



Letter #76 Church Family email 08/07/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD." [Psalm 141:8]

In the midst of all sorts of difficulties and struggles including pathways littered with snares and traps, David, the Psalmist, knows exactly where to look. Though the obvious thing would be to look down he is looking up. And it is not a quick glance. His eyes are *fixed* on Jesus. Of course, it's also the lesson of our verse for 2021 'Fix your eyes on Jesus' [Hebrews 12:2] which introduces every livestream service. Many years ago, I put up some shelves in the kitchen. Unfortunately, they were not securely fixed and somebody with superior skills was quickly required to remedy the issue! Let us pray that amid all the various issues we face, our eyes would be securely fixed on Jesus.

Prayer focus

1. Please pray for the Centrepoint Houseparty over this weekend based at Carroty Wood and especially for Simon as he leads and Dan Boshoff as he speaks.
2. Give thanks for the arrival of Nic Ross and pray that as he settles into Sevenoaks he would, in his own words 'love Jesus more, love the church family and love the lost'.
3. Pray for the clear proclamation of God's word this Sunday through Matt at 9.15am and 11am [Exodus 4:18-31] and me at Lady Boswell's and 6.30pm [Matthew 13:24-43] that the effect would be that we all have our eyes fixed more securely on the Lord Jesus.

This Sunday at St Nicholas

Regarding Covid restrictions we are currently in a state of transition as we await the final decision from the Government and then the House of Bishops concerning what will be possible in church services from Sunday 25th July 2021. In the meantime, the arrangements for services at the St Nicholas Church building will be changing this Sunday as set out in this [short video](#). No seat booking will be required. If you are a bit apprehensive about being seated close to others it is perfectly acceptable to put a bag or coat on the seat next to you or to ask to be seated in a less busy part of the building. We want to be as caring and thoughtful towards each other as possible.

Currently you still need to reserve seats for the service at Lady Boswell's.

Home Groups, Summer Focus and Nurture Groups

It is likely that for many you will be meeting as a final time in your current evening Home Groups [please note that daytime women's groups continue as usual in September]. Thank you to all those who have led or hosted these groups in recent years. Over the summer, starting Tuesday 20th July 2021 we will be holding our Summer Focus meetings at the church building and the first speaker will be Jon Drury on Revelation 2:1-7.



St Nicholas Church

SEVENOAKS

Please pray as we seek to launch our new Nurture groups in the Autumn using the information that you have kindly provided.

Bishop of Rochester

Last weekend we said farewell to Bishop James whose visits we have greatly enjoyed over the years. The role of selecting a new bishop lies with the Crown Nominations Commission which will be meeting at the end of 2021. The Commission comprises 2 Archbishops, 6 members from General Synod and 6 from the diocese. The diocesan representatives include Gerry O'Brien and former curate Andrew McClellan. Please pray for wisdom in this process.

Creation Care

For those who were not able to access our services Sunday 27th June 2021 when we were focusing on issues relating to creation care you can listen to the sermons by Matt [[Romans 8:22-25](#)] and myself [[Colossians 1:15-20](#)].

Finally, a song and a prayer

I attended the annual Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast recently and the song '[Living Hope](#)' written by Phil Wickham was beautifully sung

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

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our 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