



Letter #51 Church Family email 17/12/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.” [1 John 4:14]*

Our world is in a mess! Perhaps as never before within my lifetime has there been such an awareness that things are not right. The world needs help, and though the vaccine holds out some hope, Covid has highlighted the cracks in our world. We long for a better version of the world, without the selfishness, greed and pride that dominates our current version, and certainly without our frailty and weakness in the face of disease and death. And yet, it is exactly that new creation hope that is on offer through the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ‘Salvation’ in the New Testament is a big word! It covers far more than simply personal forgiveness. It promises nothing less than a new creation under the gentle rule of our Lord Jesus Christ. And God’s eternal plan hit the ground with the birth of Jesus that first Christmas. Here is more than simply personal hope. Here is the hope of the world!

### **Joining us on Sunday in person and online:**

On Sunday 20 December we are holding the following services at St Nicholas and Lady Boswells:

- St Nicholas @ 9am **with livestream at 9am**
- Lady Boswells @ 9:30am [booking required] **with livestream at 9:30am**
- St Nicholas @ 11am
- Lady Boswells @ 11am [booking required]
- St Nicholas @ 6:30pm ‘Festive lessons and carols’ [booking required] **with livestream at 6:30pm. Only 10 seats now left in the building – please join us online if you have not yet reserved a seat.**

To access all our Sunday services, go [to the website](#). For booking at Lady Boswell’s [click here](#). After the morning online gatherings there will be the opportunity to catch up with friends through Zoom Coffee, for details go to [the website](#)

### **Praying for this Sunday**

- Please pray for the Festive Lessons and Carols at 6:30pm which will be held in the building with a livestream. Please pray for Gavin as he speaks on John 1:1-14 at the end of our readings and carols. Give thanks for the musicians and choir who have worked incredibly hard to prepare a special Christmas service and please pray for friends to access the service to hear the good news.



- Pray for me as I preach on Hebrews 2:14,15 at the morning services and for John preaching on Luke 2 at the Lady Boswell services. Pray that all of us, even those who have been believers over many years, would be stretched and spurred on in their understanding of what it meant for Christ to be born.
- Pray for our witness to friends and family over this period, that we would be able to encourage many to access our services online, and that through hearing God’s word many would believe.

**Christmas Services**

As mentioned last week, due to the restrictions on numbers in the building, like many other churches, we have had to introduce a booking system for our Christmas services. Services will be accessible on livestream, but we know many will wish to attend in person. [To book please go to the website here.](#)

**Christmas Eve @ 2:30pm at St Nicholas**

**Christmas Eve @ 4pm at St Nicholas [sorry, fully booked – please join us online]**

**Christmas Eve Midnight Communion @ 11:15pm at St Nicholas**

**Christmas Day @ 10am at St Nicholas [sorry, fully booked – please join us online]**

**Christmas Day @ 10am at Lady Boswells**

(Please note: if you have not booked a seat for any of the above, please do so as soon as possible as booking closes this week. On the day, if you do not have a reserved seat, please do not attend in-person as our capacity is strictly limited. Please do join us online at <http://bit.ly/StNCSYT>.)

**Hope Explored**

One of the main themes running through all our Christmas services will be ‘hope’ which can ultimately only be found in Jesus Christ. In the New Year we will be running a short course ‘Hope Explored’. [Click here](#) for dates and details. Please consider attending and inviting others to join us!

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

The song is ‘[Joy to the world](#)’ produced by St Helen’s Bishopsgate which links in to the theme of hope for the world.

The prayer is the Collect for Christmas Eve:

*Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; 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 links in today’s letter, please use the details below:*

<a href="#">Click here</a>	For details about our Sunday services
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For the LB booking page
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For details of the Zoom Coffees
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To book places at Christmas Services (from Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December)
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For information about the Hope explored course and booking form
<a href="#">Click here</a>	For the song ‘Joy to the World’