



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 30th 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 Canon Roy Woodhams and Tim Clifford Hill for our Sunday Worship this week.

Safety Notice

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

- Stay 2 Meters apart at all times**
- Please wear face coverings at all times 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**

Pattern of Worship at St Nicolas Church

*****NEW*** From this coming week onwards, we will no longer be holding a Communion Service on Thursdays at 4.30pm to record the Sunday Service. Instead, from Sunday 6th September onwards we will be live streaming the 11am service each Sunday morning, which will then be available to watch on FaceBook and Youtube for the rest of the week. (See details n back page)**

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

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 the live-streamed version of a said Communion Service, with the sermon on the and on the Church Website www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk and on the St Nicolas Church Face Book page each Sunday from 11am onwards.

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.**

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

COLLECTS:

Almighty and everlasting God,
You are always more ready to hear than we to pray
And to give more than either we desire or deserve:
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
Forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
And giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
But through the merits and mediation of 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.

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us:
Remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us,
That our thankfulness may grow,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Romans 12: 9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in
showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the
Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to
strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16: 21-end.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if

they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

SERMON *(Written by Tim Clifford Hill)*

May I speak in the name of the living God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As I was reading through the Romans passage for today, I was struck by a sentence in verse 13, ‘extend hospitality to strangers.’

Why does this phrase leap out at me? It does so because, dear people of Cranleigh, that it was you have done to me. You have extended hospitality to your new curate, who, only weeks ago, was a complete stranger.

As you will see from our news sheet, in order to gain a good understanding of the parish, I have been out and about, on my bicycle, visiting parishioners. Due to coronavirus, this hasn’t been a traditional style of visiting. Instead of meeting people in their homes, I’ve met people in their gardens, spoken to them on the phone and zoomed or faceted. And the young people of the parish have been hospitable to this strange new curate by wanting to know more about me. I was interviewed by Gabrielle

recently, with questions from them, and they wanted to know what my favourite film was. Do I prefer cake or biscuits? Do I have a favourite Churchwarden? Would I be happy to do a Tik Tok with them?

Nearly two months into my new job, and everywhere I go, there is still welcome and hospitality.

Turning my thoughts to our Gospel passage, it is only a few verses before today's passage, in last week's Gospel passage, where we read that the people of Israel, as a corporate body, is not going to welcome Jesus as the Messiah. They identify him as 'one of the Prophets' like John the Baptist, they say, or Elijah. But the Disciples believe that Jesus is the Messiah and in today's passage, Jesus shows them that he must go to Jerusalem, undergo suffering, be killed, and on the third day be raised.

But the Disciples don't want this to happen. They don't want Jesus to be killed. They don't want to believe it. Peter leads the way, saying, "God forbid it Lord, this must never happen to you." The Disciples start to question, they start to doubt, instead of believe.

There is a line in our gradual hymn today, *Alleluia Sing to Jesus*, written by William Dix, that says: '*Faith believes nor questions how.*'

A wise priest, called Brian, once reminded me that our ability to have faith and our ability to doubt and to question aspects of our faith, run alongside each other. Faith and doubt run in parallel.

In our Gospel today, the Disciples doubt is obscuring their faith. Which is only human nature. After all, they have just been told that God's Son – who they believed would conquer death – has to die, so that Scripture can be fulfilled. Of course, we know that Jesus did conquer death, when he died on the Cross.

How often does doubt obscure or cloud our faith? It's certainly happened to me in the past and I'm sure I'm not the only Curate of Cranleigh who has stood on this spot and admitted that. But that hymn phrase keeps returning to my head – 'faith believes, nor questions how.'

That's the hard part of our faith – trying to not let the doubt or the questions obstruct our faith - especially when the modern world tries to catch us out. It's hard to do what the Disciples did not do in this Gospel passage. It's hard sometimes not to question. It's hard sometimes not having the answers to 'this' question or 'that' question. Those questions that people of no faith ask us. Questions that we might not have a clear answer to. But that's OK. Sometimes we don't need to have clear answers because God has the answers. To borrow a line from our Roman's reading this morning, we do not need to 'claim that we are wiser than we are.' Sometimes, God does things that are unclear and a mystery to us.

Part of taking up our cross in the modern world is to sit in that mystery, let our faith sit alongside our doubt and be comfortable with that.

The late Cardinal Basil Hume, formerly Archbishop of Westminster – in the Roman Church – described mystery as ‘a secret reality about God, which lies beyond our capacity either to discover or understand.’

Faith believes, nor questions how.

But what has the Disciples reaction to Jesus got to do with us? In order to let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is Good, love one another, rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, live in harmony with one another. In order to take up our cross and follow Jesus, we have to loose our life for Christ’s sake and not be weighed down, by the questions that the modern world asks us, when people try to put down our Church, our Faith, our God. Perhaps - to those who doubt us and our faith, and for those times when we struggle ourselves – our reply simply needs to be to welcome them, to extend hospitality to them and remind them that faith believes, it doesn’t question how. **Amen.**

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 our Cathedral Church of The Holy Spirit (Dean Dianna Gwilliams) and all the Cathedral staff and volunteers
- For our Parish Pastoral Assistants team

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 Oak Grove, Grove Close, Southwood Chase, Collingdean and Wildwood Close
- For children and teachers returning to a new school year this week
- 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, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, Michael Hart, Louise Harbutt, Tony Kenison, Amy Loveless, Libby O'Brien, John Parry, 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, Doreen Nunney, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jackie Williams, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Paul Wiltshire, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley*)

The Departed:

All we have known and loved, Peggy Craig, Pat Mills and Liz Hoad

NOTICES:

*****NEW THIS WEEK*** Notice is given of rescheduled APCM: The Church Annual Meeting which had to be cancelled in March will be held on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm – The meeting will be in hybrid format – you will be able to come to the Church in limited numbers or take part via Zoom from the comfort and safety of your own home. More details to follow.**

From Peter Poole: I mentioned the book, "The Shack" by William P Young, in my Sermon last week. 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.

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'

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.**



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

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/

Things are changing from next week – on-line Communion Service:

Each week a link to a Youtube video of the service has been available from 4.45pm on the Saturday immediately before the Sunday service. This will no longer be available. Instead a 'Live' stream of the actual service will be available as it takes place. The necessary Youtube link to the service will be published in the email newsletter and available for you to access three minutes before the service start time. For those using the Church website, just go to the 'Current and Virtual Video Worship' page and scroll down to the image of the Church building as before, but again the streamed service will not be available until 3 minutes before the service start time at 11.00am. The image has a count-down clock showing how much time is left before streaming starts!

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