



Letter #66 Church Family email 08/04/2021

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

'Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory' [Colossians 3:1-4]

As lockdown starts to ease many of us may be starting to make plans to reconnect with family or friends whom we have not seen for many months. Phone conversations and Facetime or Skype has had to suffice for far too long. But with the prospect of being able to meet up in gardens and then later in the summer, indoors, many of us can start our planning. Ever since the resurrection and ascension, that is also the situation we find ourselves, in relation to Christ. Our focus is to be Christ with the prospect of being with Him in glory. Just as lockdown has perhaps intensified our desire to be with distant family members how much more should it intensify our longing to be with the risen Christ who died for us. May that longing lead to an even greater desire to know and serve Him each day.

Sunday 11th April 2021

Services continue 'in person' and on livestream. If you wish to attend, **please reserve a seat** as capacity is inevitably reduced by the Covid restrictions. Please be aware of our [Covid-safe procedures](#). Online access (and Zoom Coffee events) can be [found here](#).

Service times are as follows:

- **St Nicholas @ 9.15am – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream**
- **St Nicholas @ Lady Boswell's – in person [[booking required](#)] & livestream**
 - **Please note that there will be two services at Lady Boswell's: book [here for 9.30am](#) (also live streamed) and [here for 11am](#)**
- **St Nicholas @ 11am – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream**
- **St Nicholas @ 6:30pm - Zoom**

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for the message of Christ to be clearly proclaimed this Sunday: Gavin is preaching on Luke 24:13-35; John on Acts 2:14-24; Matt on Psalm 16 and Simon on 1 Peter 2:11,12. Pray for everyone to encounter Christ as his word is preached!
2. Pray for good ongoing connection with those unable to be at the building – that they will still connect well through the online provision and be built up in their knowledge of Christ.
3. Pray for our ministry with children and also for our interaction with young people going forwards as Simon starts to make plans for in person activities from 18th April.



Home Group Bible studies

Just another reminder that Home Groups resume in the coming week as we look at the Letter of James. It would be helpful to obtain the Bible Study booklet '**James - Genuine Faith**' written by Sam Allberry available through the [bookshop here](#). At the first Home Group meeting an interview that I have recorded with Sam Allberry will be shown highlighting some of the key things which James is teaching.

Hope Explored

Hope Explored begins again Monday 19th April with an interview with Mark Allaway, followed by three sessions. It is a great way of discovering what is at the heart of the Christian faith. [To register click here](#). I wonder if you could prayerfully consider who you could encourage to attend.

Plans for returning to the building

As always, we hold on to our plans very lightly indeed recognising that things can and do change. Nevertheless, we are hoping to restart the **8am Communion service on Sunday 25th April 2021**. We are still making plans concerning the **6.30pm service** but the likely first date is **Sunday 9th May 2021** which coincides with our Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Maidstone. We aim to continue to make the evening service accessible online.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The hymn is '[Jesus Christ is risen today](#)' from King's College, Cambridge.

The prayer is the Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter:

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Warmly in Christ,
Angus MacLeay