



Letter #62 Church Family email 11/03/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of compassion** and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.’ [2 Corinthians 1:3,4]*

It is about a year ago that I came across ‘Gentle and Lowly’ by Dane Ortlund. What a wonderful gift to God’s people! Though the book probably took several years to put together, in God’s providence it appeared at exactly the right time, just at the start of our first UK lockdown. If there was a particular message that we would each need to hear throughout this last year, filled as it was with concerns about Covid, it was going to be something about the compassion of God and the warmth of His undeserved love. And that is the focus of ‘Gentle and lowly’ – a sensitive exploration into the very heart of the Lord Jesus. It was exactly what we needed then a year ago ... and it is what we still need today.

Sunday 14th March 2021 – Mothering Sunday

This Sunday we resume ‘in person’ services at our three morning congregations. Though the Covid numbers have improved considerably over the last few months we are very aware of the need to proceed with great care, so please be aware of our Covid-safe procedures [here](#). We also recognise that many are not yet in a position to join these gatherings physically and therefore all our services will continue to be [available online here](#).

Sunday services are followed directly by Zoom Coffee which you can access here [St Nicholas 9.15/11am](#). The 10am Lady Boswell’s service is followed by Zoom [coffee at 11.30am here](#).

- **St Nicholas @ 9.15am – in person & livestream**
- **St Nicholas @ Lady Boswell’s – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream.**
- **St Nicholas @ 11am – in person & livestream**
- **St Nicholas @ 6:30pm – Zoom**



Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for the practical arrangements for our morning gatherings as we return to the buildings this Sunday, especially for safety. Pray that those returning would be enormously encouraged in their walk with the Lord despite all the restrictions.
2. Please pray for those preaching on Sunday: for Gavin unpacking Isaiah 40 at 9.15am; for Matt expounding Galatians 5 at 11am and for me speaking on 2 Kings 5 at both Lady Boswell's and the 6.30pm service. Pray that the voice of the Lord would ring out clearly on each occasion [1 Thess 1:8].
3. On this Mothering Sunday let us give thanks for the sacrificial work of mothers, especially those who have laboured for many weeks with home schooling and let us remember with gratitude our Lord's maternal care for all His people [see Isaiah 49:14-16].

Personal news

Currently, like a number of others within the Church family, I am being asked to continue to shield until the end of the month. The issue that Sue and I then face relates to my high dosage of immunosuppressant medication. Simply put, the concern is the extent to which the immunosuppressants are suppressing the efficacy of the vaccine. We would be grateful for your ongoing prayers in order that a way could soon be found for us to return to the church building!

Toolbox 2021

Our Toolbox sessions can still be accessed!

- 'Living in Love and faith' is recorded [here](#) and the Church of England Evangelical Council film 'The beautiful story' can be accessed [here](#).
- Becky Manley Pippert 'How can I share my faith?' is available [here](#) and her book 'Stay Salt' can be ordered from the bookshop [here](#).
- Ruth Valerio 'Covid, Climate & Church' can be accessed [here](#).

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. Follow this link to view a [short video about the Course](#). To sign up for the Course please [complete the Registration Form](#) and then email the Form to Alan Bowen at alanjbowen@btinternet.com. Alan has also produced a personal message about the course which can be viewed [here](#). I warmly commend this course.



Book review: Hope in Times of Fear | Tim Keller

Last year Tim Keller (retired Pastor, Redeemer, New York) was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. As he explores the resurrection and the meaning of Easter in his latest book, it is very clear that this is not an academic treatise remote from the struggles of life. Instead, it is a warm, personal engagement with the Bible’s teaching on Jesus’ resurrection and the way in which this ‘Great Reversal’ should affect all of life now. He points to the way in which the resurrection is not simply an historical fact but a key truth which should shape us on a daily basis. I warmly commend ‘Hope in times of fear’. You can purchase it [through the bookshop here](#).

Although the bookshop will not be able to reopen until later in the roadmap timeframe, a selection of Easter cards are available from the church office on a Thursday between 10am and 2pm. These are pre-packaged packs of 5 cards. Any queries, please [email Peter](#).

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is [‘Grace’ by CityAlight](#)

The prayer is the Collect for Mothering Sunday:

*God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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

Click here	To read our COVID-safe procedures
Click here	To access all our online Services
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 reserve a seat for the Lady Boswell’s Service
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	Access the Toolbox session “Covid, Climate & church”
Click here	A short video about the Marriage Course
Click here	To access the Marriage Course Registration Form
Click here	To send your registration form to Alan Bowen
Click here	Alan Bowen’s personal message about the Marriage Course
Click here	To order ‘Hope in the time of fear’ from the Bookshop /contact Peter re Easter cards
Click here	To listen to the song is ‘Grace’ by CityAlight