



Letter #67 Church Family email 15/04/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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'But He gives us more grace.' [James 4:6]

Many of the Home Groups and Bible Studies across the Church Family will have been looking at the Letter of James over the last few days with the assistance of my interview with Sam Allberry, [which can be located here](#). One of the most striking points in the letter is a very short sentence at 4:6 – 'but He gives us more grace'. From time to time over the last year there have been shortages. At first it was things such as toilet rolls or flour for baking. Now there are concerns voiced every so often of shortages of vaccines. As we navigate our way through these issues let us be fully persuaded that there will never be a shortage of God's grace. We will never outstrip the supply. Each day we need His grace and each day there is more available!

Sunday 18th 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 here](#). Online access (and Zoom Coffee events) can also be found [here](#).

Service times are as follows:

- **St Nicholas @ 9.15am** – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream
- **St Nicholas @ Lady Boswell's** – there will be two services at Lady Boswell's
 - one at 9.30am [with livestream] [[booking required here](#)]
 - and one at 11am [[booking required here](#)]
- **St Nicholas @ 11am** – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream
- **St Nicholas @ 6:30pm** – Zoom

Please do remember to reserve a seat so we can ensure your safety and comfort at the services.

As COVID restrictions allow, we are now able to sing together outdoors. Please do join us if you are able (and weather permitting):

StNics@9.15 – in the Rectory Carpark at 8:55am

StNics@ladyb's – between the services at 10:30am

StNics@11 – at the end of the service in the carpark

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for God's word to be preached faithfully this Sunday. I will be speaking on John 21:1-14 at 9.15am and 11am. John will be continuing in Acts 2 at Lady Boswell's. Steve Osei-Mensah will be preaching on 1 Peter 2:13-17 in the evening. As in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 let us pray for God's word to be proclaimed with deep conviction in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray for Contact returning to meet in person on Sunday late afternoon and for Simon Heather as he leads this important youth ministry.



3. Pray for those within the church family going through particularly difficult times either physically or emotionally. Pray for us all to know the Lord's peace and provision in these days.
4. Let us continue to pray for the Queen following the death of Prince Philip last week.

Hope Explored

Hope Explored begins Monday 19th April with an interview with Mark Alleway, followed by three sessions. This new course is a great way of discovering what is at the heart of the Christian faith. Are there friends or family we could invite to this online event? [To register click here.](#)

Plans for returning to the building

The plan is still to restart the **8am Communion service on Sunday 25th April 2021**. For the evening we are likely to return to the building **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.

Kirsty Birkett | Webinar on '[Coming to Terms with Depression](#)' | Thursday 29th April 2021 at 8pm

Kirsty Birkett has spoken at St Nicholas on several occasions whilst she was on the staff of Oak Hill College. She is coming to speak to us on the important issues of depression and anxiety. These may be subjects which are very close to home for us personally either as we recognise our own struggles or because we are seeking to assist others. The webinar format on Zoom means that the only screens visible will be Kirsty Birkett and Gavin McGrath, which provides the opportunity for people to observe without being visible themselves. It promises to be a very helpful evening which I commend to you most warmly.

Gavin and Janet McGrath

Last Sunday Gavin announced his forthcoming retirement in early autumn, and you can locate my [interview with Gavin here](#). We are so grateful for the ministry of both Gavin and Janet over the last nine years, and they will be hugely missed. I am delighted that Gavin can take the opportunity of a sabbatical during June and July which had to be postponed from last year. In the meantime, we are very grateful that Bishop James has given us permission to appoint a new Associate Rector and that process will now get underway.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The hymn is '[How great Thou art](#)' by Shane & Shane

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

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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