



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Palm Sunday

Sunday 28th 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!

Deadline for booking places for Easter Sunday 11am service is Thursday 1st April at 12noon. Contact Nicola at the Church Office by phone or email.

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

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



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!

PALM SUNDAY

COLLECTS:

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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)

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

FIRST READING: *Phillipians 2: 5-11.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 11: 1-11.*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you,

“Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.” ’ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON (written by the Rev’d Tim Clifford-Hill)

‘If anyone says to you, ‘why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘the Lord needs it.’

This Sunday is my first Palm Sunday in Cranleigh. It’s also the first Palm Sunday that I can remember where I haven’t been involved in any sort of procession. I’ve heard that Palm Sunday here normally starts outside, with a procession from the Common, past the Baptist and Methodist churches and into St. Nic’s. But sadly, due to the Pandemic, that cannot be. I was really looking forward to meeting Chester the Donkey, who leads our procession. Apparently he’s on furlough this year and Roy tells me that the Government are paying for eighty percent of his carrots.

The tradition of having a liturgical procession on Palm Sunday – which now happens all over the world – originated in Jerusalem. The Pilgrim Egeria visited the Holy Land between 381 and 386. In her diary, she wrote about a visit to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In the diary we have our first glimpse of what would later become the Palm Sunday Procession. She wrote that people would gather at one o’clock in the afternoon on the Mount of Olives, for an

extended afternoon service of readings and hymns. At five o'clock the Matthew's Gospel narrative of the Entry into Jerusalem would be read and after that the Bishop and people would set off on foot, down the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, or the hoof steps of the Colt, the young Donkey, that Jesus was riding when He triumphantly entered Jerusalem.

The Gospel of Mark – that our Gospel passage for today comes from – is known for its brevity. The style of writing is abrupt. Mark's Greek is simple and direct. It lacks the polish that comes with the writings of Luke, for example. But if you look at the Matthuan, Marcan and Lucan accounts of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, three words are the same. 'The Lord Needs.' In Matthew it reads that 'the Lord needs them' because the Disciples were sent to untie an Ass and its Colt. Mark and Luke write 'the Lord needs it' (just the Colt).

But why does Jesus need a donkey? This is what interests me about this passage. Why does Jesus need to travel on a colt, when up until now he has travelled only by using his feet and walking?

You may have heard the notion that Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey in order to show his humility. Rather than riding on a stallion, showing force and readiness for battle. We get that idea from the Old Testament. The book of Zechariah reads 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

Yes, Jerusalem is rejoicing and shouting aloud at this moment. Yes, Jesus is our King, he is triumphant, he is victorious, he does show humility. But the donkey has nothing to do with humility. Riding any sort of animal, in these circumstances, was scarcely humble. In the world at that time, the donkey was an appropriate mount for a King. A King would only ride into a city on a horse if he was returning from battle.

That is why Jesus enters Jerusalem on a Donkey. It's not about showing his humility. It's about showing his Kingship. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And the people know it. Why else would they be shouting 'Hosanna, Blessed

is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’ Jesus needs that donkey to make the crowd realise who he is, so that Scripture can be fulfilled. Because only days later the people turn and those cries of ‘Hosanna’ become cries of ‘Crucify!’

We see Jesus showing humility at other points in the Gospels. Probably the most famous moment being when he washed the Disciples’ feet, at the Last Supper, saying to them that “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

That is what St. Paul is urging us to do in our first reading this morning, from his letter to the church in Philippi. To follow Christ’s example. To serve God by serving others.

Do you remember that passage that I started the sermon with? ‘If anyone says to you, ‘why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘the Lord needs it.’ Today we are reminded that Jesus doesn’t *need* us like he needed that donkey, in order to fulfil scripture. Jesus loves us and his arms are open for us, inviting us into relationship with him. It is we who need Jesus. Who need to say yes to his invitation of living life with him.

It’s at times not an easy life. It has it’s joys and it’s sorrows. But it is life in all it’s fullness. It’s life with Jesus, who rode on that donkey because He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

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:

- Our Ecumenical Partners and for those of other faiths. Pray for the inter-faith team in their work with the different faith communities.
- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.
- At St Nicolas, for our Finance Team (Chair: Chris Robinson and Treasurer: Jeff Wood)

National and World Affairs:

- For Justice and compassion in the hearts of the world's leaders.
- 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 Gingers Close and Fawley Close.
- For the Cranleigh Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Sick and those in Need:

- Chris Ashworth, Stella 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, those whose anniversaries fall at this time, and especially Michael Simpson. *(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: John Davies, Ann Ide-Smith and Mence Wilkinson)*

WEEKLY NOTICES:

PALM CROSSES There is a supply of already blessed Palm Crosses in the kindling box in The Rectory porch. You are invited to come and pick one (or more) up so that you will have them for the online service on Sunday. We have plenty, so feel free to take some for friends or neighbours!

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ANDREW In 1552 a special prayer was added to the Prayer Book, asking for God's pity and the withdrawal of the plague. In 1603 ministers were instructed to shorten their services because of the danger of keeping people in 'thick and close assemblies'. In 1625 royal orders were issued to clergy that church services should only be held in places that were 'free and safe from infection', and that those coming from infected areas should be excluded from churches and asked to worship at home. In 1720 the government imposed a 40-day quarantine on all ships coming from affected ports.

It's curiously comforting, from time to time, to get a historical perspective on a current crisis, and I'm grateful for this one to the journal of the Prayer Book Society. It somehow reminds us that the word 'unprecedented' is seldom strictly accurate, however much we like to use it; rather that, as the grumpy author of the book of Ecclesiastes puts it, 'There is nothing new under the sun'.

As we move through Passiontide, though, and approach the bitter-sweet rigours of Holy Week, how good to remember a glorious exception to the grumpy author's rule. For the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was indeed unprecedented, something genuinely 'new under the sun', indeed the ultimate 'new thing' to which the prophet Isaiah was given real, if partial, access. As we look to the past, it enables us to see the pandemic from a fresh perspective, with lament and hope just two sides of the same coin. As we look to the future, it enables us join with Isaac Watts in worship of our 'Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come'.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS Our Lenten journey (by whichever route we have chosen) fast approaches its end, Passiontide is with us and Holy Week begins on Monday. Once again we will have the opportunity to follow “The Way of the Cross”. For centuries Christians have made personal pilgrimages, either to distant holy places or by following ‘the Stations of the Cross’. This practice has become increasingly popular ecumenically leading to the creation of a wholly scriptural set of ‘stations’ on which to focus. On **Tuesday 30th March at 6.00 pm**, we will be following “The Way of the Cross” in St Nicolas Church yard. Each of the stations will be represented pictorially or symbolically and as we move around outside the Church we will pause at each for a Bible reading, prayer and meditation. We will meet in the Church Car Park. Everyone is welcome. Rev’d Patricia Hislop

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 I have 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 cost 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.

RUNNER BEANS Would you like me to grow a pot of Runner Bean plants for you to plant out in your garden? 10 plants for £3, 6 for £2.40. Ready mid to late May. Orders to Win Bracking 275573. I can deliver. All proceeds to Plant Stall /Rectory Fete. **PERENNIALS** - Please don't forget me if you are dividing yours. Watch out for sales tables at my gate.

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)

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.

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. 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**.