



Letter #17 Church Family 08/05/2020

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^l with fire.
¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:9,10*

Today is VE Day – we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe. As we reflect on such events we want to give thanks to the Lord for times of deliverance when as a nation we faced great evil and were the beneficiaries of sacrificial acts by so many ‘ordinary’ people. Perhaps in God’s providence it is timely that we look back on the events of 75 years ago to encourage us in our own struggle against Covid-19, aware that we are currently being assisted by so many serving on the front line in the battle against this disease in hospitals, care homes and many other places.

Brig Ian Dobbie has kindly forwarded this very helpful video from SASRA which includes a heart-warming testimony from Army Scripture Reader Lee McDade. [Click here](#) to watch it.

Encouragement from God’s word:

Gavin has been helpfully reflecting on some of the most famous words in the Bible – John 3:16-17 under the title ‘Great Achievement, Great Cost’ ([Click here](#)).

Sunday ministry:

Details of all the Sunday services and opportunities for virtual coffee are clearly signposted on the [St Nicholas website](#), where you will also find the news sheet. Continue to consider who you could invite to join us this Sunday!

After the morning service, please do join other members of our church family for a virtual coffee:-
- for the 09:15 congregation [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 221 255 6440, password 0915Coffee)
- for the 11:00 congregation [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 989 8217 9349, no password)

Members of other congregations are very welcome to join either of the morning congregations.

- for the Grace Church or 4 O’clock congregations [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 926 213 107, password church)

Praying for Sunday ministry:

As always, let us keep praying daily at 7:30pm. For the coming weekend, here are additional prayer points:



1. Pray for the clear proclamation of God's word on Sunday: all our series are continuing with Angus on Philippians 1, Tom on 1 Corinthians 1 in the morning and Matt on Ephesians 5 in the evening. You might want to turn to Ezekiel 37:1-14 which is a wonderful chapter in which God's word and Spirit combine to bring new life. Pray that God would be active in this way on Sunday!
2. Pray for Simon Heather and the encouraging ministry being developed in lockdown amongst our teenagers. Pray that they would be equipped not just to follow Christ but also to be good witnesses to the Lord Jesus within their peer groups.
3. Pray for the many who are on their own under lockdown, who may well find that however helpful our YouTube services are – and we are so grateful for all those involved in their production – even so, they highlight the lack of tangible, tactile fellowship with the Lord's people. Pray that out of those feelings may come a greater hunger to treasure every opportunity for genuine Christian fellowship in these coming years.

May I also draw your attention to the prayer initiative from CrossTeach and for us to be praying for our schools in the coming weeks ([click here](#) for prayer info).

For information, the retired men are gathering on Monday 9 May at 11am on Zoom for a 'Roast the Rector' ... any questions need to be with Brigadier Ian Dobbie by Sunday lunchtime. [Click here](#) to email him.

Please also remember the Thursday evening webinar on John's Gospel which is open to everyone. Perhaps there is someone you could invite to join in? It will be clearly signposted from the homepage of the website.

As usual, I leave you with a song and a prayer.

The song is the great hymn '[O God our help in ages past](#)' based on Psalm 90, sung by the choir of King's College, Cambridge and, I trust, an appropriate choice for VE Day. The words can be accessed [here](#).

The prayer is the General Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer and again has been selected in the light of the VE Day commemoration:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay



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

- [Click here](#) To view the SASRA video
- [Click here](#) To view Gavin's video talk on John 3: 16-17
- [Click here](#) For the St Nicholas website services page
- [Click here](#) To join the 9:15am congregation virtual coffee
- [Click here](#) To join the 11am congregation virtual coffee
- [Click here](#) To join the Grace & 4 O'clock congregation virtual coffee
- [Click here](#) For the 'Prayer for Schools' prayer card
- [Click here](#) To email a 'Roast the Rector' question to Ian
- [Click here](#) To listen to "Our God our help"
- [Click here](#) For the words to the hymn

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.

At present, the letters are being sent to everyone but we do need you to update your privacy and communication settings.

The MyChurchSuite App is available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone/iPad](#) and is easy to download and use.

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