



Letter #33 Church Family email 13/08/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” [Matthew 26:26]*

Every Wednesday evening during the summer we have been holding a Communion Service at 8pm. Here is [my talk on Matthew 26:26-29](#), which I planned to preach live, but which was thwarted due to computer issues in the Church gallery. One point which I have quoted before relates to the way in which Jesus’ words in v26 reverse the effects of the Fall in Genesis 3. Derek Kidner, former curate at St Nicholas in the 1940s commenting on Genesis 3:6 ‘She took ... and ate’, says: ‘so simple the act, so hard its undoing. God will taste poverty and death before ‘take and eat’ become verbs of salvation.’ What a profound link to help us appreciate the enormity of what is included in these words of Jesus included in every Communion Service!

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

You will be aware that we are now holding one service in the building on Sundays at 10am and livestreaming to our YouTube Channel direct from the gallery. Many apologies that things did not run as smoothly as we would have wished last week, though the full sermon on John 3:9-15 can be accessed [here](#). 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 and there are also full details 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**

- The Contact Houseparty starts on Sunday so please pray for Dan Halpin speaking on Ecclesiastes in the evenings and for Simon as he oversees the programme each day. Pray for safety and wisdom in applying all the Covid-19 precautions, and for the Lord to be at work amongst the Contact members. [See here for further prayer info](#) from Simon Heather.
- Please pray for God’s word being preached this Sunday. I will be tackling John 3:16-21 and Giles Witchell will be preaching on Proverbs 5-7 in the two morning services. Let us pray for many to access these sermons both on Sunday and during the week. Pray that those in Sevenoaks as well as those on holiday would be spiritually challenged and refreshed as they hear God’s voice in His word.
- Pray for Matt preaching on Psalm 149 in the evening. Let us pray that we would each be thrilled by the reminder that ‘the LORD takes delight in his people’ [Ps 149:4].



**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.

**Finally, a song and a prayer....**

Over the months I have tried to share a variety of hymns and songs recognising that we all have our slightly different preferences. This week I've selected a traditional hymn with wonderful words from John Newton which focus on the Lord Jesus, '[How sweet the name of Jesus sounds](#)':

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

*Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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:**

<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To watch Angus' video message on Matthew 26:26-29
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To watch Angus' video sermon from last Sunday on John 3:9-15
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Covid-19 guidance from both the Government and the House of Bishops
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For further Contact Houseparty prayer info from Simon Heather
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For Zoom link to weekly Prayer Meetings
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To listen to "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds"