



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh
3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday 15th December 2024

THIS WEEK:

Sunday 15th December (3rd Sunday in Advent)

8am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: All Age Communion

12noon – 4pm: Nativity Festival

3pm: Bellingrings ringing a quarter peal

4pm: Christingle

Monday 16th December

10am – 5pm: Nativity Festival

5pm: Closing Carols for Nativity Festival

8pm: Christmas Story in the Three Horseshoes Snug Bar

Tuesday 17th December

10am: Elmbridge Holy Communion

12noon: Holy Communion (BCP)

Wednesday 18th December

10am: MU Christmas Communion

1.45pm: CofE Primary School Service

2.30pm: Knowle Park Carol Service

6pm: Advent Reflection with Bishop Paul

Thursday 19th December

10am: Time for Prayer

1.45pm: Park Mead Carol Service

Friday 20th December

6pm: Carols in the Churchyard

(with refreshments from The Drop and Crumb coffee van)

Saturday 21st December

4pm: The Longest Night – a service for those who find Christmas hard

Sunday 22nd December (4th Sunday in Advent)

8am: Holy Communion (CW)

10am: All Age Communion

6pm: Village Carol Service

COLLECT:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

FIRST READING: *Zephaniah 3.14-end*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 3.7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good

fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE:

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SEASONAL PREFACE:

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing . . .

WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Church and Christian Ministry:

- In the Anglican cycle of Prayer – The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- For Archbishop Justin and those with the responsibility of appointing a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- In the Diocese – for our Cathedral (Interim Dean Stuart Beake and Dean-elect Bob Cooper)
- In the Parish – for Jane, Katherine, Sandra and Nicola for all their work in putting on our Nativity Festival.

National and World Affairs:

- For peace in the world, for an end to hostility in the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia and South Sudan. And for stability in Syria
- For a solution to the migrant crisis in the English Channel

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Meadow Lane and Exmoor Drive
- For the Cranleigh U3A

The Sick and those in Need:

- Jane Bloss, Claire Curry, Jean Dodd, Jane Hancock, Tricia Hislop, Jack Lewis, Jean Quallington, Tom, Val Thorogood, Val, Jeremy Watts, Elizabeth Weller
- *(And for those with long-term prayer needs):* Baby Atticus and his parents Clare and Alex, Neil Charman, David, Peggy Davis, Stella Goldsmith, James Goudie, Jane, Bryn Jones, Kirsty, Lottie Lack, Amy Loveless, Sheila McSorley, Mo, Judy Murdoch, 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, and especially at this time Denise Banks, Margaret Hymas and Philip MacNeice.

WEEKLY NOTICES:

SHORT TERM ACCOMODATION SOUGHT for a someone who is starting a new job working at Winkworth Arboretum. The young lady is Sister of Gabrielle Clarke's fiancée. If you are interested, please speak to The Rector.

WHITE ENVELOPES for weekly donations 2025 will be available at the back of the Church during December. Should anyone be unable to collect them, please contact Frank Sole on 01483 278273 to arrange delivery.

OPEN THE BOOK this week:

Thursday 12th December...St Cuthbert Mayne - Onto Bethlehem

Tuesday 17th December...Park Mead- Shepherds and Angels

Thursday 19th December...St Cuthbert Mayne - Shepherds and Angels (lots of children as Shepherds and Angels involved!)

These are the last Assemblies of this term. Huge thanks to our amazing Open the Book team for their work and dedication this term.

If you are interested in finding out more about Open the Book, please email Steff at Steff.shepherd@biblesociety.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Our 'in church post box' is back again this year. The boxes will be on a table at the back of church from 1st December. Please remember everyone who participates is responsible for posting and collecting their own cards. The scheme will finish on 23rd December. Any cards left in the boxes will be recycled.

WHATSAPP GROUP There is a Church WhatsApp group called Church is the people! which is a great way to stay in touch with your brothers and sisters throughout the week! It is often used for important updates, prayer requests, and during the Posada we will follow the journey of Mary and Joseph through many houses and other places in Cranleigh with pictures shared on this group. If you don't want to miss out on this and many other exciting things our WhatsApp group offers, please ask Nicola (nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk) to add you to the group!

CALLING ALL ONLINE SHOPPERS: with Christmas approaching did you know that you can support St Nicolas Church while you shop online? For every 7 purchase you make online, EasyFundraising will make a percentage contribution to St Nicolas. It's easy to register and identify St Nicolas, Cranleigh as your chosen charity. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> There is no charge to yourself for using this service and you can also ask your friends and family to register with the sites and nominate St Nicolas, Cranleigh as their preferred charity. If you require any help, or further information please contact Alan Walton a.g.walton@talk21.com, mobile 07768055201.

MEMORY LANE guests started their day last Monday with their "Walk in the Park" . That afternoon, the team and guests were with over 40 people who much appreciated *Celebration of Christmas* in church led by Sue Tresman. There was much help from church members, not forgetting Celia

Roberts and her team providing everyone with tea, cake and mince pies, whilst Mike added so much in illustrating the presentation on screen. On Monday 16th, the last meeting of the year is scheduled to be full of Christmas Cheer, before returning in the New Year on 6th January when the Carers will have their annual party.

Memory Lane meets on the 1st & 3rd Monday afternoon every month - further details: Memory Lane 01483 274398 or just 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.



Friday 20th December

18:00

CAROLS
by the
CHURCHYARD
CRIB



St Nicolas Church

The Rector welcomes you to join him for a drink at the Three Horseshoes pub afterwards!

the Longest Night

A service for those who find the
Christmas season hard.

Saturday 21st December
4pm

*with an invitation to stay for festive
refreshments after the service*

St
NICOLAS
CRANLEIGH

Village Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December at 6pm

St Nicolas, Cranleigh



All are welcome to join us for our
traditional service of
'Nine Lessons and Carols'



KEEP IN TOUCH:

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

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

Curate - Revd Erik Heemsker (*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!