



Letter #64 Church Family email 25/03/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*'so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable** riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ' [Ephesians 2:7 ESV]*

The last 12 months have been dominated by statistics. We have been tracking the number of Covid cases, the rising death rate, the R number and more recently the number of vaccinations. The numbers are often vast and may still cause us great anxiety as we peer into the future. We certainly should not hide our eyes away from the painful reality of these numbers. Yet at the same time there is another number which we should consider. It's the number which seeks to quantify the 'riches of God's grace, expressed in his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus' [Eph 2:7 NIV]. And yet this number is 'immeasurable'. As you glance at the next set of Covid statistics, why not also take time to check out the stats in Ephesians 2:7 and apply it to yourself?

Sunday 28th March 2021 [Palm Sunday]

For Palm Sunday we continue to have services in the building, though booking is now required due to the larger numbers attending and the limitations on seating due to social distancing. Please be aware of our Covid-safe [procedures here](#). We will continue to ensure that all our services are available online for those who cannot yet gather physically – [online access can be found 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 [[booking required here](#)] & livestream
- **St Nicholas @ Lady Boswell's** – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream
- **St Nicholas @ 11am** – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream
- **St Nicholas @ 6:30pm** – Zoom

Prayer focus for Sunday

1. Please pray for opportunities for us to demonstrate love and care to those around us in our neighbourhoods. Amid the general exhaustion of these days, pray that the Lord would give His people energy to show the love of Christ.
2. Please pray for all those preaching on Sunday: for me preaching on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday from Matthew 21; for John completing the series in 2 Kings; and for Matt preaching in the evening on John 14:25-27. Pray that we would have the spiritual thirst of Psalm 63, longing to be filled and nourished by Christ.
3. Pray for those who are working hard behind the scenes Sunday by Sunday in the Church Office and handling the technical side of livestreams and Zoom services.



Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

During Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we expect to be at full capacity, recognising that due to the 2 metre rule the capacity at both buildings is considerably reduced. Consequently, we will be making arrangements **for seating to be reserved** in advance via the website. Bookings will open Monday 29th March on the website. There will be a service of Communion on Maundy Thursday at 8pm in the building [also livestreamed]. Other services for Good Friday and Easter Sunday are all listed in [this flyer](#). Please take the opportunity of forwarding the flyer to family, friends and neighbours in order to invite them to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen!

Easter trail

Hannah Blake and her team have put together an exciting Easter trail which will be open from 12 noon to 6pm Easter Sunday. It is the sort of thing which is ideal for families and you may want to invite friends to join you. The trail begins and ends at the church building, so do drop by to collect a map sometime in the afternoon, and to pick up your goodie bag when you've finished.

Home Group Bible studies

After Easter the Home Groups and some of the other Bible Study groups will be looking at the Book of James when the Home Groups resume Tuesday 13th April 2021. I would very much encourage you to purchase the Bible Study booklet '**James - Genuine Faith**' written by Sam Allberry. You will be able to purchase [it through the bookshop](#). Peter Cheesman has negotiated a special offer of £3. Orders can be collected from the bookshop on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm but please observe all the necessary Covid precautions. I am planning to interview Sam about why we should study the Book of James and this should serve as an introduction to our Home Group studies.

Jonathan Fletcher

A report commissioned by Emmanuel Church Wimbledon relating to their former Minister, Jonathan Fletcher, has just been published and [can be accessed here](#). Jonathan has been a prominent evangelical leader over many decades and has preached at St Nicholas on a number of occasions. The report highlights various abuses. There will be a number within the congregation who know him well or were previously members at Emmanuel. The Report by the safeguarding organisation, 31:8, has many recommendations which all evangelical churches, including St Nicholas, will need to consider carefully. If you are troubled by anything within the Report you are welcome to contact me or Gavin, but in addition please note the various helplines on page 145 at the end of the Report.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is '[Jerusalem](#)' by CityAlight which is such an appropriate song taking us through Holy Week.

The prayer is the Collect for Palm Sunday:

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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