

Letter #80 Church Family email 02/09/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)*

With the summer holidays now over most of us are now looking forwards to getting into our familiar routines, even though still shaped by the effects of Covid. At the heart of our lives my prayer is that all that we do would be fuelled by our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In Zephaniah 3:17 we hear the extraordinary words

*“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”*

We need to let that truth sink into our souls that the Lord delights even in people such as us ... and then in response, we are encouraged to delight in Him. **Let's pray for ourselves, both individually and corporately, that as we experience the Lord's delight in us, we would delight in Christ.**

### **This Sunday at St Nicholas**

Together with the wardens we have taken the decision that we will need to continue to wear face coverings when we gather on Sundays. It has been wonderful to be able to sing God's praises together and though masks are not particularly convenient it is a simple way to express love for those around us. The livestreaming is continuing for those who are currently unable to return to our corporate gatherings. **Please pray this Sunday for the proclamation of God's word – Gavin is preaching on Revelation 21:1-8 at 9.15am; Matt is on John 6:1-15 at 11am and I will be on Matthew 11:1-15 at Lady Boswell's and the 6.30pm service. Please also be praying for sufficient children's leaders and helpers at our morning gatherings for the Autumn.**

### **Monthly Prayer Gatherings**

This Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm we will be holding four congregational prayer gatherings. See the website for the venues for each congregation [the evening congregation will be meeting on Zoom]. The prayer diary is available [here](#). **Let's pray that we would be dependant on the Lord in all that we do and that would be evidenced in the desire for many of us to gather to pray.**

### **Nurture Groups and daytime groups**

Our new Nurture Groups along with our existing daytime Bible study groups will all be starting very soon. All members of the new Nurture Groups should now know which group they are in. If for some reason this has not happened, please contact the Church Office or use our response form ([click here](#)). If you didn't respond to the invitation to join a Nurture Group earlier in the year but would now wish to do so, please feel able to be in touch as we would be delighted to make provision for everyone. Some groups will be eager to start meeting in person whilst other groups will initially wish to meet on Zoom. **Let's pray that each group would be marked by a deep devotion to the Lord and great love for one another.**

### **Afghan refugees**

I am sure that all our hearts have been moved by the plight of those fleeing Afghanistan. The churchwardens have very kindly initiated our response highlighting various ways in which we can support ministry amongst these refugees (see [here](#) for details). May I encourage us all to respond

generously. **Let's pray that, in the Lord's mercy, suffering might lead to an open door for the healing gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Gavin and Janet McGrath**

Gavin's last Sunday as Associate Rector will be Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021. 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 and if you wish to contribute to a leaving present, please send your gift to St Nicholas PCC General Fund Transactions Account, Sort Code 60-19-02 / Account number 23242469, reference GJMgift (signatures and contributions by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September please). **Please pray for Gavin and Janet concerning their future that they would know the Lord's peace and provision.**

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

The song this week is by Keith & Kristyn Getty - [Facing A Task Unfinished](#) which encourages us to be on our knees.

The prayer is the Collect for this week, the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity:

*Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay