



The United Benefice of Old Shoreham and
Kingston Buci

The Churches of St Nicolas, St Julian and St Giles

www.saintnicolas.org.uk

www.parishofkingstonbuci.wordpress.com

Newsletter

For Sunday 22nd November 2020 – Christ the King



Children: Sunday School in the **Parish of Kingston Buci** meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at St Julian's (10am) and 3rd Sunday at St Giles' (11am) in the respective church hall at the beginning of the service then moves to the church for communion.

Need a lift to Church? Please let us know

Large print service books are available. Please ask at the door.
There is an induction loop for those using a hearing aid.



Today's Worship

Collect

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Psalm 95:1-7

¹ **O come, let us sing to the LORD; ♦**

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; ♦**

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ **For the LORD is a great God, ♦**

and a great King above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth; ♦**

the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ **The sea is his, for he made it, ♦**

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶ **O come, let us worship and bow down, ♦**

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ **For he is our God, ♦**

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek

the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1.15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25.31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was

hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Post Communion Prayer

**Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Readings next Sunday

Psalm 80:1-8

First Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1.3-9

Gospel: Mark 13.24-37

For your Prayers

In the Anglican Communion we pray for the Church of Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Nicholas Dill – Bishop of Bermuda

In our Diocese we pray for Bishop Martin Warner and his staff, Stephen Ferns, Senior Chaplain; Ruth McBrien, Administrative Assistant; Margaret West, Finance Manager.

Within our local community we pray for United Benefice & Mission Plan and the residents of Buci Crescent, Royal George Parade, Hammy Lane, Fairfield Court.

Those in need of our prayers specifically at this time: John Ramsden, Vanessa Thompson, Anna, Hannah, Paula, Roddy Stevens, Sue Stevens, Joyce Thompson, Evie Orman, Nan Knill, Dennis Still, George McFarland, Clare, Sophie, Carol Tabrah, Carole Batchelor, Ron, Mia, Roger Titley, Ella Hutt, Bob and Barbara, Jocelyn Andrews, David Simmons, Rosie Rowson, David Hill.

Reflection

The Feast of Christ the King the last Sunday of the Churches year so what exactly are we celebrating this morning. Where is this Kingdom? What is this kingdom where he reigns?

Well we have been given a number of clues in Jesus' parables. He had taught the crowds about the kingdom of heaven or the Kingdom of God whichever Gospel you are reading. He has taught them the meaning of Judgement.

Today's question is: Are you a sheep or a goat? Does it matter? Well, normally no but today these 2 animals become the focus of Jesus' teaching but why use sheep and goats? We have had less complicated stories for the past two weeks about right and wrong decision making and waiting and it's perhaps not too difficult for us in Shoreham, in the middle of rural Sussex, to imagine the typical Palestinian scene with sheep and goats and the Bedouin tribes, so let's have a go .

From a distance sheep and goats are very difficult to tell apart but look at their tails What is the difference between sheep and goats well in a word, their tails. Sheep's tails go down and goats' tails go up, so the shepherd with his herd can separate these animals when necessary.

Just as we may all look the same from the distance but up close you can see our distinguishing features that are unique to us. God is inviting us to be closely looked at. So again, I ask you are you a sheep or a goat?

The judgement is made on the basis of the compassion, the love, or the lack of it that is shown by those who gathered before the throne of judgement.

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in" the son of man tells those on his right. To those on his left he says the exact opposite. "I was naked" he tells them, "and you did not give me clothing, I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

Awesome words these. Words of great clarity. Words with a powerful message for those who have ears to hear it.

This is our choice we can either face up to what is expected or choose not to! There is only the surprise that - Jesus himself - has been present in every person they had ever met, and most especially, in the needy ones and the least important ones - the ones that Jesus calls "the least"

And that judgement is based on whether we treat this king, present in these the least, well; or ignore him in his suffering and his want and his need.

We sometimes think that religion is just about believing stuff, and that if we believe the right stuff, we are safe. But it seems not to be so.

Rather our faith seems to be about awareness, about having our eyes opened to the real world, and responding compassionately to it - whether or not we are "aware" that Jesus is there.

The parable is calling to us, however, to see Jesus there, to see Jesus in the squalling child who is getting in our way, to hear God in the voice of the beggars on our streets and those we find difficult to communicate with.

The parable is alerting us to the importance of compassion and to the fact that Jesus is present in the needy of our world.

