



Letter #34 Church Family email 20/08/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?” [Psalm 22:1]*

In recent weeks I have been using Alec Motyer’s ‘Psalms by the Day’. In commenting on Psalm 22 he says, “More than any other passage of Scripture it penetrates into the actual suffering of our Crucified Lord: the pierced hands and feet, the body itself agonizingly pulled apart, the racking thirst, the mocking onlookers. Thank God for the reticence of the Gospel accounts: truly ‘we may not know, we cannot tell/ what pains He had to bear’. Psalm 22 presses to the limit of what Scripture allows, and we do well to read it sparingly and with awe.” As we set ourselves in our new vision statement, to know Jesus, let us take every opportunity to reflect on the love and devotion of the Lord Jesus which took Him to the cross for us.

### **Wednesday evening Holy Communion**

Every Wednesday evening during the summer we have been holding a Communion Service at 8pm. [Here is Matt’s most recent talk](#). Each of the talks in this series link in with Tim Chester’s book ‘Truth we can touch’ and are designed to help us understand the significance of the sacraments.

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

To access all our Sunday services, [go to the website](#). You will also find details of how we are seeking to comply with Covid-19 guidance from both the government and the House of Bishops.

### **Praying for this Sunday**

- The Contact Houseparty concludes today with Dan Halpin preaching at our Zoom evening service from Philippians 3. Pray for Contact members, who have been receiving teaching from Dan all week from the Book of Ecclesiastes, to have their worldview reshaped by God’s word, to live for Christ wholeheartedly in this coming academic year.
- Please pray for God’s word being preached this Sunday morning. Last Sunday it was in fact Simon Collins preaching at GC/4 [many apologies for getting that wrong!] and this Sunday it will be Giles Witchell preaching on Proverbs 5-7. I will be preaching on the final part of John 3 for the St Nicholas livestream service. Pray for God’s word to be nourishing and strengthening us as we seek to live for Christ.
- Pray for the opportunities for face to face contact outside after the service at St Nicholas and for GC/4 on the Vine. Please pray that we would know how best to take opportunities and offer hospitality safely from our homes or gardens which will encourage each other in our walk with the Lord.



**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.

**Book recommendation**

*‘Wherever you go, I want you to know’* by Melissa Kruger is written for 3-8 year olds. In the publicity for the book it states: “As children embark on life’s journey with all their potential and aspirations, this beautiful illustrated rhyming children’s book will help parents, grandparents, godparents and caregivers to share their greatest hope for the little ones they love - that they would love and follow Jesus through it all.” I warmly commend this book. Not only is it great for your children or grandchildren but it is a healthy reminder of what our own priorities should be. To get in touch with Peter Cheesman in our Bookshop, [click here](#).

**Eynsford Concert Band**

Many of us will be familiar with the Eynsford Concert Band who join us each year before Christmas and assist in the open-air service on the Vine every Remembrance Sunday. For the last six months they have not been able to rehearse, but they have recently been able to put together their own version of [‘The Great Escape’](#) ...

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

Linking in with Alec Motyer’s comments quoted above, here is the choir of King’s College, Cambridge singing [‘There is a green hill far away’](#).

The prayer is the Second Collect at Evening Prayer [Book of Common Prayer]:

*O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. 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 Matt’s video message on XXX
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For details of all our services
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Covid-19 guidance from both the Government and the House of Bishops
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	For Zoom link to weekly TIG Prayer Meetings
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To get in touch with Peter Cheesman in our Bookshop
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Eynsford Concert Band playing The Great Escape
<a href="#">Click Here</a>	To listen to “There is a green hill far away”