



# St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

## WORSHIPPING AT HOME

### Third Sunday of Lent

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**WELCOME . . . .** to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week.

**COVID-19 – LATEST . . . .** the Church will continue to be open for live worship at 11am on Sundays, now with the addition of Tuesday 12noon Communion and Thursday morning Lent reflections. As lockdown rules are gradually eased, and whilst infection rates continue to fall, it is our feeling that people may now start to think about cautiously returning to church. All social distancing and quick dispersal rules will remain in place.

**THIS WEEK . . . .** (*Events in red will be online events*)

#### Sunday 7 March – Lent 3:

10am: **(Zoom):** Church at Home.

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

*(the Zoom joining code for both of these is  
ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)*

11am: Holy Communion (CW). **In Church and Livestreamed**

#### Tuesday 9 March

12noon: Holy Communion BCP

#### Thursday 11 March

10am: Thought for Lent Week 3. **In Church and Live-streamed**

**Sunday 14 March – Mothering Sunday:**

**10am: (Zoom): Church at Home.**

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

***(the Zoom joining code for both of these is***

***ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)***

**11am: Holy Communion (CW). In Church and Livestreamed**

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **COLLECTS:**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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)*

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **FIRST READING: *Exodus 20:1-17.***

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;

for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

### **GOSPEL READING: *John 2: 13-22.***

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples

remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### **SERMON (written by The Rector)**

There is a story of a Vicar who always used to visit the sick of his parish on a Tuesday. It just so happened that the Catholic Priest did the same, and they would often meet around the streets and stop for a chat – the Catholic Priest would be riding his bicycle, but because the Vicar was on a Church of England Stipend, he couldn’t afford a bike, so he walked!

One particular Tuesday, as they met, the Catholic Priest was also walking. *“Good Morning Father, what’s happened to your bicycle?”*

*“Would you believe it”* replied the Priest, *“somebody’s stolen it!”*

The Vicar had an idea: *“Let me give you a piece of advice, Father. On Sunday, I suggest you preach a sermon on The Ten Commandments, and pay particular attention to ‘Thou shalt not steal’, and then see what happens?”*

The following Tuesday, the two met again, and the catholic Priest was back on his bike. *“I see it worked then, Father?”*

*“Well, yes and no” replied the priest cautiously, “I did preach on The Ten Commandments as you suggested, but when I got to ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery’, I remembered where I’d left it!”*

This morning, we heard the Ten Commandments: idolatry, foul language, murder, adultery, stealing, perverting the course of justice, covetousness – seven ‘do not’s’ – things from which the ancient Israelite people were called to abstain!

And then, honouring God and their parents, and keeping the sabbath faithfully – three ‘dos’ – things that they were called to embrace!

These commandments – given to Moses on Mount Sinai, presented the Hebrew people with a model for right and Godly living, and in many ways, they still hold good for us, and the ‘do not’s’ provide a template on which many of our modern laws are based!

Much of Jesus’ own teaching is rooted in the Ten Commandments, and he often quotes the words of Mosaic Law!

But he also often turned the Law upside down, in a metaphorical sense, in order to make a point, in a particular situation! This often got him into trouble with the Jewish authorities – a fact which caused him to have to clarify his teaching on more than one occasion, like the time we he had to explain, *“I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it”!*

In today’s passage, Jesus takes all of that, and moves it from the metaphorical to the literal, as he actually does turn upside down the tables of those who are ‘racketeering’ in the Temple!

John, the Gospel writer, paints a picture here of an angry Jesus, entering the Temple – entering that place which was symbolic of Israel’s national security. Jesus, whip in hand, drives out those who have turned the Temple into the arena for a money-making ‘racket’! The Temple, as a place, was central to the religious and national life of these people – for them, it was a bit like, what for us, would be Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace, all wrapped into one!

And it was the place (in fact the only place) for the Jews to offer sacrifice – the offering to God, of that which God created! The sacrifices offered may take the form of wheat or grapes, or doves or lambs, depending on the purpose of the sacrifice. And this was an important part of Jewish faith and tradition. Sacrifice meant the offering of life on behalf of individuals and families, and once a year, on the Day of Atonement, on behalf of the nation itself!

So, the ‘racket’ that Jesus encountered was a rather clever one. Picture this – a particular family would bring their sacrifice to the Temple. The offering had to be inspected, to make sure that it was of high enough quality to be acceptable. If the object was rejected, which it often was, then there were substitutes available at an inflated price. And when the head of the family offered payment, his money would be rejected, because it was the usual Roman coinage. Yet, guess what? These coins could be exchanged for pure Temple currency, again at an inflated price!

And so, something which was meant to be holy, special and unique, and an integral part of the Jewish life of faith, had been turned into a crooked commercial transaction!

Jesus was furious, and rightly so. There’s no “*gentle Jesus, meek and mild*” here! Jesus, whip in hand, drives out these crooked merchants, many of whom were priests. He then goes on to strike at the very heart

of Jewish symbolic security. He shouts that the Temple will be destroyed and that he would rebuild it in three days! To his listeners, that announcement would have seemed incredible, and it struck at the heart of both national security and national faith.

But Jesus was speaking both literally and metaphorically here, at the same time. It was all part of his astounding claim to be *“God with Us”*, which runs from the very beginning, and throughout John’s Gospel, and rivaled the purpose of the Temple. In hindsight, we are able to teach that Jesus is truly the new and substitute Temple, the sign of God among us. But they didn’t have that benefit of hindsight. To them, these words of Jesus would have been truly shocking, and they could only interpret them in a literal sense, and it is a big part of why, for the Jewish authorities, Jesus had to die!

And, John is reminding us, that Jesus knew this, and that he also knew he would rise again; the Temple of his body would be destroyed and renewed. And this Gospel is a calling to all of us, to examine just how genuine our devotion to Jesus is, and our commitment to his fulfillment of the Law, at this moment, and in this place.

Christian, Buildings, like our great Cathedrals and Parish Churches, are important symbols of the presence of Jesus, who is God with his people. We know that, here at St Nicolas, having so recently celebrated 850 years of God in this place! But our ancient buildings exist not to suggest that we are special people, or better than others; but rather that we are “holy” people, and “called” people. That we are people with a mission, God’s mission, to restore all things into Jesus, who is Lord of all, and who has the power to restore, even life itself!

Amen.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **SEASONAL PROVISION FOR LENT**

### ***Invitation to Confession***

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

### ***Introduction to the Peace***

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

### ***Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayers A, B and E***

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

### ***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing . . . .

## **WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

### **Church and Christian Ministry:**

- The Chaplains of General Hospitals, Hospices & Mental Health Trusts, as well as for patients and their families.
- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- Our own Parish Pastoral Assistants

### **National and World Affairs:**

- For Justice and compassion in the hearts of the world's leaders.
- For Nazanin Ratcliffe, on the day that she is due to be released from prison in Iran.
- For those whose role it is to deliver Covid vaccinations around the world, especially the staff and volunteers working in our Village Hall.

### **Community and Family:**

- For those who live in Bloxham Road.

- For the market traders who come to our village each Thursday.
- For all those who are housebound.

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

- Ray Corver, Stella Goldsmith, George Hill, Helen and David, Philip Jones, Amy and Dennis Loveless, Libby O’Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Jean Sandow, John Skan, Bert and Eileen Steed, Maureen Steele, Dennis and Rosemary Talbot, Marion Tomkins, Darcy Wigfield, Angela Wild, Henry Young and Nicholas. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin, Jan and Mark Knott, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy Laverty)*

### **The Departed:**

- All we have known and loved, and especially Tony Black, Canon Tony Chanter and Valerie Pitt. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: John Davies)*

## **WEEKLY NOTICES:**

**THOUGHT FOR LENT (Thursday Mornings).** These Live-streamed Lent reflections will last approximately 30 minutes, will discuss Christ’s Seven Last Words on the Cross and include hymns, readings and prayers for the season. The remaining sessions are:

11th March. 10am – Revd Rutton Viccajee ***“Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!”***

18th March. 10am – Revd Tim Clifford Hill ***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*** and ***“I Thirst”***

25th March. 10am – The Rector *“It is finished” and “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit”*

**PEW FOR SALE** One of the pews at the back of the tower area is available for sale for a donation to the St Nicolas' building fund. A faculty has been granted for this purpose. Enquiries to the Church Warden, Mike Roberts

**PLANTS FOR SALE.** **\*\*\*\*SOLD OUT\*\*\*\***

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR COFFEE AFTER 11AM SERVICE EACH WEEK . . . .**

Are you missing meeting up with friends over coffee after Church? We are pleased to be making it a regular feature to meet on Zoom when the 11am Service ends, for a chat and a catch up! The scheduled Zoom Meeting will be open from 11.45 onwards. **Meeting ID: 830 2040 3902 and the Passcode: ‘Coffee’**

**MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER . . . .** Members of the Ministry Team say Morning Prayer each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8am. From this week, we intend to return to meeting in Church, but we will continue to Zoom as well. If anybody else would like to join us, the Zoom codes are: **Meeting ID: 546 358 461 Passcode: ‘MP’**

**RECTORY FETE 2021 . . . .** It is hoped to hold a Rectory Fête on Saturday 10th July. With this in mind, and with many of us having spare time on our hands, and perhaps sorting out all those cupboards we haven't looked at for some time, we could put aside some items for the fête, such as bags, scarves, jewellery, and of course new items for the regifting stall. There is also the craft stall and I know many of you are knitting and making things. We could have a bumper craft stall. If anyone has more ideas for what we could do please do not hesitate to contact me on 275643. Sandra Keeping

## **KEEP IN TOUCH:**

**Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams**

*(Day off: Monday)*

Tel: 01483 800655. Email: [roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Curate - Revd Tim Clifford Hill**

*(Day off: Monday and furloughed Saturday)*

Tel: 01483 276267. Email: [tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Part time Curate - Revd Rutton Viccajee**

*(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)*

Tel: 01252 910212. Email: [rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Administrator - Nicola Craven-Smith**

*(Works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30-2.30)*

Tel: 01483 273620. Email: [nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Young People's Minister - Gabrielle Clarke**

*(Currently only working Monday, Thursday and Sunday)*

Tel: 07427 748408. Email: [gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Church Website:** [www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](http://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

and on **Facebook**.