



Letter #65 Church Family email 01/04/2021

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

'Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!'

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead' [1 Peter 1:3]

Feelings come and go but facts remain the same. As Sue and I travelled earlier this week to see my mother for the first time in many months I was struck by the fact that though all sorts of things had happened in the intervening months much was still the same. The same view across the countryside, the same roundabout, the same driveway. So it is with the resurrection of Christ. All sorts of things happen to us and our feelings may have oscillated between sadness, hope and back to despair ... but amidst everything one stubborn fact always remains. Whatever our current feelings or emotional and mental struggles and turmoil, Jesus is Risen. Jesus is Lord. And because He is the Lord who lovingly died in our place it means, as the apostle Paul says, *'I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'* (Romans 8:38,39). Alleluia!

Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday

All the services are being held 'in person' and are also available on livestream. Most are listed in [this flyer](#) which you could send on to others. If you wish to attend, please reserve a seat [here](#) as with the larger numbers attending and the limitations on seating due to social distancing, capacity is inevitably reduced. Please be aware of our Covid-safe [procedures here](#). Online access (and Zoom Coffee events) can be found [here](#).

Easter Sunday service times are as follows (please note – seat reservations are now fully subscribed so if you have not reserved a seat, please join us online):

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

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for the message of Good Friday and Easter Sunday to be clearly proclaimed at all our gatherings over these coming days. Pray particularly for our Sunday preaching by Angus on Matthew 28:1-10 at 9.15am and 11am; John on Acts 1:1-11 at 10am and Gavin on John 20:19-23 at 6.30pm.



2. Give thanks for our first opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper this evening at the Maundy Thursday Communion service as Gavin preaches on Hebrews 5:7-10 on Jesus in Gethsemane. Pray that many would treasure the opportunity to break bread together in this setting even amidst the limitations caused by Covid.
3. Pray for all ages to benefit from our services on Good Friday with our all age gathering in the morning with Matt preaching on Matthew 27:15-23 and our reflective service thoughtfully put together by our organist Peter Young in the evening where I will be preaching on John 19:28-30.

Easter trail

Don't forget the 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.

Monthly Prayer Gathering: Tuesday 6th April at 8pm

Once a quarter we plan to pray as a whole church family to demonstrate our unity together in the gospel. So, this coming Tuesday 6th April we will all be meeting at 8pm on Zoom [here](#). (Meeting ID 856 2565 1741 / Passcode prayer). The April Prayer Diary can be accessed [here](#). I have been very struck by Jesus' phrase in John 15:5 '*apart from me you can do nothing*'. It is true, which is why we need to be praying.

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. May I encourage you to purchase the Bible Study booklet '**James - Genuine Faith**' written by Sam Allberry? You can purchase it (special offer £3) through the bookshop [here](#). Orders can be collected on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm but please observe all the necessary Covid precautions. The plan is that the first Home Group meeting will involve watching an interview that I have recorded with Sam Allberry in which he highlights some of the key things which James is teaching, before we read the letter together.

Easter Extras!

1. **Christians in Parliament:** a 3 minute video – [the message of Easter here](#).
2. **Peter Rowan:** Peter has produced a very helpful short talk on responding to racism [available here](#).
3. **Jeremy Marshall:** Jeremy is speaking for Nick Jones at Drung, County Cavan, Ireland this evening – [see here for this event](#).
4. **Alan Bowen:** Alan and Margaret are running the Marriage Course soon – [see here for details](#) and [here for a helpful interview](#) with Matt Taylor.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is [Christ Is Risen He Is Risen Indeed](#) by the Gettys which reminds us of the objective reality of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



St Nicholas Church
SEVENOAKS

The prayer is the Collect for Easter Sunday:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

'Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!'

Warmly in Christ,
Angus MacLeay

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally