



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 21st March 2021

WELCOME to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week.

COVID-19 – MARCH UPDATE the Church will continue to be open for live worship at 11am on Sundays, on Tuesday at 12noon for Communion and Thursday at 10am for Lent Thought/Time for Prayer. Infection rates are now very low in Cranleigh and throughout Waverley, and **whilst all social distancing and quick dispersal rules will remain in place, we do believe that now is the time for many of you to think about returning to church.** We are all missing the personal interaction that has been missing for the last year, and we would love to see you in person! **If you are thinking of coming to the 11am Service on Easter Day, you will need to book a place with Nicola at the Church Office by phone or email.**

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

Sunday 21st March – Lent 5:

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 23rd March

12noon: Holy Communion BCP

Thursday 25th March

10am: Thought for Lent Week 5. **In Church and Live-streamed**

Sunday 28th March – Palm 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**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

COLLECTS:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 for ever.

(or)

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 31: 31-34.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they

broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

GOSPEL READING: *John 12: 20-33.*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON (written by the Rector)

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Sunday which has traditionally been called 'Passion Sunday', as we enter into the season we call 'Passiontide' – that's the two week period leading up to Easter, when the themes of Lent intensify, as we draw ever closer to the events of Good Friday!

Passiontide is a journey. The lectionary readings, particularly the Gospels, throughout Lent, have steadily prepared us to join with Jesus, on these final stages of his earthly journey.

And today, the journey takes us, with him, to the brink of the cross itself. In the Gospel reading, we are starkly reminded of all that it holds in store for him, and of all that it holds in store for those of us who seek to be his disciples.

It begins with a distraction from the journey. But it is an important distraction: "*Sir, we wish to see Jesus*", was the request which the group of Greek Jews put to the disciple, Phillip.

And you will remember from what you've just heard, that Phillip went to tell Andrew and together they took the request to Jesus. "*Sir, we wish to see Jesus*".

Such a simple question surely requires an equally simple answer, but no, as is so often the case when a question is put to Jesus, the answer which he gives, is far from simple!

In fact, he seems to go off at a tangent, and there is no evidence in the account that he actually ever agrees to see the Greeks! Though there is

evidence that there are onlookers, who are listening in as he primarily addresses the disciples. So maybe, the Greeks had joined the crowd?

Whatever, Jesus starts talking about his own destiny to suffer, about grains of wheat falling to the ground and dying, about yielding a rich harvest, about the glorification of his own name and finally about sentence being passed on the world as he, the Prince of that world, is overthrown! And then, there is this mysterious, thunderous, voice from Heaven!

Jesus' words are strong words, even to our twenty-first century ears, and we are able to listen to them in the knowledge of what is going to happen next! So just imagine what it must have been like for Phillip and Andrew, and the onlookers at this point!

Philip and Andrew were just two ordinary first century blokes, who Jesus had called from their everyday work to help him. And here they are, blissfully unaware that their friend is entering into the final days of his earthly life.

What would you or I have made of it? *"We only asked him if he would talk to these Greeks!"* you might well have said *" and he's gone 'off on on'e, with all this stuff that we don't understand!"*

Surely, Jesus has missed the point – or has he?

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus", they had asked. No, Jesus hasn't missed the point at all! Instead, he has led them to the heart of the matter – he has 'shown the himself', by leading them to the very cross itself, the cross which is so shortly to bear his body, the cross which is a stumbling block to any who fail to confront it headlong, and to 'take on board' that this is

what being a disciple of Jesus is really all about. He has shown them his very destiny and purpose!

So, this is an important stage on the journey, but there is still some way to go – next week we look on as he triumphantly rides into the City of Jerusalem. And then on the Thursday he goes to the Upper Room and to the Last Supper, and to the Garden of Gethsemane. And finally, through that night and into Good Friday he takes the final stage of his journey to the despair and the agony and the emptiness of Golgotha.

It's a journey which we can join, through absorbing the words of the Gospels, but we can also join in a physical sense, in the acts of worship which we will have here in the church, and most of which, will also be livestreamed this year.

That sharing happens in a physical sense. But it also happens in the Spiritual sense of being prepared to follow, unconditionally, in whatever direction he calls us to go, even if it takes us to the foot of our own crosses and to the sharing of the sacrifice which he made!

Let me take you back to that question, *"Sir, we wish to see Jesus"*! These men were so clearly inquisitive to meet the man and to learn from him. And yet, Jesus in his uncanny way of being able to sense the secret hearts of others, somehow knew that they hadn't the strength to follow him all the way!

