



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday 3rd December 2023

THIS WEEK:

Sunday 3rd December (1st Sunday of Advent)

8am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: All Age Worship

6pm: Advent Carol Service

From Darkness to Light

Monday 4th December

10am: Sewing group in Church Rooms – all welcome!

Tuesday 5th December

9am: Acorn Nursery Nativity

12noon: Holy Communion (BCP)

6pm: Longacre Carol Service

Wednesday 6th December

10am: Toddler Praise (at the Methodist Church)

2pm: Cedar Court Communion

5.30pm: Duke of Kent Carol Service

Thursday 7th December

10am: Time for Prayer ***in St Andrews Room***

Friday 8th December

Christmas Tree Festival

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

12noon: Exploring Advent at the Methodist Church

Saturday 9th December

Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 10th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Tree Festival

8am: Holy Communion (CW)

10am: Parish Communion – Toy Service

4pm: Christingle

COLLECT:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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: *1 Corinthians 1.3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our

Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 13.24-end*

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the
coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us
sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

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 Church of North India
- In the Diocese – for the new Archdeacon of Surrey Revd Canon Catharine Mabuza
- In the Parish – for the success of our Christmas Tree Festival, giving thanks for all the volunteers, entrants and visitors.

National and World Affairs:

- For the people of Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia
- For the community of Shrewsbury struggling to come to terms with the death of 4 teenage boys
- For the leaders of the nations that they may have wisdom and integrity during these difficult times

Community and Family:

- For those who live in The Drive and Bax Close
- For Chamber of Trade and our local businesses.

The Sick and those in Need:

- Jane and Frank Bloss, Pam Cheeseman, Claire Curry, Stella Goldsmith, Peter Hancock, Tricia Hislop, Jean Johnstone, Louise, Peter Poole, Bill Rothwell, Sheila Smith, Diana Trent
- *(And for those with long-term prayer needs):* Baby Atticus and his parents Clare and Alex, Peggy Davis, James Goudie, Jane, Kirsty, Lottie Lack, Amy Loveless, Sheila McSorley, Mo, Libby O'Brien, Jean Peachey, Brian Pettyfer, Ron Reynolds, Peggy Ringshall, Martin Root, Steff Shepherd, Pam Standen, Dolores Spurgeon, Bert Steed, Win Thurman.

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved, who have left us through the years, and especially at this time: Diane Heaney, Peter Huttley.

WEEKLY NOTICES:

PRAYER LEAFLET The latest United in Prayer leaflet, 'Praying for God's People', is available at the back of the church, and you are invited to take a copy away with you when you leave. We hope you will use this in your prayers at home during Advent – and beyond.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Our 'in church post box' is back again this year

The boxes will be on a table at the back of the 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.

TOY SERVICE Sunday 10th December is our patronal festival here at St Nicolas, and as such the 10am service is our annual Toy Service. Please, if you are able, bring a new, un-wrapped toy to be given at the toy service. These will be distributed, via the Salvation Army, to children who are in need this Christmas.

POP-UP TEA ROOMS correction to date printed in the December parish magazine. The Tea Rooms will be on Sunday 18th February, not January as printed.

CHURCH CLEANING Church cleaners will be meeting on Saturday 16th Dec 9.30 -12noon to clean the church in preparation for Christmas. Coffee will be served. For further information contact Celia on tel 548824

COFFEE ROTA Thank you to our team of volunteers who put on coffee each Sunday following our services. We are in need of more volunteers to join the rota – the more we have the smaller the commitment! We need 2 people per Sunday to do the coffee, but we would very much welcome hearing from single persons, that we can pair up with other single volunteers to make a team. Please call Lesley on 274798 if you can help. Thank you

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the Christmas Hamper appeal. We have 4 beautiful hampers which will be on display on Sunday in the St Nicolas room at coffee where raffle tickets will also be on sale. The Christmas Tree Festival Team

CHURCHYARD TIDY A small but energetic band braved the cold last Saturday for the churchyard tidy up. Thanks to them, we cleared the undergrowth in the car park and all the leaves from the main areas, sustained by the traditional bread pudding and home made biscuits provided by Jackie and Sandra. By Sunday morning, the mulberry at the back had reminded us that there were more leaves to fall, including the oaks, so if anyone fancies a follow up, the exercise would be good for you!

CONFIRMATION AND ADULT BAPTISM On Sunday 3rd of December, after our All Age Worship, we'll have a lunch for those who are interested in our group exploring the Christian faith, baptism, and confirmation (which will start in January). This will be an opportunity to meet others and find out more, and to sign up if you haven't done so yet. Please invite any friends or family along that you think might be interested in our group. Please let either Roy or Erik know if you'd like to come!

CAN YOU HELP? Rosemarie and I are looking forward to having her family over for Christmas but are struggling to host all of them. Is anyone going away for Christmas (at some point between 23 and 30 December, they are flexible on the dates) and looking for someone to watch their house? Rosemarie's sister Stephanie, her husband Jouke, and their three children (a ten-year-old boy and 8-year-old twin girls) would love to look after your house. Thank you, Erik.

OPEN THE BOOK Thank you for all your support for Open the Book and our new team. We are currently going into all 3 schools on a regular basis which is very exciting. Our new team has 12 members in it, although we will always welcome more. 3



schools is a big commitment and it always helps to spread the load! This is a plea however to the carpenters out there! The Open the Book team are badly in need of a new boat! The one we have was built when the team first came into being many years ago. It has warped with age and is quite cumbersome and heavy for us to carry.

