



Letter #29 Church Family email 16/07/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory." [Psalm 149:4]

I quoted this verse at the start of the webinar last Monday evening. What an encouragement to be reminded that though it is wonderful for us to delight in the Lord, the far more amazing truth is that He delights in us! We also noticed that the quality that the Lord is especially looking for is 'humility', which is partly defined for us in Philippians 2:3-5 as looking to the interests of others, like Christ. As we pray on let us do so even more aware of the Lord's love and with greater desire to reflect Christ's likeness.

Exploring God's word

This week Gavin has provided us with a focus on Revelation 5:9,10 'Worthy is the Lamb'. [Click here](#) for the video message.

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)

Please note, from next week the zoom links to virtual coffee will not be listed on this letter as they are clearly shown on the [online Sunday services](#) page of the website.

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

Last week we had our first meeting back in the building. Numbers were small but the general feeling was that Sue Stimson had organised things in such a way that everyone felt safe. If you missed the video last week, this is what you can expect as you arrive at the building. [\[click here\]](#)



- i. For more details see the following excerpt from our notice sheet, which highlights how we will be seeking to follow the government's advice and the guidelines from the House of Bishops – [click here](#).
- ii. For those attending we want you to be free from undue anxiety. Last week a number of people wore face masks. Please bring a Bible and be aware that we are instructed not to sing. However, despite all these understandable restrictions many were warmly encouraged in their faith as they gathered.
- iii. Of course, 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.

Praying for this Sunday

- Let us pray for the continuing ministry of God's word, recognising that as God's word is preached, we have the privilege of hearing God speak to us. Matt concludes the evening series on Lamentations, John starts a new series on Proverbs for the GC/4 YouTube service whilst I will be preaching on John 2:1-12 at both the St Nicholas YouTube service and the service in church.
- Pray for those members of the Church family who are on their own. Though many people are out and about, many who are on their own continue to struggle with social isolation. Pray that our services would bring comfort and hope and that as a church family we would be good at encouraging others.
- Pray for all our musicians across the congregations. We are so grateful for all that they contribute but recognise that there is a huge time commitment in serving us in this way.

Follow on from the Webinar on Monday 13 July 2020

The webinar held last Monday related to the progress of implementing the Truscott Report. A recording is available for viewing [[Click here](#)] and the PowerPoint slides can be downloaded [[Click here](#)].

The new Vision Statement, recently approved by the PCC, was introduced. A postcard size version of the vision statement (pdf) ready to print out and put in your Bible can be downloaded [here](#). (Actual postcards will soon be available too.)

So far, the main decision that the PCC has taken relates to the approval of the new Vision Statement. In the coming 6 weeks, a number of groups will be looking at different areas of church life highlighted within John Truscott's Report. Final decisions rest with the PCC in September and only after that can we start the process of implementing changes.

In the meantime, please keep praying. To this end we are setting up a couple of prayer times each week on Zoom over the summer specifically to pray about this process. Each Monday evening at 8pm, starting Mon 20 July and each Thursday morning at 8am we will be gathering for 15 minutes.

The Zoom Link is: <https://bit.ly/TIGprayer>

(Via Zoom account or by telephone on 0203 481 5237 - Meeting ID 876 9748 8958 / password 410376)



Midweek Communion Service - Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 8pm in the church

One of the things which we may have missed most is taking part in the Lord's Supper during lockdown. Though we expect numbers to be small we are going to be holding a weekly Communion service over the summer. We will need to follow the same guidelines as for Sunday – hand sanitising, registering for Test & Trace as you arrive, social distancing, one-way system etc. We will also need to observe the same guidelines concerning who should or shouldn't attend – please consult the [website](#) if you are unsure. Furthermore, we will only be able to administer the bread. However, despite these various restrictions we trust that for some this will provide a most welcome focus on the death of our Lord Jesus Christ at the heart of our faith.

The sermons on these Wednesdays will focus on the significance of the Lord's Supper, with material drawn from Tim Chester's recent book 'Truth we can touch' which is available from Peter Cheesman [[Click here](#) to email him]. The sermons will be linked to this weekly email in future weeks as we recognise that many will be unable to attend.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is 'We have an anchor' by Phil Moore and Colin Webster, a reworking of a great older hymn and sung at a recent Keswick Convention: [[Click here](#)]

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

*Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

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

Click here	To watch Gavin's video message on Revelation 5:9,10
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 (video)



St Nicholas Church

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Click Here	More details and guidelines for Sunday at church
Click here	Recording of the Second TIG Presentation
Click here	Slides from the TIG Presentation
Click Here	To print out the New Vision Statement
Click Here	For Zoom link to weekly Prayer Meeting
Click here	To Email Peter Cheesman in the Bookroom
Click here	To listen to “We have an anchor”