



**Letter #74 Church Family email 10/06/2021**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.” [Psalm 63:1]*

As I write, Summer has arrived at last, and we are enjoying high temperatures. For most of us it’s probably a fairly simple thing to grab a refreshing drink as the heat rises. But perhaps on the next occasion when we feel dry, parched and thirsty it’s worth reflecting on this Psalm. David is thirsty as he’s in the middle of the Judean desert, but he is even more thirsty to draw near to the Lord so that he can be spiritually refreshed. That thirst is quenched as he drinks in the steadfast love of the Lord (v3) and then later at night as he finds comfort in singing in the shadow of His wings (v7). May the Lord be at work in all our hearts giving us that same sort of agonising thirst, which can only be satisfied as we find refreshment in the knowledge and presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Sunday 13th June 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 – one service at 10am [with livestream] [[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 at 8:55am before the 9.15 service, after the 11am service, after the service at Lady Boswell’s and – for the first time – after the 6.30pm service.

**Prayer focus**

1. Please pray for the ongoing ministry at Trinity School (see the [latest prayer letter here](#)) and especially for Anna Graham as Chaplain and Helen Read as Assistant Chaplain. Pray for the Lord to be deeply at work across the school community. Pray on also for all involved at Lady Boswell’s School.



2. Give thanks for the Contact BBQ this weekend as the Year 10 group, many of whom were confirmed recently, are invited to join Contact. Pray for a joyful gathering and for Simon as he leads along with the other leaders.
3. Please pray for God's word, which is 'alive and active' (Hebrews 4:12) to be powerfully at work amongst us on Sunday. I am preaching on Hebrews 4 at 9:15am and 11am, whilst John Khnana is preaching on Romans 8:18-30 at Lady Boswell's and then at the evening congregation.

### **Congregational Nurture Groups**

Last Sunday I used a video message ([watch here](#), or read [the transcript here](#)) to outline our plans for the Autumn concerning our evening small groups. You will have received an invitation either by email or post ([copy here](#)) which included a response form ([click here](#)) which invites you to join one of our new congregational nurture groups. Those who have been at St Nicholas for some time will be no strangers to these sorts of changes which have occurred at regular intervals over the years. To minimise any potential disruption, we are encouraging you to insert any particular preferences on your response form. I very much look forward to receiving your reply.

### **Moving on....Steve & Emma Osei-Mensah**

Having been a part of the St Nicholas Church Family for over 32 years, Steve and Emma will be leaving us at the end of June as Steve takes up his new post as Curate in the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry Benefice. This comprises St Mary's Kippington, St Luke's, Sevenoaks and St Mary's Riverhead. We are very grateful for their many years of sharing in the gospel partnership with us and we wish them every blessing in this next stage in their lives and ministry. If you would like to sign a card to convey your own good wishes, please [click on this link](#) to sign before noon on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Their final Sunday with us will be 27<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Finally, a song and a prayer ....**

The song this week features a bit of preaching and a wonderful song '[My Worth Is Not in What I Own](#)' – Feat. John Piper, Keith & Kristyn Getty, We Are Messengers.

The prayer is the Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity:

*Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, 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