

## Letter #83 Church Family email 14/10/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)*

Autumn is here and the weather has turned a bit colder in recent weeks. Many of us will be digging out warmer clothes or extra layers from the wardrobe. Perhaps the next time we go for that extra layer as we venture out of the house, we might want to return to Colossians 3:12. Paul is encouraging us to clothe ourselves with layers of Christlikeness. So often our problems are due to a failure to clothe ourselves with compassion or patience. But as we remember the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which proclaims His compassion and patience towards us, perhaps that will be the encouragement we need to respond by wearing such beautifully tailored clothing which is always in fashion.

### This Sunday at St Nicholas

- **Hannah Jackson** will be commissioned at the 11am service in readiness for her departure to Tanzania with Africa Inland Mission in early November. She has served the church family wonderfully over the last year – Please [click this link](#) to sign a farewell card for her 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 Thursday 28th October at the latest please.
- **Please pray for the preachers this Sunday** – John Khnana continues the series in Isaiah at Lady Boswell's; I am preaching at 9.15am and 11am on Genesis 3 and Nic will be preaching from 1 Corinthians 2 in the evening. Pray for clarity and good application of these messages to our everyday lives.
- **Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child** will be launched this Sunday. It's a great opportunity for us to demonstrate the compassion of Christ in a tangible way with many around the world who are in great need. Shoeboxes will need to be brought back to the church building on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### Other highlights

- **Jamie Read's Licensing at 8pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021** - We are very much looking forward to Jamie's licensing by the Bishops of Maidstone and Tonbridge. It should also be livestreamed on the church website. On the same occasion Bishop Simon will also be licensing Cara Smith, Hannah Blake and Simon Heather in their respective ministries, providing us with stronger links with the Diocese.

- **Safeguarding** - Last week we showed the new Safeguarding video at all our main services. [It can be viewed here.](#)
- **Afghan Appeal** – Thank you to the wonderful generosity of the church family in raising about £12,000 for ministry amongst Afghan Refugees which is split between Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, Croydon Refugee Day Centre and Oldham Bethel Church. We are very much hoping that we can develop a partnership with Oldham Bethel who have an existing ministry amongst migrants. You can see their latest [prayer letter here](#) and a [short video from their pastor here.](#)

### **Deeper | Dane Ortlund**

Many of us will have encountered the author, Dane Ortlund, through his previous book, 'Gentle and lowly', so you will already know how helpful this new title is likely to be! He states, "The basic point of this book is that change is a matter of going deeper.... Growing in Christ is not centrally improving or adding or experiencing but deepening." I found this book warm, realistic and very encouraging. I commend it to you! Please get in touch with the [St Nicholas Bookshop](#) to order your copy.

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

'[I Will Trust You In The Darkness](#)' is a new song from Emu Music which may be an encouragement to those who are going through difficult days .

The prayer this week is the Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity:  
*O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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