



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
2nd Sunday before Advent
Sunday 17th November 2024

THIS WEEK:

Sunday 17th November (2nd Sunday before Advent)

8am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: All Age Holy Communion, followed by Bake for Bibles Cake Sale

3pm: Baptism of Rosie and Charlotte Allen

5pm: Ignite – Chocolate night in the church rooms

6pm: Choral Evensong

Monday 18th November

10am: Sewing & Knitting Group (in church rooms)

Tuesday 19th November

10am: Elmbridge Communion

12noon: Holy Communion (BCP)

Wednesday 20th November

9.40am: Toddler Praise (in church rooms)

2.30pm: Knowle Park Communion

Thursday 21st November

10am: Time for Prayer

Friday 22nd November

10am: Little Nic's Toddlers (in church rooms)

10am: MU Communion

Sunday 24th November (Christ the King)

8am: Holy Communion (CW)

10am: Parish Communion

11.30am: Discovery Service

COLLECT:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: *Daniel 12.1-3*

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 13.1-8*

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be

accomplished?’ Then Jesus began to say to them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- In the Anglican cycle of Prayer – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- For Archbishop Justin and those with the responsibility of appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- In the Diocese – for Bishop Andrew and his family in the aftermath of the Makin Review
- In the Parish – for our Safeguarding Officer Brian Boxall and PCC Safeguarding Lead, Bryn Jones

National and World Affairs:

- For peace in the world, for an end to hostility in the Middle East, and for the people of Ukraine, Russia and South Sudan
- For those who have lost loved ones, and all affected by the nursing home fire in Spain
- For a solution to the migrant crisis in the English Channel

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Hailey Place
- For our Members of Parliament

The Sick and those in Need:

- Jane Bloss, Neil Charman, Claire Curry, David, Anne Dulley, Jean Dodd, Pam Dorling, Jane and Peter Hancock, Tricia Hislop, Jack Lewis, Judy Murdoch, Jean Quallington, Val, Val Thorogood, Jeremy Watts, Elizabeth Weller
- *(And for those with long-term prayer needs):* Baby Atticus and his parents Clare and Alex, Peggy Davis, Stella Goldsmith, James Goudie, Jane, Bryn Jones, Kirsty, Lottie Lack, Amy Loveless, Sheila McSorley, Mo, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Sheelagh Poole, Ron Reynolds, Peggy Ringshall, Martin Root, Steff Shepherd, Sheila Smith, Dolores Spurgeon, Bert Steed, Marilyn Wood.

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, who have left us through the years, thinking especially of Evi Cornford and Daisy Elder.

WEEKLY NOTICES:

STATEMENTS ISSUED THIS WEEK BY THE RECTOR ABOUT DEANERY STAFFING AND THE MAKIN REVIEW AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Deanery Staffing:

During the past two years of my time as Area Dean, my work in that role has been dominated by an exceptional number of vacancies in clergy posts. Ewhurst, Okewood Hill and Forest Green (commonly referred to as the EOfG Parish) has been vacant for almost 2 years, since the Revd Claire

Shepherd left in January 2023. Previously, they had been through a difficult period of turmoil since the creation of that new Parish 7 years ago. Dunsfold and Hascombe Parishes have been in vacancy for three years, since the resignation of the Revd Ian Maslin, (although for much of that time they have been ministered to, as you will be aware, by the Revd Rutton Viccajee on an interim basis.) Rutton left that role in January this year. Bramley has been vacant since the Revd Andy Davis left last Christmas (their third vacancy in less than 10 years), and Grafham has been vacant since the retirement of the Revd Camilla White in June. There is also a vacancy in Albury after the retirement of the Revd Andrew Pearson, but this is currently being absorbed by the rest of the Shere Benefice of which Albury is a part.

The good news is that we have now made two really good appointments. The Revd William Davie has been appointed Vicar of Bramley and Grafham, with the reuniting of those two parishes. Coming with his young family from a curacy in Rochester Diocese, William will be Inducted in January. Meanwhile, the Revd Canon Shane Griffiths has been appointed as Rector of Dunsfold and Hascombe as a half time post, and coming from the Diocese of Truro with his wife, will be inducted in February.

However, it has been less easy to make an appointment of a House for Duty Priest for the EOFG Parish. The post has been advertised 3 times and, disappointingly, there have not been any applicants. There is a national shortage of clergy, and in some dioceses vacancy rates are running as high as 50%. But more significantly, I feel that in this case we were asking too much, for a House for Duty priest to be responsible for 3 churches and a PCC was a huge 'ask'! Consequently, it has been necessary to think 'out of the box' and to come up with a Plan B. After much discussion there is now a plan, which became public at a meeting in Ewhurst last night, hence the need for me to communicate with you today. It must, however, be recognised that there are a number of legalities to be gone through before the plan becomes reality. In a nutshell, the proposal is:

- That EOFG Parish be dismantled to its pre 2017 status – Okewood Hill and Forest Green will become a Parish which will be returned to Dorking Deanery and Archdeaconry, under the care of Area Dean Revd Peter Nevins. Ewhurst meanwhile will return to being a stand-alone parish in its own right.
- There will be a growing relationship between Ewhurst and Cranleigh, in which I will be appointed as Priest in Charge of Ewhurst, whilst retaining my role as Rector of Cranleigh.
- The Revd Rosemary Mason, a retired Priest, resident in Ewhurst, will continue to lead some of the worship in partnership with me, and will also continue to offer some pastoral care, chaplaincy to The Old Rectory and liaison with Ewhurst CofE Infant School.
- Other services in Ewhurst will be led by myself and the Cranleigh Team.
- Soon after the legalities have been completed, we will be seeking to appoint a House for Duty Priest to live in Ewhurst Rectory and to assist with ministry across the two parishes.

I hope this all makes sense to you – if you would like to ask any questions about it, please feel free to contact me.

The Makin Review and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

You will all be aware of the publication last week of the Makin Review into the handling of the terrible safeguarding issues surrounding the late John Smyth. This report has three important ramifications for us as a parish and as part of the Guildford Diocese:

- The raising of awareness of just how vital it is that we take safeguarding seriously. As a parish, we have always had an awareness of safeguarding high on our agenda, and our effectiveness in this area will continue, being reviewed and assessed annually. John Smyth should have been apprehended and brought to justice during his lifetime. There were

systemic failings in, I believe both church and the police, which meant that this didn't happen. I do, however, believe that were another John Smyth to operate today, such massive improvements in the way that we deal with these things now, would mean that this could not happen again. And this is the good news!

- Bishop Andrew, as one of Smyth's victims, has been at the centre of media attention this week. He and Beverley and their family need our prayers and support at this time, when the whole matter is in the public eye.
- The loss of Justin Welby, as Archbishop of Canterbury, is a deep sadness to me. That said, I understand why he has felt it necessary to take this step. I believe that Archbishop Justin leaves a huge legacy in what he has achieved across the last decade, particularly as a player on the world stage, and in what he has achieved thus far in the work of bringing the church in line with modern thinking on a number of important issues. I very much hope that in the history books, his tenure of this Office will be defined by his achievements, rather than by the manner in which he has left office. Our prayers are also needed for Justin, and his wife Caroline, as well as for those responsible for appointing the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

I think it is useful to copy here, Bishop Andrew's statement published this week:

Statement on the Makin Review from the Bishop of Guildford:

"I was grateful to receive an early copy of Keith Makin's Review last Monday, along with other UK victims of the abuse perpetrated by John Smyth. That has given me the chance to read the report before its full publication, which has been both an enlightening and a deeply harrowing experience.

Some of what is in the Review I lived through myself, and these sections ring true to my memory and help to fill in some of the gaps. More I have learnt since the Channel 4 documentaries in 2017 and the subsequent book by Andrew Graystone. Still more was completely new to me, including most of

the details of the thirty-five years from the time in early 1982 when I and a fellow victim first reported Smyth's beatings to Mark Ruston.

There is much here that is deeply shocking, especially the abuse of so many victims in Africa, following the disastrous decision of the Iwerne and Winchester College establishments to cover things up. As the Report outlines, those attempts were flawed from the start, and any idea that Smyth's behaviour could be regulated was hopelessly naïve. Smyth's combination of charm and menace, narcissism and manipulation, hypocrisy and violence, made him a very dangerous man indeed, and entirely uncontrollable by any normal means.

I cannot speak on behalf of the other victims and wouldn't presume to try. Some of them went through far worse than I did, and others have understandably found it hard to relate to someone who is simultaneously a victim and a senior representative of a church that has so badly let them down. I am aware of those tensions in myself too and have had very much to reflect on since 2017. Those reflections have fed into a determination to adopt a relentlessly victim-centred approach here in Guildford Diocese.

I am especially aware that the Makin Review may stir up particularly deep feelings for some who read it, especially any victims of grooming and abuse themselves, who may have a similar story to tell. There is support available from a number of organisations.

Above all else, though, I do want to express my deep sadness at all that has happened, and my admiration for those have doggedly persevered in having the truth told. The Report won't make for easy reading for anyone involved: but it's my hope and prayer that it might bring at least some measure of relief to Smyth's victims – British and African, known and unknown – as well as providing salutary lessons as we redouble our efforts towards building a safer Church."

CHURCHYARD SEASONAL TIDY UP This year we shall be turning out on Saturday November 30th for the usual leaf gathering and general tidying up. Please join us with your rakes etc. starting at 9am. The usual refreshments will be provided"

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CARDS will be on sale after the 8am and 10am services this Sunday

MENS GROUP Our Men's Group meets once a month to share food, enjoy social time together and have good conversations together! Our next meeting is Friday 6th of December at 7pm! This time we'll be hosted by James at Winterfold Farm, the food is still to be decided but will be very good (let us know if you have any allergies/dietary requirements). Please do let erik@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk know if you'd like to have more information and if you want to sign up. Each night about 15-20 men with an age range from roughly 17 to 89, so whatever your age, you will be very welcome!

POSADA IN ADVENT Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn', and is also the title of a Mexican Advent celebration in which two young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travel from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the newborn baby be given a room. On Christmas Eve they re-enact a community play and bring figures of Mary and Joseph to be placed in a crib at church. This idea has been adapted so that nativity figures travel round a parish, staying at a different house/location every night, and finally taking their place in the church crib at the Crib Service, ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day. They travel with a folder of suggestions for prayers and activities, and a journal for diary entries and pictures if you wish to add them in. In conjunction with the Nativity Festival at St Nicolas we will again have the opportunity to join in with this celebration. Individuals/ families/ establishments ie schools/businesses are invited to sign up to host the Holy Family for a night and it is hoped that when you arrange the handover for the next day that you will either offer or receive some hospitality in the form of

perhaps a cup of tea, or even a meal (rather than dumping the set on someone's doorstep). This is a chance to offer a little hospitality to perhaps someone outside of our usual circle of friends and for us to be reminded that we need to make room for Jesus in our lives, homes and communities. During November there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for everyone wishing to join in and if (hopefully) it fills up very quickly we can have several sets going around the parish

RING FOUND We have found a ring, if you think it may be yours, please call or come and see Nicola in the office.

VOLUNTEERS needed to go on the coffee rota. Single volunteers will be paired up with another experienced volunteer, so please do not be put off by not having done it before! Please contact Lesley if you can help lesley.thomas@aol.co.uk

NATIVITY FESTIVAL RAFFLE The Team are busy organising the Nativity Festival and as part of it we would like to hold a Raffle, which was very successful last year. We will have a 'Family hamper', a 'Boy's stocking' and a 'Girl's stocking', for which tickets will be sold and the prizes drawn at the Festival carols on Monday 16th December. We really need your help to fill this hamper and the stockings. At the back of the church are 3 lists of suggested. Please sign up for any item(s) that you could offer and then take any donations to the designated boxes in the office by December 1st. Thank you in anticipation – Jane, Sandra, Katherine and Nicola.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS for those living with Dementia / Frailty or memory impairment and their Carers. Monday December 9th at 2.30-3.30pm in St Nicolas Church. We hope our Memory Lane Team will also come along to share in this short, joyous occasion designed to be very accessible to all.

The service will last around 30 minutes including the chance to sing along with well-known carols, look at some images of Christmas, and hear a short talk about the Nativity and pray for our families, unpaid carers, care workers

and all those who help and support us. There will be a chance to light a memory candle and help decorate a small Memory Lane Christmas Tree. Refreshments served in church will follow the service!

We are excited for you to join us! Please respond to let us know you that plan attend at mamwild@aol.com or phone 01483 274398

VOLUNTEERS needed to help with church cleaning. If you think you can help please contact Celia on 01483548824

MEMORY LANE will be back in the Arts Centre on Monday the 18th for a final session of "Living with Our Plan" course for Carer Guests. Preparations are now taking place for the "Celebration of Christmas" on Monday 9th December. *For further details on Memory Lane or the joyful celebration, just call Memory Lane 01483 274398 or Email: mamwild@aol.com*

SEWING GROUP Join us for fun and friendship every Monday morning in St Andrews room 10am-12noon. No previous experience of sewing or knitting is needed so do come along and have a go, or just come along and enjoy a warm drink and good company! Everyone is welcome.



MOTHERS UNION: We have a thriving Mothers' Union which meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone is most welcome – contact Jane Etherington on 01483 274319 / etheringtonjane@yahoo.co.uk for more information



DONATIONS: You can make an online donation in support of church funds by visiting the [website](#), clicking on the red button or scanning the QR code.



O Come Emmanuel

Reflections on the Advent Antiphons

with

Rt Rev'd Paul Davies
Bishop of Dorking



Wednesdays at 6pm
4th, 11th & 18th December

at





Cranleigh Choral Society
Music for Advent

Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Gjeilo: Dreamweaver
Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

Conductor: Andrew Thomas

7:30 pm, Saturday 30th November 2024

St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

Tickets: £15 (children £5) available at cranleighchoralsociety.org.uk or on the door



NATIVITY FESTIVAL

Come and see our Church full of
Christmas Displays

**Thursday 12th December to
Monday 16th December
10am-6pm**

**Festive Refreshments
Children's Activities
Craft Stalls (Saturday Only)**



**Favourite Display, as voted by the public, will be
revealed at our Closing Carols on Monday 16th, 5pm.**

Everyone welcome!



Christmas Cafe

Friday 29th November 2024
3pm-4:30pm
at St Nicolas Church Rooms, Church
Lane

Meet and Greet with Santa (free)
Raffle prize tombola
Lucky Dip
Refreshments
Free squash
Free Craft activities



KEEP IN TOUCH:

Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams (*Day off: Monday*)

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

Curate - Revd Erik Heemskerk (*Day off: Monday*)

Tel: 07368 871589. Email: erik@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Administrator – Nicola Craven-Smith

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

Tel: 01483 273620. Email: nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Discovery Church – Claire Oxborough

Tel: 01483 277359. Email: claireoxborough@hotmail.com

Safeguarding Officer – Brian Boxall

Tel: 01483 277069. Email: brian.boxall@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Tel: 01483 790379. Email: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

Church Website: www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Do you have a question about faith or the church? Or would you just like to get to know us better? Roy and Erik are always very happy to meet for a cup of coffee, tea, or a pint, just get in touch with us using our contact details above!