

Letter #8 Church Family 07/04/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him” Nahum 1:7*

I trust that you are finding these regular emails an encouragement to you, especially whilst we are not able to meet face to face. As usual I want to encourage us in God’s word and prayer and also through strengthening the bonds of our fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Encouragement from God’s Word

- i. Most of us are getting used to the St Nicholas website and accessing talks and services on the YouTube Channel. This week please look out for the daily devotional sessions led by Andrea and featuring Bible teaching on the servant Songs in Isaiah enabling us to focus on our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ii. For Monday’s session on Isaiah 42:1-4 by Angus please click [here](#).
- iii. For Tuesday’s session on Isaiah 49:1-6 by John Khnana please click [here](#).
- iv. For Wednesday’s session, available early tomorrow, on Isaiah 50:4-9 by Matt Taylor please click [here](#).
- v. Please look out for the Maundy Thursday quiet devotional service in which I will be preaching on Isaiah 52:13-53:6.
- vi. There will also be a livestream service on Good Friday at 10am for both the main St Nicholas congregations and also GC/4OC at which Gavin McGrath and John Khnana will be preaching respectively.
- vii. Easter Sunday is approaching. Matt has kindly designed a special invitation (click [here](#)). Why not send the invitation to some of your friends and neighbours so that they can hear the wonderful truth about Jesus’ resurrection.

2. Prayer

- i. Keep on praying each evening at 7:30pm. We’ve enjoyed meeting up with others on Zoom or FaceTime for a short meal together at 7pm followed by praying at 7:30pm for 5-10 minutes before finishing at 7:40pm.
- ii. Some of you will regularly pick up prayer material at church – not so easy when we can’t get in! So, if you click [here](#), you’ll find the latest prayer news from our mission partners StJohn and Ellie Perry in Malaysia.

3. Supporting each other

- i. Over recent weeks I am so grateful for the way in which so many people are caring for each other through texting, phoning and shopping. If you are aware of any people who are in particular need then please get in touch. We are especially concerned for those without internet access and those who need to rely on others to get food. We are also concerned for those in our community for whom lockdown presents issues for their personal safety and well-being.
- ii. A few months ago, at all our services we mentioned the Fellowship Fund. It’s only a small fund but it’s designed to assist the church family in cases of hardship. It’s run on a confidential basis but if you as a church member are in need please feel able to contact the chairman, Nigel Gavin (ngavinff@gmail.com). Having mentioned finances, we understand there is considerable financial need and uncertainty around. Clearly church finances are also affected. If you wish to give to sustain our

ministry at St Nicholas across all our congregations please feel able to contact Helen Leigh, our gift aid administrator, who will supply you with the necessary details (giftaid@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org).

As usual we finish with a song and a prayer.

The song is by Andrew Peterson '[Is He worthy?](#)' It's based on words from Revelation 5. Starting in an empty church it ends with the building full of light and praise and gives hope for our future.

The prayer is from Morning Prayer [Book of Common Prayer]:

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

To access the articles / items referred to in the letter, use the links below:

- [Click here](#) Monday's devotional on the first servant song in Isaiah
- [Click here](#) Tuesday's devotional on the second servant song in Isaiah
- [Click here](#) Wednesday's devotional on the third servant song in Isaiah
- [Click here](#) To view the Easter invitation
- [Click here](#) To see the Perry's latest prayer letter
- [Click here](#) To email Nigel Gavin about the Fellowship Fund
- [Click here](#) To email Helen Leigh about giving to the church finances
- [Click here](#) To listen to "Is he Worthy?" By Andrew Peterson

Church Family updates:

These letters will be sent via ChurchSuite and uploaded onto the website.

Please check your ChurchSuite Communication preferences to ensure you are registered to receive email updates.

The MyChurchSuite App is available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone/iPad](#) and is easy to download and use. We recommend that you use it to stay up to date with church communications especially at this time of uncertainty.

Contact the office if you need help with any of this (office@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org)