



Letter #26 Church Family 25/06/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.” [Isaiah 40:28-31]*

Even with the easing of lockdown these are still hard days for many. It's easy to grow weary. In that context it is so good to return to these wonderful words of encouragement in Isaiah 40. Let us renew our knowledge of the Lord in all His greatness to sustain us in all our weakness!

Exploring God's word

- This week Gavin has produced a video message based on Revelation 1:9-20 'The vision of Christ for times like these'. [Click here](#) for the video message.
- Last Sunday evening at the Zoom service Question Time there were helpful questions relating to the issue of racism and Black Lives Matter. Matt Taylor, with the assistance of Peter Rowan, has compiled a few resources to help us listen to the experiences of our brothers and sisters in Christ [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

- This is Tom's last Sunday preaching at GC/4 as Associate Rector. Pray for him and Clare as they prepare to move to St John's Tunbridge Wells, giving thanks for their ministry; and for Caleb, Zach and Nate as they adjust to life in a new setting.
- Pray God's word to ring out with clarity and power on Sunday. Tom is preaching on 1 Corinthians 5, I'm preaching on the final part of Philippians 2 and Matt starts a new series on the Book of



St Nicholas Church

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Lamentations which I am enormously looking forward to. Pray for faithfulness and for Christ to be honoured.

- Give thanks for Peter Harlow who has brought together a 'virtual orchestra' for the morning St Nicholas YouTube service. Pray for all the music teams across all the congregations that they would inspire genuine joy in Christ!

Church family webinar – 'The way forward' – Monday 22 June 2020

Last Monday's webinar was recorded [here](#) and the PowerPoint is available [here](#). This is very much a work in progress as we seek the Lord together concerning issues such as our 'vision' and 'church structure'. Please especially pray for the Truscott Implementation Group. The next webinar is due to be on Monday 13 July.

Plans to re-open the St Nicholas Church building:

As we get greater clarity both from the government and the Diocese we will communicate further but please refer to our website for the latest news. As things currently stand:

- Private prayer: the building will be open for private prayer on Monday 29/6 and Thursday 2 July from 9:30am-12noon.
- The church office will re-open from Wednesday 8 July with reduced opening hours.
- Public worship: our current plan is to hold a service at St Nicholas Church at 10am Sunday 12 July. We plan to observe 2 metre social distancing and current regulations mean that there can be no singing. **We plan to continue to offer the two Sunday morning YouTube services and the Zoom evening service for the coming months.**

Other helpful resources:

- Anna Graham has put together this short video about the ongoing work at Trinity School – [click here](#).
- Jamie Read has kindly alerted us to a recent Crosslinks Summer Meeting which you can access [here](#). It is always a very encouraging meeting.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is a live version of '[Before the throne of God above](#)' from the Keswick Convention. Note: this year the Keswick Convention is online and free, week commencing Monday 27 July.

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

*Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 overleaf for a full list of the links in this letter



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

Click Here	To hear Gavin speaking on Revelation 1: 9-20
Click Here	For resources on racism/ ethnicity
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	To view the TIG webinar from Monday 22 nd June
Click Here	To see the slides shown during the webinar
Click Here	To watch the Trinity School video
Click Here	Crosslinks Summer Meeting
Click Here	To listen to "Before the throne of God above"