To encounter the least of the brothers and sisters of Jesus, however, we don't need to go to areas of deprivation in the world, war torn zones. We are constantly reminded of the suffering people are experiencing in these days of pandemic we are all in it together rich and poor, aged and young, healthy and unhealthy.

The sheep - those on the right - have shown love for their brothers and sisters, and in doing so they have shown love to God, and so they enter the kingdom prepared for them. Can we be a sheep?

The goats are the unenlightened, the ones who have not quite grasped what it is all about, they did no harm, they did not really do anything, just got on with their lives. They find it hard to be judged so harshly. So, how far should we go in our caring?

Who should we care for - and who, if any, should we not care for?

I can't answer these questions for you.

It is something that each of us needs to struggle with on a case by case, day by day basis.

Where is Jesus to be found today? In each one of us as we go about our daily work. So help us to live as your people aware of others needs and ready to help, and to accept the help of others. Amen

Rev Pat.

Intercessions

We pray to our Everlasting God, through our Saviour Jesus who is both Christ the King and the Son of Man and who understands our needs and the needs of this world. Holy God, we raise before you your churches here in our united Benefice, of which your Son is King. We pray that you will draw us together and unite us in the love of Christ that we may proclaim with one voice your justice and righteousness to the world
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for your world, of which your Son is King. We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the places of war, hatred, terrorism and the Covid pandemic. We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of Christ the King, through whom and for whom all things were created.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for our communities here in the Benefice. We pray for the communities of our friends and families, our churches and our places of work and study. Help us to know the people around us to be our brothers and sisters in Christ and to serve them as He would serve them.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for all those who suffer and who are sick in mind or body. We pray that they will know the presence of your Son alongside them and the power of Christ the King within them bringing peace and healing for them and help and encouragement for those caring for them. We pray for everyone mentioned in our newsletter and those who have especially requested our prayers.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we raise before you all who have died and who are now with your Son the king. We pray for those who have recently died and for their resurrection into the kingdom of God, and for those whose anniversary falls at this time. We pray for anyone we hold dear in our hearts, known personally to us.
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks to you for all that you do in our lives. As the church year comes to an end, we commend to you all those for whom we have prayed throughout the year and ask that you continue to use us and our prayers to make a difference in their lives.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Notices

Public worship. Unfortunately, public worship in our churches is suspended from Thursday 5th November due to the second national lockdown. Hopefully, this will only last until 6th December. Fr James will keep you informed of any developments.

Sunday Worship this week will be livestreamed from St Giles' Church on the **Kingston Buci Facebook Page** at 10am. A Zoom chat over coffee after the service will start at 11.15am.

Services in December: There has been some planning for the resumption of services in December and I hope I will be able to publish details of services for Christmas shortly. Hopefully, we'll have a bit more information on the nature of any restrictions after the current lockdown ends. Due to the uncertainty of restrictions in the run up to Christmas these might still change at short notice.

Private Prayer. Our churches will be open for private prayer as follows:

- **St Nicolas' – Mondays 10am – 12pm and Thursdays 2pm – 4pm**
- **St Julian's – Sundays 9am – 9:45am (from 15th November)**

Evening Prayer will continue to be streamed daily at 6pm from the **Parish of Kingston Buci Facebook page**. Monday and Thursday & Friday: Revd. Pat; Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday: James Askew.

Resources: There is a new booklet available "*Spiritual Resources – for keeping the faith aflame while at home*" to aid you in your prayers at home while public worship remains suspended. It will be attached to the newsletter email this week. If you would like a paper copy please contact Fr James.

Advent Course: The Way of the Manger – an opportunity to journey further with the Christmas story. Meetings will be held on Zoom on Monday evenings, 7pm to 8pm to discuss the 14 stages of the 'Way of the Manger' which will be displayed in St Mary de Haura. Themes from the Christmas story will be used to reflect on our lives and our faith. The 14 stations, depicted in a booklet and as a pdf file, will be sent to all participants, so it is not necessary to view the images in church to participate in the discussions. We will meet on Monday evenings from 7pm-8pm, starting on 9/11 and finishing on 21/12. **Please email shorehamcurate@gmail.com to register and be invited to the meetings.**

Experience Christmas: For Christmas Eve (probably 2-4pm) we are planning to create an "Experience Christmas" trail round St Nicolas Church. There will be six

stations to help you walk through the Christmas story from the Annunciation to the arrival of the Wise Men. Planning is ongoing for this and we would be grateful for volunteers to help prepare and set up the stations. Detailed ideas for each station will be available by next week. Please contact Fr James or Rev Pat if you can help.

