church life than in reaching out to those in society who are, if we are honest, utter rotters? What do we think, for example, about “Andrew’s Law”? How do we feel about those who take the lives of policeman or young children? Where does the love of Christ come in with regards to them?

These are massive questions with which we have to wrestle. And we cannot shrug them off by claiming that we are regular church-goers who live upright so-called Christian lives.

So, to recap: Jesus did not come to found a religion. He came to restore this broken world through the only way possible, unending love even to death.

Well if not The Church as a religion, what was to follow? The answer to that is most clearly shown in a remarkable little book called “The Shack”. In that, a man who has a tragedy in his life, finds himself spending a week-end with God, expressed as Trinity. During that time he is confronted by all those questions which inevitably lie somewhere inside all of us and which we tend to

pack away so that we can ignore them. Such questions as, “Why, if God is love, do awful things happen, murders and rape and acts of terror?” “Why cannot God stop disasters such as the recent one in Lebanon?”

As in no other book I have read are these brought out into the open and discussed. It is an amazing book and I recommend it to you.

In particular with regard to Jesus not wanting a new religion, I quote from the book. The man Mack is in conversation with Jesus and they are talking about the Church as The Bride of Christ.

Mack says, “You’re talking about the Church as this woman you’re in love with; I’m pretty sure I haven’t met her” He turned away slightly. “She’s not the place I go on Sundays,” Mack said more to himself, unsure if that was safe to say out loud.

“Mack, that’s because you’re only seeing the institution, a man-made system. That’s not what I came to build, What I see are people and their lives, a living breathing community of all those who love me, not buildings and programmes “

And a little further on in the conversation is this.

“As well-intentioned as it might be, you know that religious machinery can chew up people!” Jesus said. “An awful lot of what is done in my name has nothing to do with me and is often, even unintentional, very contrary to my purposes.”

“You’re not too fond of religion and institutions?” Mack said, not sure if he was asking a question or making an observation.

“I don’t create institutions – never have, never will.”

So there you have it. I leave it there before you are reeling with too much intellectual controversy. Just relax. Just remember

that the whole Jesus event shows that you are loved to bits by your heavenly father/mother and so is every other person on this earth.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord of all mercy,

We your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice

Which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:

By our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the Gospel

And preserve us from all sin;

Through Christ our Lord.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For all who offer their musical gifts to the worldwide church.
- For our own musicians (Director of Music, Michael Clarke).

National and World Affairs:

- For Governments across the world
- For all members of Parliaments throughout the UK
- 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 Woodstock Close and Livingstone Close

- For all involved in A Level results, both teachers and students
- 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, Louise Harbutt, 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:

From Peter Poole: I mentioned the book, "The Shack" by William P Young, in my Sermon. If anyone would like a copy I can get one for £7.22 from Amazon. I have to order at least three to get free postage. Please let me know by the end of the month through my email, primrosecottage@go-plus.net, stating your name and address. Peter.

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'

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



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

From Win Bracking – Plant Sale: Before I shut up shop for the winter, would anyone be interested in buying any of the following plants (all hardy)?

Japanese Anemone (white, pink & deep pink), Salvia (hot lips and lemon), Verbena Bonariensis, Verbena Hastata (pink & blue), Polemonium (yellow tubular flowers), Euphorbia Polychroma, Rosemary, Sisyrinchium, Pulmoaria, Yellow Daisy, Penstemon ('plum jerkum' purple), Grisellinia, Jasmine (scented white), Perennial Geranium (blue), Michaelmas Daisy, Dianthus (white & deep pink), Valerian (red), Hibiscus (white).

Visitors welcome, by appointment. Win – 01483 275573.

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?