We would love a new boat that is lighter or easier to carry and store please so any carpentry offers would be gratefully received!! Thank you!

CALLING ALL ONLINE SHOPPERS: with Christmas approaching did you know that you can support St Nicolas Church while you shop online? For every 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. Just go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and get started

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, or Nicola nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk, 273620

URGENT HELP for UKRAINE appeal by Memory Lane.

If you have any unused *3yr in date* Medicines or First Aid Dressings these are much needed in Ukraine. Please leave these in the Church Office or just telephone 01483 274398 to catch the next shipment.

MEMORY LANE On the 4th December will be welcoming back the Wintershall Singers. This promises to be a joyous & festive occasion for guests and visitors. This musical event is planned as a follow-on to the festive art, craft and dancing led at the previous meeting by Open Access Arts. Memory Lane has a variable & interesting programme each month and is going from strength to strength, so proving the need and appreciation from people who are experiencing dementia and their carer partners.

Memory Lane meets in the Cranleigh Arts Centre at 2.15pm on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month welcoming newcomers to every meeting. For details just call 01483 274398 or mamwild@aol.com.

TRACKERS our new teaching group for primary age school children is called Trackers. Our Tracker sessions will be during the 10am service on the third Sunday of the month and will be led by a trained member of our team. So if you know a young person who is keen to follow Jesus on the track of faith then bring them along!

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: Don't forget you can always make an online donation in support of church funds by visiting the [website](#), clicking on the red button or scanning the QR code.



EXPLORING ADVENT

in Music, Art and Poetry

Fridays at 12noon

followed by a light lunch

Christians working together in Cranleigh



8th December - Music

Rev'd Canon Roy Woodhams
at Cranleigh Methodist Church



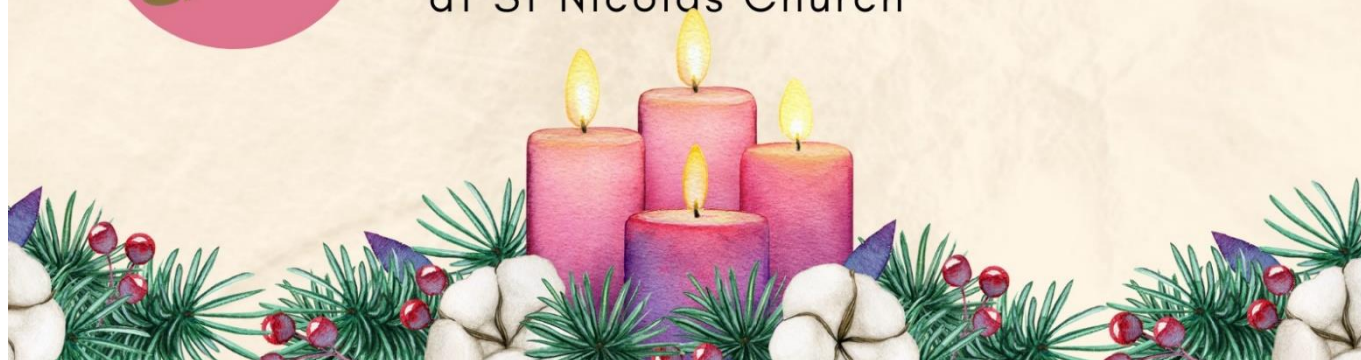
15th December - Art

Rev'd Dr Paul Glass
at Church of Jesus Christ Redeemer
of Mankind



22nd December - Poetry

Rev'd Fr Alistair Simmons
at St Nicolas Church

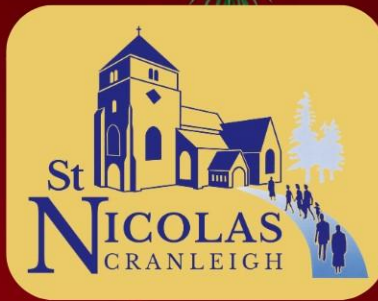


Christingle



Sunday 10th December
4pm





TOY SERVICE

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER
10AM

**PLEASE BRING A NEW, UN-WRAPPED TOY TO BE GIVEN AT
THE TOY SERVICE.**

**THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED, VIA THE SALVATION ARMY, TO
CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS.**





Friday 8th
~
Monday 11th
December

Christmas Tree Festival

**FESTIVE
REFRESHMENTS**

**CRAFT MARKET
(SATURDAY ONLY)**

for more info, email
nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Village Carol Service

Sunday 17th December at 6pm

St Nicolas, Cranleigh



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

CRANLEIGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Christmas Concert

Poulenc:
Quatre Motet pour
le Temps de Noel

Finzi:
Et in Terra Pax
plus a selection of
Christmas Carols

Conductor
Andrew Thomas
Soprano
Jacqueline Dias



7:30pm
Saturday 16 December 2023
St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

Tickets: £15 adults/£8 children
available on the door or at
www.cranleighchoralsociety.org.uk

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

Associate Minister (Part Time) - Revd Rutton Viccajee

(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, but currently also working as Minister in Charge of Dunsfold and Hascombe)

Tel: 01252 910212. Email: rutton@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

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

Church Website: www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk