

Letter #82 Church Family email 30/09/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing with thankfulness.**”*
(Colossians 2:6,7)

It's easy to notice that the apostle Paul generally starts his letters on a note of thanksgiving. That's certainly the case at Colossians 1:3. But what we may overlook is that thanksgiving is a major theme which runs through the whole letter – see 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 3:16; 3:17; 4:2. For Paul, thanksgiving is to be woven into the whole of the Christian life. Indeed, to change the metaphor, he is longing that there should be an overflow of thanksgiving as we consider God's goodness to us both in creation and salvation. And if you need a prompt to get you started go to Speak Life's latest [short video](#), which I'm sure will bring a smile to your face!

This Sunday at St Nicholas – Harvest!

This Sunday 3rd October 2021 is Harvest Sunday. As usual we will be seeking to support London City Mission's work amongst the homeless. It is simplest for LCM to handle if we provide financial assistance rather than consumables. If you can help, LCM have set up a [St Nicholas Donations Page](#) on their website.

Services this Sunday are as follows:

- 8am Communion – Angus MacLeay
- 9.15am All age service with baptism – Angus MacLeay [Genesis 1]
- 10am Lady Boswell's – John Khnana [Isaiah 17]
- 11am All age Lady Boswell Annual Service – Angus MacLeay [Genesis 1]
- 6.30pm Evening Service – Nic Ross [1 Corinthians 1]

The livestreaming is continuing at our main services for those who are currently unable to return to our corporate gatherings. **Please pray this Sunday for the Lord to give us thankful and joyful hearts as we celebrate His goodness together.**

Christianity Explored | Monday 4th October 2021 at 8pm online

Monday 4th October 2021, we start Christianity Explored online at 8pm. I would want to encourage everyone connected with St Nicholas to enrol on this really helpful course at some point in your time with us. Whether you have questions about the Christian faith or just want to remind yourself of the essentials it's a very accessible course. To register yourself and/or a friend visit the website [here](#).

Joint Church family Prayer gathering | Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 8pm online

Each month we gather to pray for the Lord's work. Last month we met congregationally – this month we gather together as one church family. It will be online at 8pm to enable as many as possible to join. The focus will be praying for the ministries which work across our individual congregations, and we will also be especially praying for **Hannah Jackson** as she prepares to be commissioned later in

the month before heading out to Tanzania in November to serve with Africa Inland Mission. Please join us. The Zoom details will be available from the website.

Staff news

It was good to be able to express our gratitude last Sunday to Gavin and Janet McGrath for the many years of service they have given to the Church family. **Please continue to remember them in prayer.** Last weekend also saw the ordination of our new curate, Nic Ross. During October Jamie Read takes on an Associate Rector role and he will be formally licenced by the Bishops of Tonbridge and Maidstone at 8pm Monday 18th October at St Nicholas. The service will also feature the licensing of our Youth and Children's Ministers, Cara, Hannah and Simon. **Please continue to pray for the whole staff team that their service of the Lord Jesus amongst us would be a joy.**

Tearfund

On the theme of Thanksgiving and Harvest, here is a [note of gratitude](#) from Tearfund relating to our Church link with the region in Kenya which was set up by Gordon and Pauline McKechnie and which ran for about 10 years. It's good to read several heart-warming testimonies which highlight the significant role which, through Tearfund, we were able to play.

Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child Sunday 17th October 2021

We would love to be able to run the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal once again. At present we still don't have anyone to coordinate it – we would be delighted to hear from you if you could assist. Please get in touch with the Church Office.

Just Ask | JD Greear

Many of us struggle with prayer. So, it can be helpful to turn to a resource which comes at things from a slightly fresh angle. This new book, published by the Good Book Company, is very accessible and provides plenty of encouragement for us to pray. I warmly commend it to you! Please get in touch with the St Nicholas Bookshop [here](#) to order your copy.

Finally, a song and a prayer

The song this week is '[Creation sings the Father's song](#)' by Stuart Townend and the Gettys and is particularly suitable for Harvest. This version features Stuart Townend singing.

The prayer this week is the Collect for Harvest:

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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