



# St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

## WORSHIPPING AT HOME

### Bible Sunday

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**WELCOME . . . .** to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week, provided for us by The Revd Tim Clifford Hill.

**THIS WEEK . . . .** *(Events in red will be 'virtual' events!)*

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Bible Sunday:

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

**10am: Church at Home**

**11.15: SEA Church (for young people)**

*(the Zoom joining code for these is ID: 148-785-166)*

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

*(This Service will be live streamed on our Youtube Channel)*

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October:

12noon: Said Holy Communion (*1662*)

**4pm: Virtual Afternoon Tea and Chat**

*(the Zoom joining code for this is ID: 804-694-233)*

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October:

10am: Quiet Time for Prayer

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints and All Souls:

8am: Said Holy Communion (*1662*)

*(This Service will be live streamed on our Youtube Channel)*

**10am: Church at Home**

**11.15: SEA Church (for young people)**

*(the Zoom joining code for these is ID: 148-785-166)*

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

*(This Service will be live streamed on our Youtube Channel)*

**3.00: Service of Remembering**

*(This Service will be live streamed on our Youtube Channel)*

**IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE: Coming to Church During COVID-**

**19**: The risk from the Coronavirus is significant in our area. Please read our safety notices before coming to worship at Church! Face Coverings must be worn at all Church events! Things change very fast, and for all up to date guidance and regulations, always refer to the St Nicolas Church Website. In order to allow maximum heating before services, across the winter months we do ask you to arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start of the service.

**BIBLE SUNDAY:**

**COLLECTS:**

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast the  
hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,  
that trusting in your word  
and obeying your will  
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FIRST READING: *Colossians 3:12-17***

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 24:30-35***

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

## **SERMON (*Written by The Curate, Revd Tim Clifford Hill*)**

Some of you may know, that as a parish, we support The Bible Society. A charity that is on a mission to offer the Bible to every person in the world. A fitting charity to support, especially today, because today is Bible Sunday, when we give thanks to God for the Bible.

The word ‘Bible’ has its origins in the Greek word ‘Biblos,’ which means ‘Book.’ Yet, as I’m sure you will all know, the Bible isn’t only one book. It is a collection of books. A Library. One section of this library, the Hebrew Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament), we share with members of the Jewish faith. The

other section, the New Testament, we share with our Sisters and Brothers in Christ, across the globe.

I wonder if you have a favourite passage from the Bible? I have a few but the one I turn to most comes from the Gospel of Matthew. Chapter 6, verse 34. Where Jesus says to his Disciples, 'do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

A phrase that you may often here me use is 'take each day as it comes.' Of course, that English phrase has its roots in Verse 34, of Chapter 6, of Matthew's Gospel, 'today's trouble is enough for today.'

As I was reflecting upon that passage this week, that had me thinking about how many other daily used English phrases come from the Bible. My research showed many, too many to number in one sermon, but I thought I would share a few with you today.

*At the eleventh hour.* The phrase we use when someone does something at the last minute. This comes from the Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, also called the Parable of the Good Employer, that I preached my last sermon on. The English Standard Version of the Bible says that 'at the eleventh hour the employer went out to find more workers for their vineyard.'

*The blind leading the blind.* The phrase we use for when a leader doesn't know what they're doing. Also, from the Gospel of

Matthew. Chapter 15, verse 14, when Jesus says that the Pharisees are the blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into the pit.

*At your wits end.* To be so annoyed that you don't know what to do next. This comes from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament. Psalm 107. When sailors are thrown into a storm, they 'reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man. They are at their wits end. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, he delivereth them from their distress.'

*By the skin of your teeth.* From the Book of Job. Chapter 19. Job is put through a series of trials but escapes, as he writes, 'by the skin of his teeth.'

*Eat, drink and be merry.* This appears in Luke's Gospel and St Paul's letter to the Corinthians but originally comes from the Book of Ecclesiastes, when Solomon commends enjoyment! He writes, 'for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, drink and be merry.'

So, to those who say that Christianity is dying - that it's all a load of 'mumbo-jumbo,' and that there is no point in it – we can direct them to these sayings. These sayings which are in our vocabulary. Imbedded into the English language of so many people, whether they do or do not have faith.

The Bible also puts to bed those questions about whether or not God exists and why God does certain things. What we in the theology trade call ‘theodicy.’ Questions that include ‘why did God send Coronavirus to us,’ to name a recent one. To those who question the existence of God and His actions, we can show them the Gospels. As the theologian Bishop Colin Fletcher said in a sermon recently. “God does not wrap us up in cotton wool. As Jesus shows in the Gospels, God is the one who enters with us into the reality of human life and shares with us in it’s joys and it’s pains.”

With the Bible – the written documentation of the word of God – God’s message of love and hope has seeped into our language and our lives. It is for this that we give thanks today. For this collection of books, this library, this ‘Biblos,’ this Bible. This, which is the word of the Lord. For that I say, thanks be to God. Amen.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life  
and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your true and living bread;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

# **WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

## **Church and Christian Ministry:**

- For the work of the Mothers' Union in the Guildford Diocese (Diocesan President, Antonia Wilson) in all it does to strengthen and preserve marriage and Christian family life
- For our own Mothers' Union (Branch Leader, Jane Etherington).

## **National and World Affairs:**

- For the People of America as the Presidential Elections approach.
- For all Doctors, nurses and health advisors, seeking to bring healing across the world.
- 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 Mower Place.
- For the work of the Bible Society.

