



Letter #53 Church Family email 07/1/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” [Hebrews 12:1,2]

What a start to the year! Another lockdown! I recognise that many are struggling with huge disappointments. Perhaps this is the first time ever you have not been with certain family members over Christmas. Perhaps you or your loved ones are now battling with Covid. Perhaps you are wondering how you can juggle family responsibilities alongside work commitments at the same time. Perhaps you are daunted at the prospect of weeks on your own. The author of Hebrews knew that his recipients were also really struggling. Many were finding it difficult to keep going. Some were drifting off course. But the really big message that he wanted to convey is captured for us in our verse of the year from Hebrews 12:2. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus... the Jesus who faced tough days as he endured suffering and the cross ... the Jesus who finished the race as our Pioneer and who has opened for us the gate of glory. Let us encourage each other to keep fixing our eyes on Jesus!

January Services all online:

Given the national emergency I am sure that you will understand why we will need to continue with online services throughout January. Given the local figures and the uncertainty relating to the new variant it seems to be the wisest thing to do especially given that we have the capability of teaching God's word through our YouTube Channel and Zoom. Of course, 'church' is far more than that, but for the time being we are grateful for the ability to utilise these tools to continue to find ways to encourage each other in the Lord.

To access all our services, go to the [website here](#). Sunday services at both St Nicholas and Lady Boswell's will be followed by Zoom Coffee at 11:15am. The links or details can be found on the service pages on the website: [St Nicholas](#) / [Lady Boswell's](#).

So, each Sunday in January we will be holding the following services online:

- **10am from St Nicholas on YouTube**
- **10am from Lady Boswell's on YouTube**
- **6:30pm on Zoom**

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for the technical aspects of delivering online services.
2. Please pray for the preaching of God's word: Angus (Judges 1:1-2:5) and John (Romans 5:1-11) in the morning and Jamie Read (1 Peter 1:1-12) in the evening.
3. Continue to pray for the NHS and Govt in these days.



Hope Explored

Hope is a wonderful thing, even a necessary thing...but few things are more crushing than when our hopes are disappointed. A reliable hope needs to be based on truth, deliver on its promise, and have a lasting effect. Our Hope Explored mini-series is all about discovering the hope Jesus offers. Over Zoom you will have the opportunity to ask any question you would like or just listen along to where the conversation goes. To receive a Zoom Invitation for Monday nights in January **please [register via this link](#)** and please consider who you could invite. This Monday 11 January there is an introductory gathering in which Jeremy Marshall is going to be interviewed. The course then runs for three Mondays beginning 18 January 2021.

The Generosity Project

We are encouraging all our Home Groups and Bible Study Groups to use 'The Generosity Project'. I set out several reasons last month why this course is so timely ([see here](#)). A trailer about the course can be [found here](#). The book can be purchased through our bookshop [click here](#) [special offer price is £5]. If you are not currently in a group but would like to join one just for the duration of the six studies, [please contact us](#) and we will link you into a new group. It promises to be a great means of enabling us to focus on God's generosity towards us and the way that this should reshape our response to Christ.

Foodbanks

The new lockdown will inevitably put many under further economic strain. Wouldn't it be great if we were to be able to continue to support our local foodbanks? There are several well-run foodbanks in the area but if you want to support the Trinity School one then you can find the details [on their website here](#).

Communications

May I commend to you the email sent earlier this week from the new Communications Group. It's so helpful to get an idea of how we can best serve the whole Church family. If you missed the email then [click here to access the survey](#).

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[Lord for the years](#)' by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith . I have always enjoyed singing this great hymn at the start of each New Year. What a great final line, '*... to live for Christ alone*'!

The prayer is the Collect for Epiphany [6 January]:

*O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, **may at last behold your glory face to face**; 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 links in today's letter, please use the details below:

Click here	Sunday services details
Click here	To join the after-St Nicholas Service Zoom coffee at 11:15am
Click here	To join the after-Lady Boswell's service Zoom coffee at 11:15am
Click here	To register for the Hope Explored course
Click here	Why the Generosity Project?
Click here	Trailer to the Generosity Project
Click here	Order a copy of the Generosity project book
Click here	Register an interest in a Generosity project study group
Click here	For details on the Trinity School Foodbank
Click here	To access the communications survey
Click here	To listen to 'Lord for the years'