



Letter #25 Church Family 18/06/2020

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.
9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.” [Isaiah 55:8,9]*

In my reading of ‘Gentle and Lowly’ by Dane Ortlund I was very struck that when it comes to these words, I’ve often got the wrong end of the stick. I thought that they were about God’s providential overruling of everything, including Covid-19 ... but the author shows how the real meaning is much more exciting and comforting. If you want to find out more then go to my video message below and/or get hold of the book!

Exploring God’s word

- This week I have produced a video message based on Isaiah 55, linking in with ‘Gentle and Lowly’ [Click here](#) for the video message and [here](#) to order the book.
- Jeremy Marshall’s daily devotions for GAFCON continue to be published. They are excellent! He handles the theme of suffering. To access them, [click here](#).
- Daily Bible Reading notes typically start at the beginning of each quarter. Please feel able to contact Peter Cheesman in our Bookshop to order new material for July onwards. [Click here](#).

Joining us on Sunday

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 710 8940 4113, password stnics)
- 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)

Praying for this Sunday

- Please pray for the word of the Lord as it is proclaimed this Sunday. I am continuing the Philippians series in the morning; Tom will preach on 1 Corinthians 15 at GC/4 and Simon Heather will be bringing our evening series on Ephesians to an end, followed by a Question time about the series. Please pray for clarity in our preaching and for a spiritual hunger in all our hearts.
- Pray for Tom and family as they prepare to say farewell and then move to Tunbridge Wells. It can’t be easy both to leave here and then start a new ministry at St John’s during lockdown as these are times when you especially want to be face-to-face with others. Please pray for Tom in his final two Sundays of ministry here.



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- Please pray for great wisdom as we start to consider how to make the most appropriate provision for us to meet physically in our building once official permission has been given, possibly at some point in July. It's going to be so hard to know how to do things in a way which gives people confidence to come along whilst also serving all those who for various reasons will find it difficult or even impossible for the time being to attend. Pray that we would know God's wisdom in all our planning.

Church family webinar – 'The way forward' – Monday 22 June 2020 at 7:45pm

The PCC met on Wednesday evening and considered the way forward following the Truscott Report. In order to keep all of us in the picture it has been decided to hold a webinar on Zoom Monday 22 June at 7:45pm. This will provide a chance to hear from the members of the Implementation Group with the opportunity for questions to be asked. To access this important webinar please use the links shown below:-

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join

<https://bit.ly/2ACu8hr>

Join via your Zoom account: Meeting ID: 895 3100 1233 / Password 675496

Join by phone: Dial 0203 481 5240 Webinar ID: 895 3100 1233 / Password: 675496

All-Age Actions

Once again Graham Cassford is kindly organising some songs with children's actions for the All age service Sunday 5 July in the morning on the St Nicholas YouTube channel. If you are interested in you and your children getting involved there will be a recording of the actions via Zoom on Tuesday 23rd June at 4:15pm. Do contact [Cara](#) or [Graham](#) for the link.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is '[Your will be done](#)' by CityAlight, written in lockdown for churches around the world.

The prayer is the Collect for the second Sunday after Trinity:

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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

See over for the full list of links in this letter

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



St Nicholas Church

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Click Here	For Angus speaking on Isaiah 55
Click Here	To order a copy of Gentle & Lowly
Click Here	Jeremy Marshall daily devotions
Click Here	If you wish to order Daily Bible Reading notes
Click Here	Directions to all our Services on a Sunday
Click Here	On Sunday for the 09:15 congregation coffee (meeting ID 710 8940 4113, password stnics)
Click Here	On Sunday for the 11:00 congregation coffee (meeting ID 989 8217 9349, no password)
Click Here	On Sunday for Grace Church and 4 O'clock congregation's coffee (meeting ID 886 6180 2881, password church)
Click Here	Monday 7:45pm – to join the webinar
Click Here	To contact Cara re All Age actions recording
Click Here	To contact Graham re All Age actions recording
Click Here	To listen to "Your will be done"