



Letter #60 Church Family email 25/2/2021

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.” [Isaiah 55:1]*

It is easy these days to feel tired, exhausted and spiritually weary. So, it is all the more important for us to treasure up the invitations from the Lord to find refreshment as we return to Him, as revealed in Isaiah 55. This passage may have been one of the inspirations behind George Herbert’s famous poem ‘Love bade me welcome’. It’s set out on page 47 of ‘Oceans of Grace’ for this Sunday and coincides with the date in the church’s year when we especially give thanks for his ministry, as shown in Saturday’s Collect below. May our souls once again be refreshed by a recognition of the free grace of our Lord Jesus poured out on us.

Sunday 28th February 2021

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on Monday we are planning to resume in person services Sunday 14 March 2021 – see below for our plans. This Sunday and next (7th March) it will still be online only. To access these gatherings, go to the website [here](#).

- **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 ‘How do I share my faith?’**
- Sunday morning services are followed directly by Zoom Coffee which you can access here: [St Nicholas 9.15/11am](#), [St Nicholas@ Lady Boswell’s](#) .

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for the Toolbox session on ‘How do I share my faith?’ Please pray for our guest speaker, author Rebecca Manley Pippert, that this seminar would encourage us in our partnership in the gospel.
2. Please pray for those preaching on Sunday: for Gavin resuming the Isaiah 40 series at 9.15am; for Matt on Galatians 3 at 11am and for Angus preaching on 2 Kings 3 at Lady Boswell’s. Let’s pray for God’s word to be treasured as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:10).
3. Please pray for those who are on their own as they access our services, that they would have the assurance of belonging to the body of Christ.



Toolbox 2021

First, many, many apologies to those who discovered that Toolbox was fully subscribed last Sunday and could not get into the Zoom gathering. Unfortunately, we reached our upper limit of 100 screens. It must have been a frustrating experience to be left 'outside' without any information. Again, please accept my sincere apologies.

Regarding the Toolbox session last Sunday 21 February on 'Living in Love and faith' there is a recording of the event [here](#) and the Church of England Evangelical Council film 'The beautiful story' can be accessed [here](#). I referred to the Book of Jude at the end and my recent book, 'Teaching 2 Peter and Jude' which was published last summer can be purchased via our bookroom [here](#).

Next Sunday 28th February we will be holding the event on Zoom but to increase our capacity we will also provide a YouTube link on the website so that if we do hit our limit there is still an opportunity to watch the Toolbox seminar. So, please come – it promises to be a really helpful evening!

In our survey earlier in the year the issue of needing assistance in sharing our faith came out on top. As a result, Toolbox this Sunday evening explores this topic with the help of author, Rebecca Manley Pippert. She wrote 'Out of the saltshaker' in 1980 and, more recently, 'Stay Salt'. In her writings she speaks about how our sense of weakness and inadequacy need not be a barrier to speaking about Jesus. Most of us will readily recognise that we need all the assistance that we can get in the area of evangelism, so I do trust that you will join me for this evening.

Congregational Prayer gatherings

This coming Tuesday 2 March we will be holding 4 congregational prayer gatherings. Last month they were very warmly received. I warmly encourage you to attend your congregational prayer gathering. The links to each can be found here: [Congregational prayer gatherings](#)

Sunday 14th March 2021

As mentioned above, following the Prime Minister's announcement we are planning to resume in-person services for our morning congregations on Mothering Sunday, 14th March 2021. We will continue to livestream these services and also provide facilities for Zoom interactions over coffee afterwards. These services will naturally need to follow all the necessary Covid protocols to ensure safety for everyone attending. So, there will be social distancing, face coverings, no congregational singing and no opportunity for conversation during or after the service. Despite these limitations, it does represent the initial step on a trajectory which will lead to greater interaction over the coming months. Please do offer to assist if you can as we will require considerable help with stewarding and welcoming.

Andrew & Vanessa Nicholls

As you will know Andrew Nicholls is now stepping down from his role as Verger. Along with Vanessa, who until recently was our hospitality manager, they have now moved to Crowborough and are delighted to be part of All Saints, Crowborough. We are so grateful for their hard work in serving us in practical ways over the years and we do trust that they know the Lord's richest blessings in the years ahead. If you wish to contribute to a leaving gift, then please [click here](#).



St Nicholas Church

SEVENOAKS

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[King of Glory, King of Peace](#)' by George Herbert recorded by the Chet Valley Churches

The prayer is the Collect for this Saturday which celebrates the ministry of the poet and hymn writer George Herbert:

*King of glory, King of peace, who called your servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honours to be a priest in the temple of his God and King: grant us also the grace to offer ourselves with singleness of heart in humble obedience to your service; 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 forever. **Amen.***

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

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	Access the Toolbox session Living in Love & Faith
Click here	Watch "The beautiful story"
Click here	Order Angus' book(s) from the bookshop
Click here	Access your prayer gathering at 8pm on 2 March
Click here	For details on how to contribute to a gift for Vanessa & Andrew
Click here	To listen to 'King of Glory, King of Peace'

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally