



Letter #78 Church Family email 06/08/2021

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” [John 14:23]

Whilst away on holiday I was reading Sinclair Ferguson’s recent book **‘Lessons from the Upper Room’** which carefully takes the reader through John 13-17. I was very struck by his comments on John 14:23 where he speaks of the Spirit’s distinctive ministry as a ‘homemaker’. *‘This is what the Spirit’s ministry is like. He not only enables us to feel at home with God (we will not feel orphaned) but transforms us so that we become men and women about whom the Father might say to the Son, “I feel at home there, don’t you?”’* The role of a homemaker can easily be disparaged within our society because it doesn’t have a financial label attached ... and yet within the Trinity this is the specific role of the Spirit – to be at work in our lives such that the Father and Son can feel at home in the lives of believers like us. Let us so work with the Spirit that both individually and together we might be a fit dwelling place for the Lord Jesus!

Prayer focus

1. Please pray Nic Ross our new curate as he preaches for the first time at St Nicholas both at the 8am Communion and then at the evening service on Psalm 92. His sermon last Sunday had to be postponed due to the need to self-isolate.
2. Please also pray for Tony Waghorn preaching at Lady Boswell’s that God would speak clearly and please pray for the team at Lady B’s whilst both John Khnana and Hannah Blake are having some well-deserved holiday that they would be sustained in setting up, livestreaming etc.
3. Pray for our various mission partners, especially for the Shepherd family as they prepare to leave for France for language training and for Kathryn Bowen as she prepares to join us on home assignment from her ministry in Thailand.

This Sunday at St Nicholas & Lady Boswell’s

As mentioned in the July letter we expect and recommend the wearing of face masks at all services, but we will have the opportunity of singing congregationally, with masks. Please follow the guidance of the church wardens and stewards on the day. We continue to offer livestreams for all our main services.

Summer Focus

Over the summer we will be holding our Summer Focus meetings at the church building. The next speaker this coming Tuesday 10th August is Andrew Coates on Revelation 2:18-29. The following Tuesday 17th August 2021 it is Matthew White on Revelation 3:1-6.



St Nicholas Church
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Gavin and Janet McGrath

Gavin will soon be returning from sabbatical to resume his ministry amongst us before retiring at the end of September. His last Sunday as Associate Rector will be Sunday 26th September 2021. Gavin will have served for over 9 years at St Nicholas and in this time many of us will have benefitted richly from his ministry in various ways. I am sure you will want to join with me in wishing Gavin and Janet every blessing for their retirement so please [click this link](#) to sign a farewell card for them and if you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please send your contribution to St Nicholas PCC General Fund Transactions Account, Sort Code 60-19-02 / Account number 23242469, reference GJMgift (signatures and contributions by Friday 24th September please).

Moving on: Matthew & Jemimah White

Matthew & Jemimah will be leaving us after the Contact Houseparty, but their final Sunday at StNics@LadyB's will be on 15th August. Please [click this link](#) to sign a farewell card for them and if you would like to show your appreciation by contributing to a leaving gift, please send your contribution to St Nicholas PCC General Fund Transactions Account, Sort Code 60-19-02 / Account number 23242469, reference MAGift (signatures and contributions by Friday 13th August please).

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song is by a group I've not come across before 'Joyful Noise' who have been writing during the lockdowns. This song is ['Jesus I will walk with you'](#)

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

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

Reach

Nurture

Equip

Send

To know Jesus and make Him known locally and globally