



Letter #54 Church Family email 14/1/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out...." [Matthew 12:20]

As lockdown continues many of us will probably feel like 'bruised reeds' or 'smouldering wicks'. Some of us face physical weakness whilst for others our struggles revolve around our emotional or mental well-being. And because we are a body-soul unity anything that affects our minds and bodies can influence our spiritual walk with the Lord. How good it is therefore to be reminded of the gentleness of our Lord Jesus and the promise of this Scripture. Let us keep fixing our eyes on this Jesus!

January Services all online:

Sadly, all our services must continue to be offered online. We pray on for the day when we gather physically again. 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 Boswells on YouTube**
- **6:30pm on Zoom**

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for all those who attended Hope Explored last Monday evening [see below].
2. Please pray for the preaching of God's word on Sunday: Angus (Judges 2:6-3:6) and John (Romans 5:12-21) in the morning and Steve Osei-Mensah (1 Peter 1:13-21) in the evening.
3. Please pray for the Leaders' Day Saturday 23 January 2021. This year as part of our restructuring we are simply inviting PCC and Congregational Leadership Teams plus the staff, to help with our Vision and planning for the coming year.
4. Give thanks for Andrea's return to work after illness but please pray for Cara who is unwell and signed off work that she would make a full recovery.

Hope Explored

Hope Explored had a great start on Monday evening and gets under way properly this coming Monday at 8pm. The Hope Explored mini-series is all about discovering the hope Jesus offers. The course is already at capacity, which is wonderful. I am sure that we will run another course soon, perhaps after Easter, so if you failed to register in time please be assured that there will be further opportunities in the coming months.



Congregational Pastors

With our restructuring one of the key roles is the Congregational Pastor. I have drawn up a short [document here](#) which will help to explain what is envisaged within this role. Over the coming weeks we hope to provide further information about other aspects of the new structure, such as the role of the Leadership Team and the new role of Deputy Wardens. To find the announcement from me about the new structure shown 3 January 2021 [click here](#).

Finances

It was very good to hear from our Treasurer, John Collett, about our financial situation towards the end of 2020. If you need a reminder concerning his presentation, then [click here](#). For further information about pledges or financial giving then you will find details [here](#).

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[How good is the God we adore](#)' which we have traditionally included in every January prayer gathering. Beautiful words of assurance and comfort.

The prayer is the Collect for the Second Sunday of Epiphany:

*Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: **transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace**, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 read the Congregational Pastors document
Click here	To watch Angus' announcement about the new structure of St Nicholas
Click here	To watch John Collett's finance presentation
Click here	For more information about pledges or financial giving
Click here	To listen to 'How good is the God we adore'