

Letter #13 Church Family 24/04/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.” Psalm 147:11*

During Jane Oden’s interview on Tuesday evening she shared this verse with us. Amidst all the pressures and confusion of life in lockdown in Naples she had returned to this verse to remind herself that the Lord continues to delight in us as we fear Him. We may, in usual circumstances, delight in productivity or abilities but the Lord delights in the way we relate to Him.

**1. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching ...” [Acts 2:42]**

- i. Matt has produced a video message on Psalm 90 – [\[click here\]](#)
- ii. As usual we have livestream services on Sunday at 10am for congregations based at St Nicholas [\[click here\]](#) and those based at Lady Boswells [\[click here\]](#).
- iii. Once again, we will be holding an evening gathering on Zoom at 6:30pm. I will be resuming the evening series in Ephesians. The formal part of the gathering finishes at about 7pm and then you can decide to stay on for coffee if you wish.
- iv. Please also note that from this Sunday people will be able to access our services by using their phone. We have written to all the people on our database who do not appear to be on the internet to provide them with this information. If you know of folk in this category, please encourage them to use this provision so that they can access the preaching of God’s word during these days.

**2. “... and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread ...” [Acts 2:42]**

- i. In the early church we read that the believers were keen to meet the needs of those around them. Thank you to all who have supported the Trinity School Foodbank highlighted in the interview last Sunday with assistant Chaplain, Helen Read. Since Easter the number of families requiring assistance has grown from 40 to 60. Food can be dropped off at the school on Tuesday mornings [\[click here for details\]](#).
- ii. We want to continue to support the work of our Mission partners. Paul and Helen Shepherd are both doctors, based in Uganda. In their latest video they highlight that although they are bracing themselves for dealing with Covid-19 they have had to deal with a growing number of gunshot wounds .... [\[Click here for the video\]](#), the password for the video is: Ajok!1.

**3. “... and to prayer.” [Acts 2:42]**

- i. The early church met daily for prayer [Acts 2:46]. Physically meeting is not possible, but we can all pray. Join Sue and me at 7:30pm this evening and encourage others to do the same.
- ii. Prayer points for this weekend:
  1. Pray for God’s word to be preached clearly and faithfully. Peter Rowan and John Khnana are speaking on Jeremiah and 1 Corinthians respectively in the morning and

I am resuming the series in Ephesians in the evening. Pray that we would receive these words as the word of God [see 1 Thess 2:13].

2. Pray for the ministry amongst our teenagers in Contact led by Simon. Pray for growth in understanding and maturity in these days and that they would be able and willing to hold out the word of life to their friends.
3. Pray for outreach possibilities. In particular, I would value prayer for the possibility of joining with Jeremy Marshall and offering a live interactive study of John's Gospel using 'the Word one to one'. Hopefully there will be more details to share in a few days' time.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is '[Behold our God](#)'

The prayer is from An English Prayer Book, especially for those who are seriously ill:

*Eternal and loving Lord, teach us to remember that life is short and to seek after heavenly wisdom. Grant that, though our bodies grow weak, we may increase in spiritual strength; so that, trusting ourselves to your care and mercy, we may accept your will and at the last enter into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

**To access the articles / items referred to in the letter, use the links below:**

[Click here](#)

Video message from Psalm 90

[Click here](#)

Telephone access to Sunday services

[Click here](#)

Information about the Trinity School Foodbank

[Click here](#)

To access the Shepherd's video (Password: Ajok!1)

[Click here](#)

For 'Behold our God'

### **Church Family updates:**

These letters will be sent via ChurchSuite and uploaded onto the website.

Please check your ChurchSuite Communication preferences to ensure you are registered to receive email updates.

The MyChurchSuite App is available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone/iPad](#) and is easy to download and use. We recommend that you use it to stay up to date with church communications especially at this time of uncertainty.

Contact the office if you need help with any of this [[office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org)]