



Letter #28 Church Family 09/07/2020

Tel: 01732 740340
office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org
www.stnicholas-sevenoaks.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.
² In vain you rise early and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.” [Psalm 127:1,2]*

Amidst all the pressures and anxieties we face it is good to find assurance in God’s word that it is the Lord who is in control and it is the Lord who will build His church. There are all sorts of things which we simply cannot do because of our circumstances but our natural reaction is to work harder and longer in order to get through. But this Psalm corrects our thinking. It encourages us to have confidence in the sovereignty of the Lord. And it calls for the humble response of prayerful dependence. These are great lessons at any time but especially amidst all the strains of these days.

1. Exploring God’s word

This week I shared a few thoughts linking Psalm 127 (above) with Mark 4 at the Joint Prayer gathering and since then I have reflected a bit further on the assurance that this Psalm should provide. [Click here](#) for the video message.

2. Joining us on Sunday for our virtual services

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)

3. Joining us on Sunday morning at the St Nicholas Church building at 10am:

We plan to hold our first service back in the St Nicholas Church building this Sunday 12 July at 10am. It will be in line with government and House of Bishops guidelines and so it will feel very different from a normal service without any singing and observing social distancing requirements.

- In terms of what to expect as you arrive at the building, Sue Stimson and Matt Taylor have put together a brief video [\[click here\]](#)
- For more details see the following excerpt from our notice sheet – [click here](#).
- I think the most important thing is that as we gather, we do everything ‘looking to the interests of each other’ [Philippians 2:4]. Out of love for others we may want to wear face masks and we will certainly want to greet people in a way which does not cause others any anxiety.



- There are some members of the church family who currently should not attend due to their age or vulnerable status. If you are in such a category you will be enormously missed but everyone will fully understand the situation. We trust that the ongoing YouTube services will be a continuing source of encouragement to you.
- As this service will be a little shorter than the YouTube service, we hope you will make it home in time to join your congregational Zoom coffee as usual.

4. Praying for this Sunday

- Let us pray especially for the service in the church building this Sunday morning that it would be marked by genuine love and respect for each other. Pray that those who gather would derive enormous comfort from the opportunity to gather physically and know in a more tangible way the blessing which flows from being part of God's family and please also pray for safety.
- Pray for the Centrepoint Houseparty over this weekend. Simon is leading and James Raynor is speaking from Mark's Gospel. Pray that amidst the constraints of a virtual houseparty that young people would be encouraged in their walk with Christ and that some would start a lifetime of Following Him.
- Pray for me as I preach from John 1:35-51 in the morning, for John as he unpacks 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and then in the evening for Matt delving into Lamentations 3. Pray that the word of the Lord would be a source of great personal refreshment (see Psalm 19:7).

5. Webinar on Monday 13 July 2020 at 7:45pm

This Monday evening we have another webinar as part of the ongoing consultation process as we seek to implement the Truscott Report. From my personal observation of the process, I can assure everyone that the Truscott Implementation Group [TIG] is listening very carefully as it seeks to serve the whole church family. I will be speaking at the start of this meeting in order to explain the context of what is happening. Please join me and please continue to pray that we would discern the Lord's will as we go forwards together.

To join the webinar from 7:40pm on Monday:

Using a link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83623527075?pwd=WkxPd1NLa2xFRUgrdTQ4cWs2OFFpQT09>

From your Zoom account: Meeting ID 836 2352 7075 / Password: 934960

By Telephone: 0203 051 2874 / Webinar ID: 836 2352 7075 / Password: 934960

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is 'We have a lamb' written by Glen Scrivener and based on Revelation 7:17 [Click here](#)

The prayer is the Collect for the fifth Sunday after Trinity [Book of Common Prayer] ... a simple prayer which resonates even more when we cannot sing in church:

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay



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

Click Here	To watch Angus' video message on Psalm 127
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	What to expect at church on Sunday
Click Here	More details and guidelines for Sunday at church
Click Here	To see the full guidance for Sunday 12 th July's service in church
Click Here	To listen to "We have a lamb"