



Letter #55 Church Family email 21/1/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” [2 Corinthians 12:9]*

Both the Collect for this Sunday (below) and this verse from 2 Corinthians remind us of the paradox that our weakness is the gateway to God’s power being demonstrated. When we are strong and vigorous it is easy to forget the Lord. If things are achieved, it is natural to assume that it is because of our own strength or ability that things have been done. But when we are weak, we are forced to rely on the Lord. And then, when things are achieved, it becomes very clear that this could not have been done by us - it must have been the Lord demonstrating His kindness and grace. Our very weaknesses, therefore, are the places of opportunity for the Lord Jesus to display His grace and power. May this verse encourage us in all our evident weaknesses.

#### **January Services all online:**

It is good to see that the Covid figures locally are starting to reduce but recognising that they are still much higher than in previous lockdowns we are continuing to offer services online only. We look forward to the day when we gather physically again! To access all our services, go [to the website here](#). Sunday services are followed by Zoom Coffee which you can access from the services 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 Hope Explored course which continues this Monday evening.
2. Please pray for the preaching of God’s word on Sunday: Angus (Judges 3:7-31) and John (Romans 6:1-14) in the morning and Simon Heather (1 Peter 1:22-2:3) in the evening.
3. Please pray for the technical and musical support behind all our online services. We are so grateful for their skills and willingness to serve.

#### **Lent Book: An Ocean of Grace**

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021. We have often suggested a devotional book to assist us to make the most of Lent. This year Tim Chester has produced a very helpful daily selection



of prayers from the past which I have found really helpful in 'keeping my eyes on Jesus'. '**An Ocean of Grace**' is published by Good Book Co and we are hoping to sell it at a discount for £5. Due to the lockdown books ordered can only be picked up from the Church Office on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. You can order [the book here](#).

### **Leadership Team**

With our restructuring one of the key elements is the new Leadership Team. Justin Greig, one of our churchwardens, has drawn up a [very helpful document here](#) which will help to explain what is envisaged and how the Leadership Team relates to the PCC. To recap, the announcement from me about the new structure was shown 3 January 2021 and [can be accessed here](#).

### **Youth Ministry Report**

The PCC considered a helpful report about our Youth Ministry yesterday. Giles Witchell chaired the working group. Simon Heather our Youth Minister is pleased to endorse it. An executive summary can be [found here](#). Please pray for all our young people, including our students. Though it is such a hard time for everyone, those who would have been facing important exams face particular uncertainties.

### **Church Office Assistant**

We have a vacancy in the Church Office for a part time Office Assistant. It would be wonderful to find someone from within the Church family who would be keen to serve in this way. To read the job description which includes details about the salary and terms [click here](#) or please [contact Sue Stimson](#). To make this role as accessible as possible, there is flexibility around school holidays and working from home.

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

The song is '[Jesus strong and kind](#)' by Colin Buchanan which includes the line 'Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him' which links in with our Bible verse and Collect.

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

*Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, **and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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



# St Nicholas Church

SEVENOAKS

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

<a href="#">Click here</a>	Sunday services details
<a href="#">Click here</a>	Details of virtual coffee for 9:15 / 11am congregations
<a href="#">Click here</a>	Details of virtual coffee for Lady Boswell's congregation
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To order a copy of the Lent book
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To read about the leadership team
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To watch Angus' announcement about the new structure of St Nicholas
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To read the Youth review summary
<a href="#">Click here</a>	Details of the office admin vacancy
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To contact Sue Stimson about the office vacancy
<a href="#">Click here</a>	To listen to "Jesus strong and kind"

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally