



Letter #22 Church Family 28/05/2020

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.” [Psalm 143:10]*

This Sunday is Pentecost. We particularly remember the glorious work of the Spirit, applying the work of Christ to us and enabling us to have communion with God. The verse I have chosen from Psalm 143 reminds us that when we are walking on rough ground, perhaps where there is no path at all, it is very easy for us to stumble and fall. Such is our current situation as we navigate unique circumstances and unknown paths. Yet, in such situations, like the Psalmist, we can ask for God’s Spirit to lead us so that we do not stumble. May God indeed send His Spirit to enable us each to delight in His ways!

1. Praying together – Thy Kingdom Come and Monthly prayer gatherings

The Spirit enables us to pray, so that we can cry out to God as our Father [see Romans 8:15,16] so let us keep praying regularly.

It is still the period of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ – the national prayer initiative. Let’s continue praying for our 5 non-Christian friends or family members to enter God’s Kingdom. To help us do this we are releasing a daily post on our [Facebook Page](#) and Instagram account (Follow @stnicholassevenoaks). For those not on Facebook or Instagram, [click here](#) for a downloadable resource that you can use from our website

Next week we will be holding our Monthly prayer gatherings. Please join us.

The details for accessing these prayer gatherings will also be on the website.

On Tuesday 2 June at 8pm, [Click here](#) for the joint Grace & 4OCC prayer meeting and [Click here](#) for the congregations which normally meet at the church building.

2. Exploring God’s word

The Spirit is described as the Spirit of Truth, who leads us into the truth [see John 16:13].

Matt Taylor has been looking at the Book of Common Prayer and its prayer in the time of a plague [[click here](#)]. Pray for the Spirit to help us as we wrestle with the issues of God’s sovereignty amid our suffering.

As I have already mentioned, I have been enormously encouraged by the new book, ‘Gentle and lowly’. [Click here](#) for my book review and [click here](#) to order the book from our bookshop.

(note – apologies for misquoting Peter’s email address in recent letters. He can be contacted on [bookroom@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:bookroom@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org) )

3. Explaining God’s word

The webinar on John’s Gospel will be running again tonight 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 website home page or [click here](#).



# St Nicholas Church

SEVENOAKS

Matt Taylor is also launching a new initiative 'Uncover the word'. It's designed to prompt our friends and acquaintances to consider engaging with us about some of the questions that they might have by reading John's gospel. [Click here](#) for the form for friends to sign up, please also share the post on the Facebook page ([Click Here](#)).

To join us on Sunday please head to the [St Nicholas website](#) where the different services are clearly labelled. To access the various 'Zoom coffee' gatherings please note the following:

- for the 09:15 congregation [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 896 8102 9872, password 0915Coffee )
- for the 11:00 congregation [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 989 8217 9349, no password)

Members of other St Nicholas based congregations are very welcome to join either of the above virtual coffees.

- for Grace Church and 4 O'clock congregations [\[click here\]](#) (meeting ID 886 6180 2881, password church)

#### 4. Praying for this Sunday

- Please pray for God's word to be taught faithfully this Sunday. I'm preaching on Philippians 1:27-30 in the morning, Giles Witchell is preaching on Psalm 100 at GC/4OC and Gavin is preaching on Ephesians 5:22-33 in the evening. Pray that the Spirit would be doing His work of pointing us all to Christ [John 16:14].
- Pray for the fruit of the Spirit [Galatians 5:22,23] to be ever more evident in all our lives as a church family across all our congregations, so that even in lockdown we would be growing in love, patience and self-control.
- Pray for the Spirit to be granting us all wisdom [Isaiah 11:2,3] in knowing how to serve Christ within our homes, friendship groups and neighbourhoods. Pray that our witness in how we interact with those around us would clearly point to Christ.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

[Click here](#) for John Rutter's 'The Lord bless you and keep you' recorded just before lockdown.

The prayer is the Collect for Pentecost:

*God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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

PS. You may have noticed that I am now writing one letter a week to the Church family. I will aim to send this out each Thursday.



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

<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For our Facebook Page
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For Thy Kingdom Come Resources
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For Matt Taylor's talk
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For Angus' book review
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To order the book
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For the Thursday night Webinar on John
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Uncover the Word - signup
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	John Rutter's hymn
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Sunday's services
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Sunday coffee – 9:15 congregation
<a href="#">Click here</a>	Sunday coffee – 11am congregation
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Sunday coffee - GC & 4OCC
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For GC & 4 OC Prayer meeting (2 June)
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For St Nicholas Prayer meeting (2 June)

#### 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](mailto:office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org)]