



Letter #57 Church Family email 04/2/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy." [Romans 9:15,16]

At our recent Leaders' Day, we were reminded that God's grace must not only be central to our message. It must also be central to our church culture. How we interact with each other must constantly be marked by grace. Our verses from Romans 9 remind us that 'grace' is the engine of the gospel because it is at the very heart of God's character. Even amid all the extra pressures and frustrations generated by the current lockdown may our relationships be characterised by grace and let us pray that in these days the Lord might reveal His grace to many others.

February Services all online:

We are continually reviewing the situation concerning at what point we can return to our buildings. It may well be that soon we can plan a return to Lady Boswells School in a very modest way, but for now we continue to operate online only at all our services. To access our gatherings, go to the [website here](#). Sunday morning services are followed directly by Zoom Coffee which you can access here: [St Nicholas](#) / [Lady Boswell's](#).

Sunday 7th February we will be holding the following services online:

- **10am from St Nicholas on YouTube**
- **10am from Lady Boswell's on YouTube**
- **6:30pm on Zoom**

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray especially for Matt Taylor as he is licensed as Associate Rector during our Evening Zoom service by the Bishop of Maidstone. Pray that he, along with Sally and Lily, will know the Lord's presence and provision at every point in their new ministry amongst us.
2. Please pray for the preaching of God's word on Sunday: Angus (Judges 5) and John Khnana (Romans 7:1-12) in the morning and Bishop Rod Thomas (1 Peter 5) in the evening.
3. Please pray for all those involved in the teaching profession who have had a very demanding half term praying especially for staff known to us at Lady Boswells, Trinity and Sevenoaks School.

Lent Books: An Ocean of Grace & Hope in the face of Suffering

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021. Tim Chester has produced a very helpful daily selection of prayers entitled '*An Ocean of Grace*' and Jeremy Marshall has compiled 20 daily devotions for tough times '*Hope in the face of Suffering*'. Both books are warmly commended. Please note that due to the lockdown books ordered can only be picked up from the Church Office on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. To demonstrate love for each other please follow all the correct protocols in terms of face coverings and social distancing if coming to the Church Office. You can [order either book here](#).

Family activities over half term and Lent

Hannah Blake has kindly put some resources together suitable for families and children over half term and Lent. Please click [here for her video message](#) and [email her](#) to get involved.

Fellowship Fund and Pastoral care

We recognise that many people are struggling within this lockdown. I know that many within the Church family are seeking to be pro-active in caring for the needs of others both within and beyond the fellowship. Please remember the existence of the Fellowship Fund which is designed to provide practical financial support when members of the church family hit difficult days. Please feel able to [contact Nigel Gavin](#) who chairs the Fund on behalf of the church family. All communications are kept confidential.

Church Office

Please continue to pray for the appointment of a new Office Admin Assistant ([further details are available here](#)). This post is becoming vacant due to Lis Lidbetter's appointment as Rector's Personal Assistant.

Toolbox 2021

This year Toolbox will be delivered online. Given all the demands and pressures we have decided to streamline our approach and offer one seminar each Sunday evening at 6.30pm, as follows.

Sunday 21 February 2021 – Living in Love and Faith: Angus MacLeay

Sunday 28 February 2021 – How do I share my faith? Rebecca Manley Pippert [author]

Sunday 7 March 2021 – Covid, Climate and the Church: Dr Ruth Valerio [Tearfund]

Further details about each seminar are [available here](#).

Deputy Wardens

During these early weeks in the year, we have been trying to inform you about the various changes agreed by the PCC during 2020. We have already produced a video message about the new [Congregational Model here](#) and provided information about the [role of the Congregational Pastor](#)

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally



[here](#). Chris Brindley, one of our wardens, has now produced a helpful and informative briefing sheet about the new role of Deputy Warden which can be [accessed here](#).

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[I lift my eyes to the quiet hills](#)' by the Chet Valley Churches. Based on Psalm 121, the words are by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith.

The prayer is the Collect for Candlemas (2nd February) and includes a petition for cleansing:
*Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: **grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts**, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Click here	Sunday service information
Click here	Zoom coffee for 9:15am congregation
Click here	Zoom coffee for 10am at Lady Boswell's congregation
Click here	Zoom coffee for 11am congregation
Click here	Order a book from the bookshop
Click here	Half term activities - video
Click here	Contact Hannah Blake re half term / Lent
Click here	Contact Nigel Gavin re the Fellowship Fund
Click here	Office Admin Assistant vacancy
Click here	Toolbox details
Click here	Video message re congregational Model
Click here	Paper on the Role of the Congregational Pastor
Click here	Paper on the Role of the Deputy Warden
Click here	To listen to 'I lift my eyes to the quiet hills'