



**St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh**  
**WORSHIPPING AT HOME**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 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 and Revd Rutton Viccajee for our Sunday Worship this week.

**WORSHIP THIS WEEK . . . .**

**Welcome this week to our new Assistant Curate, Rutton, and his wife, Kate – we hope you will be very happy with us!**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September:**

**8am: Said Holy Communion (1662)**

***10am: Worshipping at Home (live via Zoom)***

**11am: Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September:**

**12noon: Said Holy Communion (1662)**

***At which we will remember the late Pat Mills RIP***

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September:**

**10am: Quiet Time for Prayer**

**The risk from the Coronavirus is still significant. Please read the safety notice over the page before coming to worship at Church!**

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***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!***

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**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 Meter 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.**

During this time of transition, as the 'New Normal' gradually unfolds, 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.

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

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY:

## COLLECTS:

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## FIRST READING: Romans 13:8-end

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-20**

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

### **SERMON (*Written by Revd Rutton Viccajee*)**

Well good morning everyone. My name is Rutton Viccajee and I am your new part-time assistant curate. A huge thank you to Roy and to many others for your kind welcome.

(I am also in commercial work, two days a week, as an accountant, and I have also just started a role as a volunteer police chaplain.)

I am a self-supporting minister, so even if I am no good, at least I am free! I am married to my long-suffering wife, Kate. We have a grown-up family, and I live in Ash Green, which is near Aldershot.

My last two churches included thirty years at St Saviours Church Guildford, followed by five years at St Paul's Church, Tongham. I am very excited about ministry in Cranleigh with Roy, and all the other ministers, and I very much hope to get to know you all in due course.

*Matthew 18 v 15: "If another member of the church sins against you..."* that's our starting point. Oh dear.

*"To dwell above with saints we love,  
'twill be my theme in glory.  
To dwell below with saints we know,  
Well, that's different story."*

Let's go back a step.

I've been watching your recorded sermon series over the summer, and I was particularly struck with two ideas: one from Roy, and one from Peter Poole.

In a seminal sermon on the wheat and the tares, Roy touched on the problem of sin, which alas, still finds room in the heart of the forgiven Christian. *The wheat and the tares are internal*. It's not just a matter of the good people sitting back complacently and waiting for the second coming, for God to rescue them, and punish the bad people. We know from life's experiences that it is far more complex than that. We have to first deal with the sin inside us all, by seeking forgiveness of Christ. We (all of us) need brutal honesty and uncomfortable self-awareness to realise our faults – and do something about them. Without that, repentance is meaningless.

So, sin is the first concept, but *community* is the second: In a sermon on Matthew's Gospel, Peter Poole pointed out that Jesus did not come to set up an *institution*, but a *community*. It seems to me that both points have far reaching consequences, particularly as they are now reflected in our passage.

Because our passage deals with *the problem of sin in the church community*. The two ideas come together. Sin and community. If you take Peter's point about church being *community* and not *institution*, then *we (the Church) are the people of Christ*, and if one suffers, then we all do. Sin is a *communal* problem, and that is precisely what Jesus is suggesting here, along with a practical solution.

Jesus followers would be already familiar with the principle. Right back as far as Leviticus 19:17 we read: "*You shall not hate your*

*brother in your heart; you shall show him his fault and not bear sin for his sake.”*

So, Jesus is echoing that Old Testament law when he says *don't avoid confrontation*. Don't take the easy way out, don't vote with your feet. Don't use the comfortable theory of self-restraint. If there's a problem with someone else, you are better off dealing with it head-on. And that is deeply uncomfortable to many personality types, including my own, who avoid confrontation at all costs, even though that produces unresolved hurt. Much easier to complain to the Bishop behind that person's back! No, says Jesus. Instead of that, you have to shoot the fox. By confronting that person one-to-one.

Hopefully, if there is nobody else involved, that gives them a bridge to retreat over, and they might admit that what they're doing is wrong.

But . . . . can I just be honest and say that, in my experience, expecting a positive outcome at this point is wildly optimistic. I have rarely met a person who, when confronted, hold up their hands and says “Oh my goodness! I am so grateful you've had a quiet word with me. Now I see the error of my ways. I see the light. I will immediately change what I'm doing, and go forwards to be a better, more humble, and less sinful person.”

In my life I haven't had too many of those conversations, but I've had plenty where the other person bats back the issue, and starts

pointing out my faults instead! Plenty of denial, plenty of paranoia, plenty of self-righteous indignation, or even anger. And sometimes I say to my wife Kate, well, you can't harbour resentment; you will have to get on with that Christian in heaven in all eternity, so you ought to start practicing love and forgiveness now. To which my wife usually relies, 'No I don't, because by the time we get to heaven we will BOTH be perfect!'

Jesus, that master-reader of the human condition, anticipates a negative reaction, and so He says if that doesn't work, go to plan B. Get a couple of pals who agree with you, go back to the offender, and see if that works. And in my experience, it probably won't, because the person who's done wrong will simply even more paranoid, rejected, angry, and entrenched in denial! And Jesus anticipates that as well, and says, "Well then, in that case, plan C: you've got to get the whole church community together to back you up, and for the sake of that whole community, this person must either listen, or be excluded. And you might say well, what's that got to do with the gospel of love? Doesn't everyone get a second chance with Christ?"

Well, people do get a second chance, and in the passage they get a *third* chance. But if they are *still* determined to *go against the community and cause it harm*, then clearly that must be dealt with in a robust manner, for the greater good of everyone. And I think that is what Jesus is promoting here.

Deeply uncomfortable, but you have to admit, it does make sense. Conversely, church leaders who sit on the fence, and avoid confrontation, cause an awful lot of splinter divisions!

Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to form the closest of friendships with fellow Christians and fellow curates. Ministry training can be a rough old road for the over 60's! The sacrifices are many. I almost certainly would not be here today in Cranleigh without the huge amount of help I have received from an army of close friends. They are of all classes, ages, genders, and church backgrounds. But here I am. We overcame many problems and obstacles together: when we agree, we bind God's plans and purpose in heaven, and we bind that purpose on the earth when we rejoice at answered prayer.

I am proud to be a part of that Christian community – and now, also, of yours. Amen

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

God our creator,  
you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage  
until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# **WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

## **Church and Christian Ministry:**

- For our Archbishop, Justin Welby and for members of Archbishop's Council and their supporting staff
- For Rutton Viccajee as he joins our Ministry Team today, and for his wife, Kate and their family

## **National and World Affairs:**

- For the world's leaders, that they may be servant leaders
- For all who suffer as a result of the actions of others
- 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 St James's Place and East View Lane
- Our PCC and its Teams
- 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, George Hill, Tony Kenison, Amy Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean

Quallington, Chrissie Thomson, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Henry Young (*from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Barbara and Des Crabb, Doreen Nunney, Sally Rivett, Jacky 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, Pat Mills, Liz Hoad, John Parry

## **WORSHIP NEXT WEEK . . . .**

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September:

**8am: Said Holy Communion (*Common Worship*)**

**10am: *Worshipping at Home (live via Zoom)***

**11am: Said Holy Communion (*Common Worship*)**

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September:

**12noon: Said Holy Communion (*1662*)**

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September:

**10am: Quiet Time for Prayer**

## **NOTICES:**

**\*\*\*NEW THIS WEEK\*\*\* Parish Administrator** We are very sad to announce that Elise is going to be leaving us after Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September after nearly three years working in the Parish

Office. She has been an amazing Parish Administrator, dealing with the life of the parish in such a professional and caring way – her warm welcome in person and on the phone is going to be greatly missed by all of us. She has also helped us to work through some challenging times, introducing GDPR, ensuring compliance in the way we run our halls, and most recently getting to grips with running the office remotely during COVID-19. However, we are very happy for her that she has made the decision to return to her roots in Pastoral Counselling, and we wish her all the very best for her exciting new venture in that field.

**APCM:** Notice is given of rescheduled APCM: The Church Annual Meeting which had to be cancelled in March will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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. If you would like to be on the list of those coming to the Church, please email Katherine Tuck: [katherine@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:katherine@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Traidcraft:** Sue Knight is 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](http://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 Curates, Tim and Rutton, are starting to safely visit parishioners. If you would like them to visit you, either socially distantly in your garden, on the telephone or on Zoom/Facetime, please contact them (details in the Parish Magazine).

**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](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Curate: 01483 276267 or email**

**[tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Parish Office: 01483 273620 or email**

**[elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Young People's Minister: 07427 748408**

**[gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Church Website:**

**[www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/)
- Premier Christian Radio [www.radio.net/s/premierchristian](http://www.radio.net/s/premierchristian)
- Guildford Cathedral Website [www.guildford-cathedral.org](http://www.guildford-cathedral.org)
- Website [www.churchmissionsociety.org/](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/)
- Bible Society Website [www.biblesociety.org.uk/](http://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**