## **The Sick and those in Need:**

- Ray Corver, Mike Ford, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, Michael Hart, Louise Harbutt, Amy and Dennis Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Bert and Eileen Steed, Maureen Steele, Dennis and Rosemary Talbot, Marion

Tomkins, Mac Walker, Angela Wild, Henry Young and Nicholas (*and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Barbara Crabb, Sally Rivett, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Peter Hutley, Sally Davis, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith, Dru Ridley*)

## The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, and especially: Rosannah Buckman, Robin Burnett, Charlie O'Rourke, Adam Speers

## NOTICES:

**\*\*\*Items in red are new or updated this week\*\*\***

**Cranleigh Shines (advance notice):** The Churches in Cranleigh are going to be inviting the people of Cranleigh to put a star in their window to let the light of Christmas really shine out in the Village this year. Many people will be unable to meet up with their families so let's join together in making Cranleigh 'shine' and help brighten every street in the village. Advent is the time of getting ready for Christmas so from Advent Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November we encourage you when planning your Christmas decorations to make, paint draw, use fairy lights and your imagination to light up a window and share it with all who pass by.

**White Envelopes:** If you use White envelopes for your weekly giving, the new envelopes (just 9 to take you up to Christmas) should have been delivered to your homes recently, with a covering letter of explanation. If, however, you have not received

yours, please contact Nicola at the Parish Office who will get it sorted.

**Cranleigh Lions:** Do visit the newly established Cranleigh Lions weekly market stall, where you will find a wide selection of donated items that are being sold to raise funds to help those in need in our community. They have new additions every week and some great present ideas, ranging from Bird Boxes to Books and Bikes and Beyond!

**Every Day with Jesus' Bible notes:** available for November/ December. Subject: 'More than Conquerors': Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Cost £3.25. Contact Diana Trent 272677.

**Jam Jars:** A lot of clean Jam Jars if anyone needs them. Contact Diana Trent 272677

**December Parish Magazine:** Contributions for the December Magazine to Margie Nursey, 1 Elm Cottages, Smithwood Common by 5th November, please. (273693)

**Church Office:** Nicola Craven Smith is now fully at work in her role as Interim Administrator. She is largely working from home, so the office remains closed for the foreseeable future.

**\*\*\* There are times when Nicola or the clergy are in the office printing, and people have begun to drop in! PLEASE ONLY COME TO THE OFFICE IF YOUR VISIT IS UNAVOIDABLE, AND OF YOU DO,**

## **YOU MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING AND SANITISE YOUR HANDS\*\*\***

Nicola's working hours are different (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am – 2.30pm, but you can leave her messages outside those hours and she will get back to you when she is next working. For anything urgent please contact The Rector or Curates, whose contact details are on the back cover of the magazine. The office Telephone number remains 01483 273620 and Nicola can be emailed on the new address, which is: [nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Live-streaming of 8am Service:** Some of you have rightly commented that we haven't live-streamed an 8am 1662 Service. We aim to put this right by streaming the service on the first Sunday of each month, beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The joining code will be issued in the weekend mailing on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, along with the code for the 11am Service and the afternoon Bereavement Streaming. It will be a busy day for our techy people!

**All Souls Commemoration of the departed (next Sunday):** On the nearest Sunday to All Souls Day we normally hold our Annual Service for the Bereaved, when we also remember the names of loved ones who are now in God's keeping. As it will not be possible to hold a large service in Church this year, we will be recording a Service of Remembering, which you will be able to view from the Church Website on and after **3pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**November.** During that Service we will read the names of all those whose funerals we have conducted in the Parish across the past 2 years, and if you would like other names read out, please email them to the Church Office:

[nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk), or call during the new office hours. **\*\*\*No names can be added after 12noon on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October\*\*\***

**Plants:** From Win Bracking (275573) – If you are dividing perennials that have outgrown their allotted space please remember the Church Plant Stall. I do not need any more Alchemilla, Sedum (Ice Plant) or the ubiquitous Crocosmia (Montbretia) but last year someone gave me some beautiful Hemerocallis (Day Lilies) which were red/bronze. I would love some more of those as they were popular in the sales

**Traidcraft:** If you would like to see the Traidcraft Christmas Card selection try this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dht8XJQGgbsdB81sJYfYW55Ec5IysW-O/view?dm\\_i=4EDA,XS6R,1TSECB,477T2,1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dht8XJQGgbsdB81sJYfYW55Ec5IysW-O/view?dm_i=4EDA,XS6R,1TSECB,477T2,1) Check other

items on the Traidcraft web site. Sue Knight has a limited amount of catalogues if you would like one or wish to make an order. She also has Christmas Advent calenders in stock. Sue can be contacted on 275032 or 07950025137 or email

[sueknight@watercottage.co.uk](mailto:sueknight@watercottage.co.uk)

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

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**

**Keep in touch:**

**The Rector (Roy): 01483 800655 or email**  
[\*\*roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk\*\*](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**The Curate (Revd Tim Clifford Hill) 01483 276267 or email**  
[\*\*tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk\*\*](mailto:tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**The Part time Curate (Revd Rutton Viccajee,**  
**works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)**  
[\*\*rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk\*\*](mailto:rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Interim Administrator (Nicola Craven-Smith): 01483 273620 or**  
**email [\*\*nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk\*\*](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)**

**Young People's Minister (Gabrielle Clarke): 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