



Letter #68 Church Family email 22/04/2021

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

'Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears¹ we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.' [1 John 3:2]

Tuesday 27th April 2021 is the centenary of the birth of John Stott who died in 2011. Though there will be some who are unfamiliar with his name, many of us at St Nicholas will remember him as one of the most influential evangelical leaders of the last century. Based at All Souls, Langham Place in the heart of London his preaching ministry was a model of clarity, biblical faithfulness, humility and Christ-centredness. There are several events planned for his centenary which can be accessed at johnstott.org/events. I finish with one anecdote that sums him up. A TV reporter once asked Stott, "You've had a brilliant academic career; first at Cambridge, Rector at twenty-nine, Chaplain to the Queen; what is your ambition now?" Stott replied, "To be more like Jesus."

#Sunday 25th 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. Online access (and Zoom Coffee events) can be found [here, together with our Covid-safe procedures](#). Service times are as follows, which includes the return of the 8am Holy Communion service from this Sunday onwards:

- **8am Holy Communion at St Nicholas [no livestream]**
- **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 [[details here](#)]**

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for those who are planning to return to the church building or Lady Boswell's for the first time, that we would demonstrate our love for each other by ensuring the safety and welfare of all who gather.
2. Pray for the ministry of God's word with Angus preaching at 9.15am and 11am at St Nicholas on John 21:15-25; John preaching on Acts 2:37-47 at 9.30am and 11am at Lady Boswell's; and with Jamie Read preaching on 1 Peter 2:18-25 at the evening service on Zoom.
3. Give thanks for the hard work of the Church Office team, including the Ministry Associates, as they serve the whole church family through their dedicated work.



Hope Explored

If you missed the interview with Mark Alleway last Monday [it is available here](#). The Hope Explored course now begins this Monday 26th April. It's 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 evening service should return to the building **Sunday 9th May 2021** which coincides with our Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Maidstone. We will continue to make the evening service accessible online.

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

Over this last year many of us both within the church and the wider community have struggled with issues such as depression and anxiety. Whether we are seeking help for ourselves or wanting to be equipped to serve others this webinar by Kirsty Birkett will be a really helpful session. 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.

Join the Zoom webinar using this link: <http://bit.ly/StNwebinar> (Meeting ID 882 1154 9647) or by telephone: 0203 901 7895 / Webinar ID 882 1154 9647

Campaigners

Albert and Elizabeth Wood have been doing a wonderful job continuing with the ministry of Campaigners throughout the Covid pandemic, producing all sorts of resources online week by week. They are planning for a return to physical meetings in September and they are aware that they will need several new helpers and leaders. If you are interested in finding out more about what is involved in this midweek ministry, [please contact Albert and Elizabeth Wood](#).

Finally, a song and a prayer

In this season of Easter our song is '[Christ our hope in life and death](#)' by various artists including the Gettys

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

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,
Angus MacLeay