Carol Service: This year we will not have our usual carol services as singing is unlikely to be reinstated before Christmas. In place of our Carol service we are planning to film readings, music, and carols from our churches. If you would like to contribute by reading or playing an instrument or maybe singing a solo please let me know by 6th December. We're hoping to premier the pre-recorded Carol Service at 6pm on 20th December.

Messy Christingle: As long as restrictions on public worship are lifted we will be celebrating our annual Christingle service on 12th December. I am very much hoping that by next week we will know what we can offer, and more information will be available in the newsletter next week.

Our Charities 2020: Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers is the charity our benefice will be supporting during November. Please give via the collection boxes in church or via their website: servsussex.org.uk

SERV Sussex is a charity that provides night time transportation of blood, blood products and other urgent medical items for NHS Hospitals across Sussex. The service is provided free of charge to the NHS between the hours of 7pm and 6am, 365 days of the year via a committed team of volunteer riders and drivers often using their own vehicles.

It may come as a surprise that the NHS has no formal and free way of moving urgent blood, samples and patient notes overnight. By providing a free transport service, SERV enables hospitals to focus their resources on patient care and eliminate costly transport bills. Donating to SERV helps the NHS.

Support during Coronavirus Crisis: If you are self-isolating or not able to leave your home please ring Fr James (01273 979811) or John Simpson (01273 454006) if you need any help with shopping or just want someone to talk to. We have a list of volunteers who are happy to help! John and Fr James will then get you in touch with one of our helpers.

During lockdown it's really important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, so the Church has launched **Daily Hope - 0800 804 8044** - a free phone line offering hymns, prayers and words of comfort. This is for everyone but might be especially useful for those without access to the internet.

Find out more and help us spread the word: <http://cofe.io/DailyHope>

The Diocese has launched a **Statement for people to take into hospital with them**. This statement will explicitly declare a person's Christian faith and request access to a Church of England chaplain while in hospital. A template for this statement is available on the Diocesan website: www.chichester.anglican.org and a copy has also been distributed with previous newsletters.

Christian Aid write:

“Christian Aid Week 2020 was certainly a Christian Aid Week we won't forget! The coronavirus pandemic affected so much of your planned fundraising but you triumphed, you persevered, and you went online. We have been so humbled by the dedication you have shown to supporting Christian Aid- not even a global pandemic could stop you from standing alongside the most vulnerable.

In total you raised nearly **4 million pounds** and we could not be more grateful for all your hard work and passion. Thank you.

Planning is well underway for Christian Aid Week 2021 and we are as committed as you are to this remarkable annual week, where thousands of churches stand together with the world's poorest and most in need.

We're not sure what the coronavirus situation will be like next year yet but we're currently developing a range of ideas and activities for Christian Aid Week 2021 that will be suitable for whatever social distancing restrictions are in place then.”

Giving to our Churches While They Are Closed

A few people have enquired about how they can still make donations while the Churches are closed, so here are the details you would need to make a one-off online donation directly into the Church bank account or set up a standing order.

We really appreciate each and every contribution, however small, as it helps us to continue to be able to pay our Ministry costs and utility bills. Please note that even when we re-open we are very unlikely to be able to accept cash or cheques due to the risk of transmission of the virus, which is another reason we're encouraging people to change to digital giving, either as a one-off bank transfer or a standing order for regular payments.

St Nicolas Church: Sort Code 60-17-01 Account No. 58502912 PCC of Old Shoreham

St Julian's Church: Sort Code 09-01-55 Account No. 02516704 St Julians Kingston Buci PCC

St Giles' Church: Sort Code 09-01-51 Account No. 10529308 St Giles Church

If you would like to make a regular contribution you can use this information to set up a standing order, which means that you are in complete control of your money, as it is your account which initiates the movement of funds and only you can vary the amount or stop making payments.

St Nicolas has also got a facility whereby people can make a PayPal donation to the Friends of St Nicolas via the website. The plus point of this method is that you can use a credit/debit card if you don't want to use your bank. The link is <https://saintnicolas.org.uk/donations.htm>

Thank you to everyone for your support during these difficult times, we are very grateful for your help.

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Notices for the Weekly Newsletter to

PCC Secretary as above (deadline Thursday @ Noon)

<http://www.saintnicolas.org.uk> & www.parishofkingstonbuci.org.uk

OR visit us on Facebook and Twitter