



Letter #48 Church Family email 26/11/2020

Tel: 01732 740340
office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org
www.stnicholas-sevenoaks.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” [Hebrews 9:28]

There is a simplicity to what the author of Hebrews says. Christ came the first time to die for our sins. He will then appear again to enable us to experience full salvation with Him in the new creation. This Sunday is **Advent Sunday** where along with Christian down the ages and across the world we remember that He will return. If we put our hope in politicians or scientists, we will ultimately find ourselves disappointed, even though we pray regularly for them. But our hope, our confidence, is in the Lord Jesus who one day will return. I do trust that many of you will be using our Advent devotional, ‘Fixated’ by Tim Chester. Sadly all 130 copies have now been sold and the publisher has no more copies. Many apologies!

Joining us on Sunday online:

This Sunday should be the last in this current lockdown and we will revert to normal service times from 6 December. However, for this Sunday services are still online:

- St Nicholas Sunday morning livestream – at **10am**
- St Nicholas@ Lady Boswell’s morning livestream – at **10am**
- St Nicholas Sunday evening Zoom service – at **6:30pm**

To access all our Sunday services, go to the website [here](#).

After the morning online gatherings there will be the opportunity to catch up with friends through Zoom Coffee. See the website [here](#) for all details.

Praying for this Sunday

- Our preaching at all our services links into Advent Sunday and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am preaching in the morning on Luke 19:11-27; John Khnana at Lady Boswell’s on Psalm 93; and Gavin on Luke 12:35-40 in the evening. Pray that all of us would see more of the greatness and majesty of Christ!
- Pray for those who have been really struggling during this current lockdown. Pray that we would be able to bear each other burdens and comfort each other, perhaps through phone calls over this weekend.
- Last Sunday our treasurer, John Collett together with Chris Brindley presented our annual financial presentation which you can access [here](#). You can also access my letter about our financial response [here](#) [which includes links to other resources and pledge forms]. Pray that the Lord would stir us up to respond according to the generous provision that He has lavished on us in sending Jesus.



Monthly Prayer Gathering & Lockdown Prayers

Our final two lockdown prayer times take place this coming week. These short (15 mins) gatherings are designed to be catalysts to encourage us all to be praying daily and fasting on Thursdays. To access our prayer times at **8pm Monday and 8am Thursday**, go to the website [here](#). We also have our monthly prayer gathering on **Tuesday 1 December at 8pm**. We will gather as a whole church family across all our congregations. Come and join us. The link is [here](#) or the details are:

Meeting ID: 862 7779 3728 / Passcode: 595317.

The December prayer diary can be [downloaded here](#).

Loving our neighbours during the pandemic

How can we demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways during the pandemic, especially as we head into the winter? Hannah Blake and Anita Jones have been in conversation [here](#). They mention a 'letterbox card' which we can use to distribute to our neighbours and the folk on our street. You can download it [here](#) – just fill in the blank spaces and prayerfully consider how you could offer to assist those who live near you.

Women's Christmas Biscuit Decoration

It's not too late to get involved in sharing your faith with friends this Christmas! Why not consider hosting an online Christmas themed biscuit decoration evening. Hannah Blake has prepared a video [here](#) and a flyer [here](#). Please contact her if you would be interested in joining in or setting up an online event for your friends.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song this week is a great Advent hymn '[Lo! He comes with clouds descending](#)'

The prayer is the Collect for Advent Sunday:

*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. **Amen.***

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay



To access the links in today's letter, please use the details below:

Click here	For online services details
Click here	For details of the Zoom Coffees
Click here	To view the finance presentation
Click here	To read Angus' Letter
Click here	Details of the Lockdown Prayer Gatherings
Click here	To join the monthly prayer gathering on Tuesday 1 Dec @ 8pm
Click here	To download the December prayer diary
Click here	For a discussion about Loving our neighbours
Click here	For the 'Loving your neighbour' Letterbox card
Click here	The women's Christmas Event video
Click here	The women's Christmas Event info
Click here	To listen to 'Lo! He comes with clouds descending''