



Letter #42 Church Family email 15/10/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” [1 John 4:9]

I know it is not Christmas yet, but below you will see details of Operation Christmas Child – the Shoebox Appeal. Further down you will also see the new song from Sovereign Grace ‘*O come all you unfaithful*’ – you’ll probably need to re-read that title to make sure that you read it correctly! The lyrics of the song remind us very powerfully that Jesus has come for those, like many of us, who feel ‘weak and unstable’, ‘bitter and broken’ ... especially during these Covid times. And the wonderful, good news of the Gospel is that God loves us knowing every aspect of our frailty and brokenness. Indeed, He demonstrated His love by sending His only Son. What a Saviour!

Samaritan’s Purse: Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

For many years we have supported the Shoebox Appeal which enables us to share the compassion of Christ with children in need throughout the world. This year we have a special message from an ‘Angel’ ... the name of the person who was going to visit the church but whose [video message can be found here](#). Given all the obvious concerns about handling shoeboxes and bringing them into the building, this year we want to encourage as many of us as possible to purchase an online shoebox with contents! It is a simple and safe way of supporting this ministry and enabling children in great need to know the love of Christ. [Click here for details on how to organise an online Christmas Shoebox.](#)

In keeping with the Christmas theme, Christmas cards, books and gifts are available from the church bookshop from Tuesday 20th October (open on Tuesdays 10am-2pm – access via the church office).

Joining us on Sunday online:

- St Nicholas Sunday morning livestream – at **9am**
- Grace Church/4OC morning livestream – at **10am**
- St Nicholas Sunday evening Zoom service – at **6:30pm**

To access all our Sunday services, [go to the church website](#).



Joining us at St Nicholas Church building at 9am and 11am:

We will continue to do all we can to comply with the updated Covid-19 guidance [\[see here\]](#). We are particularly grateful for everyone who is assisting with these services. Please let the office know if you could offer any help. We are particularly looking for assistance with some of the technical aspects of livestreaming and operating our audio visual system in the gallery. It may seem daunting, but we do need help. We can offer training and support. Please [contact the church office](#) or speak to Sue Stimson for further details.

Joining us at Lady Boswell School at 10am:

Space is slightly limited, so we have been running a booking system. [Go to the website for more details about registering](#). This service will also be livestreamed on YouTube at 10am.

Praying for this Sunday

- Please pray for the faithful proclamation of God's word across our church family this Sunday. Gavin is preaching on the end of John 4 at 9am and 11am whilst I will be preaching on Mark 6:14-29 at Lady Boswells and then the evening service. Paul speaks in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 about the word arriving in Thessalonica 'with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.' Let us pray for a similar experience this Sunday.
- Please pray for Samaritan's Purse as they run Operation Christmas Child this year in a fairly challenging context across the world. Let us pray that we would be generous and full of compassion in supporting this initiative in sharing the compassion of Christ.
- Please pray the ministry among our teenagers. I am sure we all appreciate the very real challenges of ministry within our current context. Pray particularly for Simon Heather, our Youth Minister, as he leads this work.

Knowing Life

We have now launched the first video in the Knowing Life series. Each short video examines an aspect of the theme of 'Life' from John's Gospel. Each week a video is released at 8pm Monday but all those released are then available on our [YouTube Channel](#). They are ideal for sending on to a friend or family member, perhaps with an invitation to chat over one or two of the questions flagged up at the end of the video. Our Vision is '*to know Jesus and to make Him known*' so let us use this opportunity to do this! [Click here for Session 1](#) ... and send it on to your friends!

Youth Ministry Survey

Thank you to those who responded last week but if anyone else would like to assist us in our Youth Ministry Survey [please click here](#). With the adoption of our new Vision Statement, we are keen to consider its impact on our youth work. If you have past or present experience of Centrepont or Contact, please do respond.



Finally, a song and a prayer....

The song is '[O come all you unfaithful](#)' by Sovereign Grace, brought to my attention by Matt. It speaks into our lives now ... not just at Christmas!

The prayer is the Collect from an Order for Night Prayer (Compline) used by Gavin at the joint prayer gathering:

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

To access the links in today's letter, please use the details below:

Click here	For a special message from Angel
Click here	For Samaritan purse Christmas Child information
Click here	For online services details
Click here	COVID guidelines for in-person services
Click here	To email office about helping with Audio Visual needs in church
Click here	To register for the in-person service at Lady Boswell's School
Click here	St Nicholas YouTube Channel
Click here	For session 1 of Life
Click here	To complete the Youth work survey
Click here	To listen to "O come all you faithful"