



Letter #72 Church Family email 20/05/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law' [Galatians 5:22,23]

The Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost which is celebrated this coming Sunday. Often, we can think of the work of the Spirit in terms of power. Of course, that is right as the Spirit does indeed act in power to convict of sin, grant new spiritual life and build the church. At the same time, we must also reflect upon the link between the Spirit and God's grace and Christian character. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus [Romans 8:9; Phil 1:19] and therefore the sure evidence of the working of the Spirit is when the Christ-like fruit of the Spirit is being displayed. Especially amid all the fatigue of this season, let us be praying for the Spirit to descend with power in order to make us more like Christ.

Sunday 23rd 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 – in person [[booking required here](#)] & livestream**

Congregational singing will take place in the St Nicholas churchyard in the car park after the 11am service and between the two services at Lady Boswell's at 10:30am. (No singing before the 9.15 service this week.)

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for all those serving at St Nicholas across our congregations who feel particularly under pressure. Please pray especially for the staff team.



2. Please pray for the ministry of God's word. Gavin is preaching on 1 Corinthians 15; Matt is preaching on Exodus 3, whilst at Lady Boswell's and the evening service I am preaching on the end of Hebrews 11. Pray that God's word would inspire and encourage!
3. Please pray for our new PCC and especially give thanks for newly elected members Stefano Duranti and Mark Brennan.
4. Give thanks for the life of Vicky Lutton who died peacefully at home yesterday, aged 104. She has been such an active and energetic presence within the church family over so many years. Pray especially for Di and Warren and the other members of the family as well as close friends within the church in their sadness.

Isaiah by the day | Alec Motyer [Christian Focus, 2011]

Last year I found Alec Motyer's 'Psalms by the day' really helpful for my devotional life and as a result I picked up Motyer's companion volume on Isaiah. It is a wonderful book which utilises the same format: a fresh translation of the text coupled with helpful insights followed by a short 'Thought for the day'. I came across this gem the other day; 'But the power of prayer does not reside in the place where it starts but in the place it reaches.' If you want something a bit different to freshen up your reading of God's word, then this might be just the thing for you! [You can order a copy here.](#)

Rector's letters ...

I have been writing these weekly letters for over a year now. I trust that they have been of some benefit in keeping us connected. In recent months it has seemed very appropriate for the Congregational Pastors to be communicating personally with each congregation. We certainly do not want to overwhelm you with emails and therefore I will be reducing the frequency of these letters in June to twice a month with a view to making it a monthly letter later in the year.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song for Pentecost, performed by the Gettys and featuring 'Gabriel's oboe', is '[Holy Spirit, living breath of God](#)'

The prayer is the Collect for Pentecost:

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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