



Letter #75 Church Family email 24/06/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the Lord has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.” [Isaiah 63:7]

I was very struck in reading Alec Motyer’s ‘Isaiah by the day’ when he pointed out that the word translated ‘kindness’ or ‘love’ not only comes at the beginning and end of this verse but also that it is in the plural on both occasions. Isaiah is wanting to convey to his readers the overflowing generosity of the Lord to His people. It’s not just that the Lord is kind towards us, but He is repeatedly kind and the evidence can be seen in many ways in our lives. Amid all the pressures and weariness experienced by many in these days let us recall His ongoing kindnesses to encourage us and each other and to draw us more closely to Christ in gratitude and praise.

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for our ongoing work amongst our children and young people as these ministries gradually expand and pray for the provision of sufficient leaders and helpers.
2. Please pray for the faithful ministry of God’s word this Sunday as each of our preaching team (myself, John and Matt) engage with the Bible’s teaching relating to creation care.
3. Give thanks for the recent appointment of Abby Chilton to the post of Communication and Content Designer, starting in mid-August. Please pray for this new ministry to be wonderfully fruitful in our witness to Christ.

Congregational Nurture Groups

During June we presented our plans for our evening small groups in the Autumn ([watch here](#), or read [the transcript here](#)) You will have received an invitation ([copy here](#)) which included a response form ([click here](#)) inviting you to join one of these groups. If you haven’t replied yet please feel able to do so now.

Hope in an anxious world | Helen Thorne

Helen Thorne has spoken on several occasions at St Nicholas over the years. She has written a short, helpful book on anxiety with the tag line ‘Six truths for when things feel overwhelming’. Given the issues that we have all faced over the last year this is an important and timely resource. If you or someone close to you is struggling with anxiety, then order a copy from the [St Nicholas Bookshop](#).



St Nicholas Church
SEVENOAKS

News from Steve and Emma Osei-Mensah

Many will know that Steve is to be ordained in September to serve as curate in the West Sevenoaks Team. Steve and Emma have been involved at St Nicholas for 32 years and served us in many, many ways. They will be hugely missed. This Sunday evening we will be marking their departure and praying for their new ministries. Their personal message to the whole church family [can be read here](#).

Engaging with world mission

Jamie Read works at Crosslinks, an Anglican Mission agency. He has put together a [helpful video](#) about how we can be partners in the gospel with our mission partners.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song this week is '[Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call](#)' a lament from Psalm 42. Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell.

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord 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

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally