



Letter #61 Church Family 04/03/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.” [Philippians 3:10,11]

For many of us our ambitions have had to be put on hold. All sorts of hopes and aspirations have evaporated with the various restrictions that have come with Covid. Holidays, special birthday celebrations, trips to the theatre, family reunions, weekend breaks ... they have all sunk without trace. And yet the ambitions and desires that the apostle Paul values can remain completely untouched by lockdowns and Covid. His desire was to know Christ and to grow in Christlikeness through embracing suffering for Him. Ultimately that is what the Lord is looking for in our lives – He wants to see Christ and the pattern of the cross. It is that same thought that lies behind the Collect below. As our world slowly starts to open up in these coming months may our ambitions be moulded by this vision of seeking to reflect Christ better!

Sunday 7th March 2021

This Sunday we remain online only for the final occasion (we hope!). To access our gatherings, [here](#)

- **9.15am from St Nicholas on YouTube**
- **10am from Lady Boswells on YouTube**
- **11am from St Nicholas on YouTube (with telephone access)**
- **6:30pm on Zoom – Toolbox ‘Covid, Climate and the Church’**

Sunday 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 ‘Covid, Climate & the Church’ with Ruth Valerio from Tearfund. These are important issues which we need to consider with a Biblical perspective.
2. Please pray for those preaching on Sunday: for Gavin continuing the Isaiah 40 series at 9.15am; for Matt continuing in Galatians 4 at 11am and for me preaching on 2 Kings 4 at Lady Boswell’s. May the preaching of God’s word give us ‘endurance and encouragement’ [Romans 15:4,5].
3. Please pray for all our young people and students as they navigate all the uncertainties of these days, that God’s word would provide them with an anchor.



Toolbox 2021

Our Toolbox sessions can still be accessed! The first Toolbox Sunday 21 February on 'Living in Love and faith' is [recorded here](#) and the Church of England Evangelical Council film 'The beautiful story' can be [accessed here](#). The second Toolbox Sunday 28 February with Becky Manley Pippert 'How can I share my faith?' is [available here](#) and her book 'Stay Salt' can be ordered from [the bookshop here](#).

Sunday 14th March 2021 Mothering Sunday

As mentioned last week, 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, masks, no congregational singing and no opportunity for conversation during or after the service. If you feel able to assist in any way please contact the church office.

Trinity School

Anna Graham, the Trinity School Chaplain, has produced a very encouraging and informative [video here](#). Please continue to pray for her as well as Helen Read, the assistant chaplain, in all their work at the school.

Marriage Course

A newly updated version of the 7 session Marriage Course will be run via Zoom on Wednesday evenings on the following dates by Alan and Margaret Bowen: April 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19, 26. This Course is for any married couple, whether you feel you have a strong relationship, or are struggling. The Course equips couples with tools and techniques to keep the spark alive and stay connected. There is no group work, and each couple's conversations are completely private. To view a short video about the Course [please click here](#). To sign up for the Course please [complete the Registration Form](#) and then [email the Form](#) to Alan Bowen. Alan has also produced a personal message about the course which can be [viewed here](#). I warmly commend this course.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[The power of the cross](#)' performed in a reflective mood by Keith & Kristyn Getty
The prayer is the Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent and also focuses on the pattern of the cross for Jesus ... and for us:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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	Access the Toolbox session "Living in Love & Faith"
Click here	Watch "The beautiful story"
Click here	Access the Toolbox session "How can I share my faith?"
Click here	Order Becky Manley Pippert's book from the Bookshop
Click here	Watch Trinity School Chaplains video
Click here	A short video about the Marriage Course
Click here	To access the Marriage Course Registration Form
Click here	Alan Bowen's personal message about the Marriage Course
Click here	To listen to 'The power of the cross'

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally