



Letter #47 Church Family email 19/11/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” [Hebrews 13:8]

There is an old chorus which we rarely sing these days: *“Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same. All may change, but Jesus never! Glory to His name.”* I have been enjoying Tim Chester’s short book of Advent Meditations *‘Fixated’* [cost £2.50 from the Bookshop – [order your copy here](#)] and its encouragement, drawn from Hebrews, for us to keep fixing our eyes on Jesus. It is surely a great comfort that amid all the significant changes that we have experienced in our lives during the pandemic, Jesus is still the same! Let us pray for each other that our knowledge of Jesus would grow even deeper as we fix our eyes on Him.

Joining us on Sunday online:

During lockdown our buildings are closed on Sundays and we have the following online services:

- St Nicholas Sunday morning livestream – at **10am**
- 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 website [here](#).

After the morning online gatherings there will be the opportunity to catch up with friends through Zoom Coffee. See the [website here](#) for all details.

Praying for this Sunday

- This Sunday we have our annual focus on financial giving. Please pray for John Collett our new treasurer as he presents to the church family and for us to respond generously.
- Pray for me as I preach on Luke 19:1-10 in the morning, linking in with the theme of our response to Jesus’ generosity. John Khnana and Jamie Read are both preaching on Mark 7:31-37 at Lady Boswells and in the evening respectively. Let us pray for us each to marvel afresh at the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Please continue to pray for our children and young people as they engage with online services, giving thanks for the resources which Cara, Hannah and Simon are providing.

Lockdown Prayer Gatherings

We have two opportunities to pray together each week during lockdown. These short (15 mins) gatherings are designed to be catalysts to encourage us all to be praying daily. The Archbishops have also encouraged us to fast on Thursdays [[see this presentation about fasting here](#)]. To access our prayer times at **8pm Monday and 8am Thursday**, [go to the website here](#).



Advent ‘Windows of Hope’

You may have missed Cara’s video about our [‘Windows of Hope’ initiative](#). Thank you to those that have offered to decorate their windows for Windows of Hope. It would be great to have many more. You do not need to live in central Sevenoaks - we’ll group houses into localised walks if we have enough! For more [information please click here](#).

Loving our neighbours during the pandemic

How can we demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways during the pandemic, especially as we head into the winter? Hannah Blake and Anita Jones have [been in conversation here](#). They mention a ‘letterbox card’ which we can use to distribute to our neighbours and the folk on our street. You can [download it here](#) – just fill in the blank spaces and prayerfully consider how you could offer to assist those who live near you.

Women’s Christmas Biscuit Decoration

Another initiative that some may wish to consider is hosting an online Christmas themed biscuit decoration evening. Hannah Blake has prepared [a video here](#) and [a flyer here](#). Please contact her if you would be interested in joining in or setting up an online event for your friends.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song this week is a reworking of another older chorus [‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus’](#) by Sovereign Grace.

The prayer is the Collect for the last Sunday after Trinity from the Book of Common Prayer (giving rise to the expression ‘Stir up Sunday’):

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; 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	To order ‘Fixated’ from the bookshop
Click here	For online services details
Click here	For details of the Zoom Coffees
Click here	For a presentation about Fasting
Click here	Details of the Lockdown Prayer Gatherings
Click here	Windows of Hope video
Click here	Windows of Hope Information
Click here	For a discussion about Loving our neighbours
Click here	For the ‘Loving your neighbour’ Letterbox card
Click here	The women’s Christmas Event video
Click here	The women’s Christmas Event info
Click here	To listen to ‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus’