

Letter #84 Church Family email 04/11/2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption." (Psalm 130:7 ESV)

The word that grabbed me as I was reading Psalm 130 in my devotions was 'plentiful'. About a month ago we were all struggling to find petrol or diesel for our cars – fuel was in very short supply, and we were queueing in the hope that we could fill up. What a contrast with our spiritual lives, where many of us are content to run on empty whilst supplies are readily available! Back in this Psalm we are reminded that even when we are experiencing the depths, there is a plentiful, abundant supply of the Lord's steadfast love and redemption available. Feeling empty and drained? Well, there's no shortage in the supply of God's grace in the Lord Jesus. It's time to be replenished and be filled afresh.

This Sunday at St Nicholas

- **Samaritan's Purse** – we'll be collecting Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child at all our services this Sunday. See the Samaritan's Purse website for details about how to take part.
- **Please pray for the preachers this Sunday** – Jamie Read is preaching on Psalm 113 at an all-age service at 9.15am whilst Matt Taylor will be returning to John 6 at the 11am all-age. I'm starting a new series in Judges 13-16 at Lady Boswell's and the evening service. Please pray for our preparations that the Lord would speak powerfully to bring life and spiritual growth.
- **Livestream Survey** – We would welcome your help as we think through how we should plan for the future provision of live streamed and recorded services. However, before we make any decisions, we thought we needed to seek a better understanding of who is currently accessing our live-streamed services and the recordings on YouTube and why they do so. Please take part in the survey by [clicking here](#).

Other highlights

- **Sunday 14th November at 3.30pm Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance at St Nicholas** – our annual service for those who have been bereaved in recent years, providing a short, reflective service to help us find comfort from the Lord together.
- **Saturday 20th November at 6.30pm Tearfund Quiz (5.45pm for pizza!) at St Nicholas and online** – Martin Laing has kindly provided details in this [video](#). I warmly commend this initiative. Why not gather folk from your Nurture Group to form a team? Watch Martin's short video to discover the special prize!
- **Sunday 21st November at 4pm 'Reach Out' at St Nicholas** – this meeting organised by John Khnana is to encourage each other across our congregations to reach out with the gospel.

- **Thursday 25th November at 8pm 'Engaging with Living in Love & Faith' online** – this is a Zoom webinar where we will be joined by Bishop Keith Sinclair, National Director of Church of England Evangelical Council. 'Living in Love & Faith' is the Church of England resource designed to consider various issues relating to human sexuality.

Finally, a song and a prayer

'Gentle and Lowly' is a new [song](#) inspired by the book, which Matt kindly brought to my attention.

The prayer this week is the Collect for the Third Sunday before Advent which is especially appropriate as we move into the season of Remembrance:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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