



Letter #59 Church Family email 18/2/2021

Tel: 01732 740340
office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org
www.stnicholas-sevenoaks.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure Heal me, LORD, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved, for you are the one I praise.” [Jeremiah 17:9,14]

It is so easy for us to think that we have our sin under control. Yet the witness of the Scriptures as well as our observation of what happens in life is that sin easily deceives and often, we are self-deceived. The purpose of Ash Wednesday and its associated readings and prayers (see the Collect below) is to help us face the reality of our sinfulness. However, it does so not to condemn us but so that we should recognise afresh the even greater wonder of forgiveness and cleansing that is available to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a little-known service tucked away in the Book of Common Prayer entitled ‘A Commination’. It makes for tough reading, but the point is that the more we recognise our sin, the greater we will treasure Christ. And isn’t that what all of us should be aiming for?

Sunday 21st February 2021

We continue to review when we can return to our buildings but in the meantime all our services are online only. To access our gatherings, go to the [website here](#).. Sunday services are followed directly by Zoom Coffee which you can access here: [St Nicholas](#) / [Lady Boswell’s](#)

- **9.15am from St Nicholas on YouTube**
- **10am from Lady Boswell’s on YouTube**
- **11am from St Nicholas on YouTube (with telephone access)**
- **6:30pm on Zoom – Toolbox ‘Living in Love & Faith’**

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for the Toolbox session on ‘Living in Love and Faith’ on Sunday evening. Pray that each Toolbox session would be an opportunity to apply Romans 12:2 – ‘do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind’.
2. Please pray for those preaching on Sunday: for Matt on Galatians 1,2 at 9.15am and 11am and for Angus preaching on 2 Kings 2 in a new series on Elisha at Lady Boswell’s. Pray for God’s word to lead us to Jesus and for our hearts to be warmed and encouraged as a result.
3. Please pray for all our children and young people and particularly for parents seeking to ‘bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord’ [Ephesians 6:4].



Lent

If you missed the Ash Wednesday devotional lead by Gavin with Matt speaking, you could [access it here](#). Remember that we are recommending two books for Lent: 'An Ocean of Grace' by Tim Chester and 'Hope in the face of Suffering' by Jeremy Marshall. Due to lockdown, books ordered can only be picked up from the Church Office on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. Please follow all the correct protocols in terms of face coverings and social distancing if coming to the Office. You can order either [book here](#). There are also family activities during Lent put together by Hannah Blake. [Please click here](#) to access the first videos which link in with 'Meals with Jesus'.

Toolbox 2021

Toolbox this Sunday evening explores the recent Church of England resource 'Living in Love & Faith'. It will provide us with an opportunity to be informed but also to think through our response with the assistance of some very helpful material produced by the Church of England Evangelical Council. As a church family we need to engage with this very important subject as the Church of England is preparing to make decisions on these issues in the next couple of years.

Future Toolbox sessions include the following with more information [available here](#).

Sunday 28 February 2021 – How do I share my faith? Rebecca Manley Pippert [author]

Sunday 7 March 2021 – Covid, Climate and the Church: Dr Ruth Valerio [Tearfund]

New curate

Last Sunday I announced that Nic Ross will be joining us as our new curate in the summer. He hails from South Africa. After a PhD at Cambridge in engineering he worked as an engineer for a number of years before serving on the staff team at St Andrew the Great, Cambridge. He is currently in his final year at Oak Hill College. God willing, he will be ordained Saturday 25 September 2021 at Rochester Cathedral. Please pray for him as he prepares to serve amongst us in the coming years.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[My worth](#)' by Keith & Kristyn Getty which takes us to the cross, a wonderfully appropriate theme for the start of Lent.

The prayer is the Collect for Ash Wednesday, which we are encouraged to be used each day of Lent:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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

Click here	Sunday service information
Click here	Zoom coffee for 9:15am congregation
Click here	Zoom coffee for 10am at Lady Boswell's congregation
Click here	Zoom coffee for 11am congregation
Click here	To access the Ash Wednesday service
Click here	Order the Lent book(s) from the bookshop
Click here	Family activities with Hannah Blake
Click here	Information about the Toolbox sessions
Click here	To listen to 'My worth'

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally