



Letter #49 Church Family email 03/12/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have **hope**.” [Romans 15:4]*  
Everyone needs *hope* to face the future with all its uncertainties. This verse reminds us that hope is found through what has been revealed in the Scriptures. This thought is picked up in the special prayer for this Sunday at the end of this letter. As we ‘read, mark, learn and inwardly digest’ the Scriptures so we feed on the Lord Jesus and all that He has done for us in coming into our world.

Throughout this season of Advent and Christmas we will be focusing on that theme of ‘*hope*’. It is the theme of [the special card](#) being delivered around the parish. Matt will be preaching on ‘*hope*’ from Isaiah 9 this Sunday evening at our special livestream service featuring the Eynsford Concert Band. It is a great opportunity to invite our friends to engage with a service featuring favourite carols and familiar readings. Here’s the link to use and pass on <https://bit.ly/Eynsfordservice> And at each service we will be inviting people to join us at Hope Explored which starts early in the New Year Monday 11 January 2021 – more details will be on the website in due course.

### **Joining us on Sunday in person and online:**

This Sunday we are able to open up St Nicholas and Lady Boswell’s for our Sunday services whilst continuing to offer online engagement. Our services will be as follows:

- St Nicholas @ 9am **with livestream at 9am**
- Lady Boswell’s @ 9:30am [booking required] **with livestream at 9:30am**
- St Nicholas @ 11am
- Lady Boswell’s @ 11am [booking required]
- St Nicholas @ **6:30pm will be livestream only** [with Zoom catch up afterwards]

To access all our Sunday services, go [to the website](#). For booking at Lady Boswell’s [click here](#).

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

### **Praying for this Sunday**

- Please pray for the special Christmas Celebration on YouTube with the Eynsford Concert Band at 6:30pm on Sunday at which Matt will be preaching a short, accessible 10 minute Christmas message. Give thanks for the Eynsford Band being willing to record familiar carols for us and for the technical and musical skills of Peter Harlow, Graham Cassford and Peter Young in particular.



- Pray for John preaching on Psalm 145 at Lady Boswells and for me as I start a new series at St Nicholas on Sunday morning in Hebrews 2 focusing on the incarnation. Pray for the teaching of God's word to all ages to capture hearts and minds, enabling us all to 'fix our eyes on Jesus'.
- Pray especially for our children and young people engaging with our services either in the buildings or online, that they would encounter Christ for themselves. Pray for parents in the significant role of bringing their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord [Ephesians 6:4].

## Christmas Services

Over the Christmas period we are aware that with significantly fewer people permitted to be in our buildings due to social distancing requirements we are going to require a booking system. Services will be accessible on livestream, but many may wish to attend church services in person. We are keen to find ways in which we can provide opportunities for those who rarely attend to be able to be present, so please let friends and neighbours be aware of our booking system which will go live on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December for the "ticketed" services 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Sunday 20 December @ 6:30pm at St Nicholas – 'Festival of lessons and carols'  
Christmas Eve @ 2:30pm & 4pm at St Nicholas  
Christmas Eve Midnight Communion @ 11:15pm at St Nicholas  
Christmas Day @ 10am at St Nicholas  
Christmas Day @ 10am at Lady Boswell's  
Sunday 27 December @ 10am at St Nicholas

## Fellowship Fund

For many years we have run a Fellowship Fund designed to assist people within the Church family who are going through financial hardship. Nigel Gavin has kindly chaired the Committee which oversees this fund, and he has indicated that he would welcome members of the Church family getting in touch with him on a confidential basis if they have need of any assistance. [Click here to email him.](#)

## Finally, a song and a prayer ....

The song is [a medley of carols](#) produced by St Andrew the Great, Cambridge, featuring soloist Becca Miller, a former Contact member. She and her husband, Ben, have been involved in serving at recent Contact Houseparties.

The prayer is the Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent [Book of Common Prayer]:

*BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen.*

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay



# St Nicholas Church

SEVENOAKS

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

<a href="#">Click here</a>	For our Christmas Card
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For the Eynsford Concert Service on 6 <sup>th</sup> December
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For details about our Sunday services
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For the LB booking page
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For details of the Zoom Coffees
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To contact the Fellowship Fund
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For a medley of carols

Note: The bookshop will be open from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec from 10am to 2pm Monday – Friday.

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally