

Letter #20 Church Family 19/05/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high;
he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness,
and he will be the stability of your times,
abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge;
the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure.” Isaiah 33:5,6 [ESV]*

I was very struck by the phrase that the Lord will be ‘*the stability of your times*’. It is an arresting statement especially at a time when we are experiencing so much uncertainty. May the Lord Himself be your stability!

1. Praying together – Thy Kingdom Come

Over recent years the prayer initiative ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has taken off. What a great thing for churches across the nation and throughout the world to be praying for friends to enter God’s kingdom! As usual the time frame is from Ascension Day [Thurs 21 May] to Pentecost [Sunday 31 May]. Matt Taylor has kindly prepared some materials to encourage us each to be praying daily for 5 non-Christian friends using the Lord’s Prayer which you can access on a daily basis on the St Nicholas Facebook page ([Like here](#)) or Instagram account (@stnicholassevenoaks) or can be [downloaded here](#).

2. Exploring God’s word

John Khnana has kindly produced a short video message for us on Psalm 17. To access it [click here](#). We are also holding a short Ascension Day service on Zoom this Thursday 21 May at 7:30pm-7:50pm at which Jamie Read will be preaching. To access the service (from about 7:25pm on Thursday) [click here](#), meeting details are Meeting ID: 730 4408 9983, Password: 0hBtBe

3. Explaining God’s word

The webinar on John’s Gospel will be running again this Thursday evening at 8:15pm-9pm. Even if you or your friends did not attend previous sessions you are most welcome to join this Thursday. Simply go to the Church [home page](#) or [click here](#) Password: 181766 if requested. This time there are a few changes: Penny Boshoff will be hosting the evening and I will be doing two short talks on John 2:1-12 with opportunities for questions in the middle and at the end.

4. Youth ministry

Simon Heather our Youth Minister has been gathering our young people during the lockdown weeks and it has been an encouraging time. Just in case there are any parents who have lost contact details please note the following, and, of course, always feel able to be in direct contact with Simon simon.heather@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org

Centrepoint (Years 7-9): Links to all Zoom meetings and videos are sent to a parents' Whatsapp group. Parents - [Click here](#) on your phone to request access to the group.

Contact (Years 10-13): [Click here](#) for a links to the waiting rooms for all Zoom meetings.

5. Getting involved

For those who normally attend the 9:15am and 11am congregations, Graham Cassford has a message:

“Would you like to be part of the Virtual Music Team contributing to the worship at St Nicholas? The regular musicians would love for you to join a congregational Zoom call to record a video of many of you joining the Virtual Choir in the last hymn for the All Age Service on 7th June. The hymn is well known and you would simply need to sing along to the organ during the Zoom call. The whole process is fun to do and the video recording only takes 10 to 15 mins in total per congregation. To receive your Zoom invitation please send an email to Graham Cassford – [care of the Church Office](#) - indicating which congregation you are a member of and how many of your household will join the Zoom connection.”

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is based on Psalm 139 and was written by Colin Buchanan overnight a few weeks ago for a friend. [Click here](#)

The prayer is the Collect for Ascension Day:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; 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

Like Here	Click here for the St Nicholas Church Facebook Page
Click Here	For Thy Kingdom Come resource made by Matt
Click Here	For John Khnana's Talk on Psalm 17
Click Here	For the Ascension Day service, Meeting ID: 730 4408 9983, Password: 0hBtBe
Click Here	For the webinar on John's Gospel, Password: 181766 if requested
Click Here	If you are reading this on your phone - to request access to the Centrepoint parent Whatsapp group
Click Here	To join the Zoom waiting room for all Contact meetings
Click Here	To contact Graham Cassford about joining the Virtual Music Team
Click Here	For Colin Buchanan's Psalm 139 song

Church Family updates:

At present, these letters are being sent to everyone on our church database, but we do ask you all to check your privacy and communication settings to ensure you are registered to receive such communications in the future.

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]