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus", is also the question which I find, though often unspoken, on the lips of many of the people I meet day to day – the same people that you meet day to day.

Although many in our society have abandoned formal religion, there many others who have not abandoned a sense of yearning for the spiritual. I sense that there are many, many people in our community who are hungry to meet Jesus and to learn of him and from him, and to apply that knowledge in their daily lives and situations. But the way is hard. You see, in following Jesus there is no half way – either we do, or we don't! We follow all the way to the Cross, or we stumble and fall at the roadside.

Those who want to follow, often haven't the strength to do it, and so it's the task of people like you and me to help them as best we can to turn their hearts towards that cross and to follow in his way.

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus"!

This is our Mission! So, next time we sense those words hanging on the lips of a loved-one, or a friend or a neighbour, may that same Jesus give us the voice and the strength to speak the words of encouragement which, for that person, may make the difference between life in the darkness of the world, the flesh and the Devil, or life in the fullness of Christ! Amen,

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

SEASONAL PROVISION FOR LENT

From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Wednesday of Holy Week

Invitation to Confession

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Romans 5.8

Introduction to the Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

Ephesians 2.13

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

It is indeed right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,
the lamb once slain, who lives for ever,
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,

and the blessing

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer – The Church of England, and for our Archbishops Justin and Stephen.
- In the Diocese, we pray for the Mission Enablers working to help parishes reach out.
- In our own church, we pray for our Administrator, Nicola, and for our PCC Teams, helping us to be a church which is Caring, Sharing and Daring.

National and World Affairs:

- For Justice and compassion in the hearts of the world's leaders.
- For Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.
- 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 The Ridgeway.
- For all those who volunteer in, and are members of, the Guides, Trefoil Guild, Brownies and Rainbows.

The Sick and those in Need:

- Chris Ashworth, Goldsmith, George Hill, Helen and David, Philip Jones, Amy and Dennis Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Jean Sandow, 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 John Combs, Valerie Pitt and Michael Simpson. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: John Davies)*



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2021

Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday)

10am: Worshipping at Home (On Zoom)
11am: Holy Communion (CW) (In Church and Live-streamed)
11.15am: SEA Church for Young People (On Zoom)

Monday 29 March (Monday in Holy Week)

6pm: Words and Musc for Holy Week (In Church and Live-streamed)

Tuesday 30 March (Tuesday in Holy Week)

12noon: Holy Communion (1662)
6pm: The Way of the Cross (In the Churchyard)

Wednesday 31 March (Wednesday in Holy Week)

6pm: Compline and Address (In Church and Live-streamed)

Thursday 1 April (Maundy Thursday)

10am: Time for Prayer
6pm: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar (In Church and Live-streamed)

Friday 2 April (Good Friday)

8am: Morning Prayer
12noon - 3pm: Good Friday Devotions (In Church and Live-streamed)

Sunday 4 April (Easter Day)

8am: Easter Ceremonies and Holy Communion (In Church and Live-streamed)
10am: Worshipping at Home (On Zoom)
11am: Holy Communion (CW) (In Church and Live-streamed)
11.15am: SEA Church for Young People (On Zoom)

**For all Zoom Codes and Youtube Links for
Livestreamed Services please visit our
Website www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk
or email our Administrator:
nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk**

THE LORD IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

WEEKLY NOTICES:

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION this Tuesday (23rd) is the first anniversary of our Nation entering the first National Lockdown. We are asked to reflect on this day, including holding a minute's silence to remember the 125,000 UK citizens who have died. At our 12noon service on Tuesday, we will begin by observing this silence, after which the church bell will toll.

BE PREPARED Don't forget that today is Census Day – it is a legal requirement for every household to complete a census form. And next Saturday evening, don't forget to move your clocks forward an hour!

THE ELECTORAL ROLL has to be updated for the APCM on Wednesday 28th April. If you are not sure if you are on, if you wish to change your entry, or if you wish to be added and need to complete an application form, please contact Margie Nursey on 273693 or email: notices@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

A reminder: Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the APCM but only those on the Electoral Roll can vote on any decisions.

GROUP VISITS TO IONA . . . It is now hoped that Roy's previously postponed Group visit to Iona in September this year will be able to take place. He has additionally secured dates for April 2022 – because of the need for it to be in the school holidays, and with the late date of Easter, it is, the week before Holy Week. So the dates on offer, are: **September 17th-24th 2021** (for which there are only a few places left) and **April 3rd-9th 2022** (for which there are currently plenty of places). If there is anybody who hasn't previously expressed an interest, please contact Roy to let him know which dates you may wish to go. Exact costs are not certain

(and it will partly depend on which rooms are available at The Argyll Hotel, but all inclusive costs are likely to be in the region of £1950 for a couple, and £1000 for a single room.

POST-PANDEMIC QUESTIONNAIRE UPDATE . . . A huge thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire – the response was very good, and the ideas that came forward were very useful and informative for the PCC Meeting in February which was dedicated to the subject. As a result of that meeting, three working teams have been set up, aligned to our ‘Caring, Sharing and Daring’ church vision. The three teams will each meet twice in March and April and report back to the May PCC meeting, when an action plan will be agreed to help us to move forward as a church in the weeks and months of emerging from the pandemic.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT WINTERSHALL - Wintershall are delighted to invite families to come and experience the Stations of the Cross walk here on the Wintershall Estate on Good Friday.



The outdoor Stations of the Cross are made by different artists and placed in the fields and lanes leading up a steep hill, crowned by a large white cross. You are invited as a family to journey together, tracing the footsteps of Christ, to the cross. Each family is given a pilgrim bag to accompany them and the children can collect items along the way to remind them of the story.

This event is most suitable for families with children in primary school.

What a wonderful way to enter into the mystery of Good Friday! Please contact admin@wintershall.org.uk to book your family timeslot between 12- 3.30pm. £10 per ticket of up to 6 (to include a family pilgrim bag)

THOUGHT FOR LENT (Thursday Mornings). There is just one session left this Thursday (25th March at 10am) – The Rector will lead the session, *“It is finished”* and *“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit”*

VOLUNTEER SECRETARY WANTED A volunteer Secretary is needed for the Cranleigh Community Fund. There are just 3 meetings a year and the position entails approximately 2 hours involvement per month. For further information contact Joy on 01483 273960 or Email jmfaith@icloud.com

THE ARTS SOCIETY CRANLEIGH is providing talks to members **via zoom at 2.00 pm** on the fourth Wednesday of the month, until July, as due to covid-19 these cannot take place in the Cranleigh Arts Centre as usual. Non-members can take part by contacting the Membership Secretary in advance at www.theartsocietycranleigh.org . It is hoped that as from September talks can be resumed in the Arts Centre with our normal afternoon and evening talks.

March 24th 2021: Timothy Walker - The Subtle Science & Exact Art of Colour in English Garden Design – why gardening can rank as a fine art.

April 28th 2021: Ian Swankie – Great Railway Stations.

May 26th 2021: Peter Medhurst - The Genius of Beethoven

June 23rd 2021: Anna Moszynska – Modern British Sculpture

TRAIDCRAFT has The Real Easter Eggs, milk and plain chocolate and Divine Eggs as well as Easter Cards. Order them from me and I will be happy to deliver. Many thanks to the Ladies who, following the Women’s

Day of Prayer, have sent me contributions to Traidcraft Exchange. This is now a stand-alone charity supporting and educating people in producing Fairtrade goods as well as being a campaigning voice for the poorest in the world. Their Double up Campaign for this spring is for the Regenerators in Tanzania and Bangladesh - Together, they are taking a stand against climate change. With basic climate friendly technology, and knowledge and skills about how to adapt to erratic weather patterns through things like growing new crops and investing in beehives or fisheries, communities will be able to earn more from the hard work they already do. So the money you have donated, over £100, will be doubled by the Government to help this cause . Thank you all very much
Sue Knight 01483 275032

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. We have returned to meeting in Church, but we continue to Zoom as well. If anybody else would like to join us, the Zoom codes are: **Meeting ID: 546 358 461 Passcode: 'MP'**

KEEP IN TOUCH:

Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams

(Day off: Monday)

Tel: 01483 800655. Email: roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Curate - Revd Tim Clifford Hill

(Day off: Monday and furloughed Saturday)

Tel: 01483 276267. Email: tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Part time Curate - Revd Rutton Viccajee

(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)

Tel: 01252 910212. Email: 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

Young People's Minister - Gabrielle Clarke

(Currently only working Monday, Thursday and Sunday)

Tel: 07427 748408. Email: gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Church Website: www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

and on **Facebook**.