



Letter #69 Church Family email 29/04/2021

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hand' [Psalm 19:1]

We all know that God speaks to us in His word but sometimes we might be tempted to forget that He also speaks through His creation. I have been thoroughly enjoying Andrew Wilson's latest book, *'God of all things: Rediscovering the sacred in an everyday world'* which you can order from the [bookshop here](#). In short, punchy chapters he looks at 30 different items encompassing everything from gardens, donkeys and pigs to bread, salt and water to consider what that object tells us about God. Fascinating, intriguing and heart-warming! Truly, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' [Psalm 24:1].

Sunday 2nd May 2021

Services continue 'in person' and on livestream. To attend, please reserve a seat noting that you will receive an email confirmation as a sign that you have followed the instructions correctly! Online access (and Zoom Coffee events) can be found [here, together with our Covid-safe procedures](#).

Service times are as follows:

- **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**

Congregational singing will take place in the St Nicholas churchyard before the 9.15 service (8:55am), in the car park after the 11am service and between the two services at Lady Boswell's at 10:30am.

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for the two teenagers who are going to be baptised at the 11am service on Sunday morning that they would each know the reality of new life in Jesus.
2. Pray for the ministry of God's word with Gavin preaching on 1 Corinthians 15 at 9.15am; Matt preaching on Exodus 1 at 11am; Angus preaching at Lady Boswell's services and the evening service on Hebrews 11:1-7. Pray for clarity of exposition and for God's Spirit to be active in all our hearts.
3. Please pray for those who are currently considering returning to the buildings for the first time that they would know God's peace and that there would be great mutual encouragement for everyone as more people gather physically. Give thanks for a great start to the 8am Communion service last Sunday.



Kirsty Birkett | Webinar on 'Coming to Terms with Depression' | TONIGHT Thursday 29th April 2021 at 8pm

This evening we will be running this seminar, starting at 8pm and finishing by 9.15pm. [Click here](#) to access the webinar, (Webinar ID 882 1154 9647) noting that only the speaker, Gavin and Hannah as hosts will be visible on screen. Over this last year many, both within the church and the wider community, may have struggled with issues such as depression and so it is very timely that we have this opportunity to be assisted in handling such issues both for ourselves and our friends.

Monthly Prayer Gatherings | Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 8pm

This month we will take the opportunity to pray in our different congregations. Access details will be found on the [website here](#) on Tuesday. Please make this a priority and encourage others to join us. The May prayer diary is now available and can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

Confirmation | Sunday 9th May at 6.30pm

The first 'in person' evening service will be for the Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Maidstone at 6.30pm Sunday 9th May 2021. Seats will need to be reserved, particularly given the involvement of just under 20 candidates. As always, bookings open on Monday mornings for the following Sunday. The service will be available online.

'Hong Kong Ready'

The UK is expecting many people to arrive from Hong Kong in the coming months and this is an initiative, involving OMF, to ensure that churches are suitably equipped and encouraged to provide a warm welcome. Andrea Trevenna has prepared this short video clip about this initiative which can be [accessed here](#).

Annual Parochial Church Meeting | 8pm Tuesday 18th May 2021

Once again, we are going to use a Zoom webinar format to ensure as many as possible can access this meeting. Nomination forms can be downloaded by clicking on the link: [Nomination to the PCC](#) and [Nomination for Churchwarden](#) or hard copies are available from the church office.

Finally, a song and a prayer

Rather than choose a congregational item, this time I have selected Handel's beautiful aria ['I know that my Redeemer liveth'](#) from 'The Messiah'

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

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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