



Letter #32 Church Family email 06/08/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“There Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.” [Matthew 17:2]

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration. We focus on the Lord Jesus revealed in all His glory, foreshadowing how we will encounter Him in the new heavens and new earth. Our new Vision Statement starts by encouraging us ‘to know Jesus and make Him known’ and a great place to start is by meditating on Matthew 17:1-8 so that we refocus our eyes on Christ alone.

Nurturing our faith in Christ

Throughout the summer on **Wednesday evenings at 8pm** we are holding a Communion Service. The most recent talk on 1 Corinthians 11 by [Gavin McGrath can be accessed here](#). Please also remember that Peter Cheesman is active with the bookshop and Bible reading notes for the Autumn are now available. [To email him, click here](#).

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

Now that we are regularly holding one service in the building on Sundays at 10am we are aiming to do the livestreaming direct from the gallery. The cameras will focus on the lectern and surrounding area. For the time being whilst we are not permitted to sing in the building all the songs will continue to be pre-recorded, but the aim is to have as much ‘live’ as possible. This will then be livestreamed through the St Nicholas YouTube Channel as usual. The GC/4 YouTube Channel and the Zoom evening service continue as usual and they can all be accessed from the home page of the [website](#) in the normal way. More details are available on our notice sheet about how we are seeking to comply with Covid-19 guidance from both the government and the House of Bishops – [click here](#).

Praying for this Sunday

- This Sunday morning, I will be preaching on John 3:9-15 on the encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus. Steve Osei-Mensah will be continuing the Proverbs series for the GC/4 YouTube series and Matt Taylor is focusing on Psalm 148 in the series on the Psalms on Zoom in the evening. Pray that the preached word of God would ‘refresh the soul’ [Psalm 19:7].
- Please pray for all the preparations for the Contact Houseparty which takes place later in August. Pray especially for Simon Heather in overseeing the organisation and particularly for Dan Halpin teaching on Ecclesiastes.
- Pray for physical and spiritual refreshment for those who have been able to get away on holiday this summer but also for those who remain in Sevenoaks. Amidst the fatigue of these recent months may the joy of the Lord be our strength [Nehemiah 8:10].



Praying together each week: 8:00-8:15pm Mondays; 8:00-8:15am Thursdays

Our summer prayer initiative continues in relation to praying about the implementation of the Truscott Report. We gather on Mondays at 8pm and Thursdays at 8am.

The Zoom Link is: <https://bit.ly/TIGprayer>, Via Zoom account or by telephone (on 0203 481 5237) – the Meeting ID 876 9748 8958 / password 410376.

PCC update

1. Since the July PCC, the five separate subgroups organised by the Truscott Implementation Group and authorised by the PCC have been hard at work. Please continue to pray for the groups considering leadership structures, finances, our congregational model, and various other related matters. The consultation groups are made up of members from all our congregations. Once the subgroups have fed in their work to TIG, recommendations will be sent out in early September for the PCC to evaluate and make decisions. These will then be communicated at the APCM at the end of September. Please continue to feed in any concerns to [TIG](#).
2. The 2019 Annual Report would normally have been presented at the APCM in April, but clearly that meeting could not be held. You can find it in readiness for the September APCM along with an update of our financial position for Jan-June 2020 [here](#). Especially given the context of the pandemic, the Lord has been very kind in stirring us up to give to continue to provide for all our needs. Let us thank God for His ongoing goodness!
3. I am very grateful indeed for all the hard work that Tony Jennings has done over many years as Chair of the Buildings and Maintenance Committee. Under his thoughtful leadership the Committee have been carefully looking at one of the properties owned by the PCC, 26 Woodside Road. Since Tom & Clare Nash and family moved to Tunbridge Wells at the beginning of July, the house at 26 Woodside Road has been standing empty and there are no plans at present for any other member of staff to move into it. Further to a number of reports carried out since 2013 on the suitability of the property, the PCC believe that now is a good time to sell the house, pay off the mortgage *and have funds available to buy something more appropriate when the need arises*. Quite a bit of work would be required before the property could be rented – although this will be considered if it does not achieve an acceptable asking price within 3 months or so. The house has been listed with a local Estate Agent and will be on the market from next week. [See here for the latest update](#).

Personal situation

It may be helpful to know something about my own situation now that shielding has been officially paused. I have had conversations in recent weeks with my GP as well as with my consultant haematologist and consultant cardiologist. They are encouraging me to continue to shield and, in particular, to avoid indoor meetings. They have pointed out to me that the reason I was put into the shielding category was because I experience four different health concerns [the technical name is 'co-morbidities']. So, as things currently stand, they are keen for me to continue shielding and avoid indoor gatherings. I recognise that though very disappointing for me, it must be enormously frustrating for you as the church family that I can't currently preach in church or be involved in face to face meetings indoors.

Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is '[What a friend we have in Jesus](#)' from BBC Songs of Praise.



The prayer is the Collect for the Transfiguration (today!):

*Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; 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 1 Corinthians 11
Click Here	To Email Peter Cheesman in the Bookroom
Click Here	For our Sunday online service details
Click Here	Our notice sheet with Covid-19 guidance from both the Government and the House of Bishops
Click Here	For Zoom link to weekly Prayer Meetings
Click Here	2019 Annual Report with Jan-Jun 2020 Financial position
Click Here	Latest update on 26 Woodside Road
Click Here	To listen to "What a friend we have in Jesus"