



Update Letter – Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear all,

This week sees the official end of the school term and the beginning of the Summer holidays. This brings mixed feelings for many I'm sure, the opportunity to go away on holiday as a family, although often with re-arranged plans. For many it will feel hardly different at all, for those on furlough or self-isolating – life

continues in lockdown normality and even the weather cannot be guaranteed. It feels like we as a Church are entering a slightly different season too, a time of pausing, resting, serving and preparing. There's quite a lot going on and this letter reflects that, there's quite a lot to update you on! Please take a moment to read and pray into what God is doing through all of this, because he is clearly at work.



Services in Church resuming

As I shared last week, I have been reflecting on our values here at St Andrew's and how we express them in our worship. In some of our thinking and planning about when we should resume Sunday worship in the Church building, our values of sung worship, fellowship and accessibility to all were particularly pertinent. Currently the rules state that services cannot have any singing and must be restricted in length, social interaction and number of people. We would not be able to provide children's groups or offer refreshments after the service.

The PCC have therefore decided that we will continue with our online services through the summer but are planning to start a simple 9am communion service from Sunday 6th September. There is still some planning and preparations to do before then and we will be in touch with more details as to how you might be able to help. We are also planning on conducting a simple survey in August to gauge the interest in such a service.



New Wine: United Breaks Out!

This year, the annual New Wine summer conference is going online and is being held from the evening of Thursday 30th July until the morning of Monday 3rd August. We would love to invite you to join us in partaking in what looks to be an excellent programme. New Wine have specifically decided to not fill the days too full but to focus on producing high quality content. We would love to invite you to join with your growth group in finding a time to gather together online and discuss some of what you've heard. There is a separate children's programme (United Kids) – see: <https://youtu.be/Jxkb7vtOuWk> - and youth programme for over 11s (Luminosity) as well. Check it out here: <https://www.weareluminosity.org/>

UNITED

Breaks Out



#UnitedBreaksOut
@NewWineEngland

**30 JULY -
3 AUGUST
2020**

NewWine

THURSDAY 30

Start

- 19.30 LUMINOSITY (YOUTH)
- 20.00 EVENING SESSIONS: ARENA & IMPACT
Worship, Teaching & Ministry
- 21.30 LUMINOSITY: YOUTH AFTER PARTY
- 21.00 LOCAL CHURCH: AFTER HOURS

MONDAY 3

- 09.00 UNITED KIDS & LUMINOSITY (YOUTH)
- 11.00 MORNING SESSIONS: ARENA & IMPACT
Worship, Teaching & Ministry

Finish

FRIDAY 31 SATURDAY 1 SUNDAY 2

- 09.00 UNITED KIDS & LUMINOSITY (YOUTH)
- 11.00 MORNING SESSIONS: ARENA & IMPACT
Worship, Teaching & Ministry
- 13.30 SEMINARS & LUMINOSITY WORKSHOPS (YOUTH)
- 15.00 STOMPING GROUND
Family Games & Challenges
- 16.00 WEBINARS / SOFA SESSIONS
- 19.30 LUMINOSITY (YOUTH)
- 20.00 EVENING SESSIONS: ARENA & IMPACT
Worship, Teaching & Ministry
- 21.30 LUMINOSITY: YOUTH AFTER PARTY
- 21.00 LOCAL CHURCH: AFTER HOURS

The full timetable is attached to this letter but a couple of things to note: the main morning sessions are split into two 'venues', Arena and Impact which will both have worship and a talk: Friday, Saturday and Monday mornings will form a series

with **Pete Hughes** in Arena speaking on Anxiety and **Bishop Jill Duff** in Impact speaking on Nehemiah. On **Sunday** morning, we won't be having our usual online service but will instead be streaming the service from New Wine at 11am.

We are going to meet for coffee on Zoom from 10:30-11am. The evening celebrations all feature different speakers – I'd recommend Miriam Swanson, Jo Saxton and Paul Harcourt/Justin Welby, but they'll all be good.

There is a full series of seminars in the afternoons and you can either follow a series or jump around. Check out the full programme for more details. For children and families, 'stomping ground' will be fun interactive games and activities at 3pm each afternoon.

The encouragement is that within your Growth Group that you might want to link into the 'After Hours' evening sessions, (or hold your own) so you can discuss what's been shared in the day and pray together. You may want to watch a session or seminar together and discuss and pray together.

We will be holding a Church-wide Zoom session on Sunday morning at 10:30-11am (before we join the 11am-12:15pm session) and again on Monday at 12:30pm over lunch – grab a sandwich and we'll gather for a catch up, reflection and discussion. Contact us for the Zoom link.

If you've got any questions, please let me know – there will be more information on the United breaks out website: <https://www.new-wine.org/breaksout>

Summer Breakfast Packs Project

I shared in some detail last week the plans we have to serve a small number of vulnerable families in the local area through our summer breakfast packs project. Thank you to all of you who have given so generously towards it or offered your help to volunteer.

Pam would still like to hear from you if you can help out with the shopping (Mondays from 7:30am at ALDI), packing (Mondays from 9:30am in the Hall) and distribution (Tuesdays from 10am-12pm in the Hall). Please contact us if you are able to help on any of these sessions. The project goes live on Monday 20th July.

If you would still like to give financially, the best way to do that is through our online fund here:

JustGiving™

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/standrewssg-covid19 otherwise please mark any gifts clearly as for the project. We are also looking for some spare plastic bags – preferably bags for life – to pack the food into. These can be left in the blue recycling bin next to the hall.

The Prayer Garden



We have created a space for anyone who would like to come and pray, remember or be thankful in this challenging season.

Everyone is welcome - please remember to socially distance and be respectful of others (plus you'll need to bring your own biro).

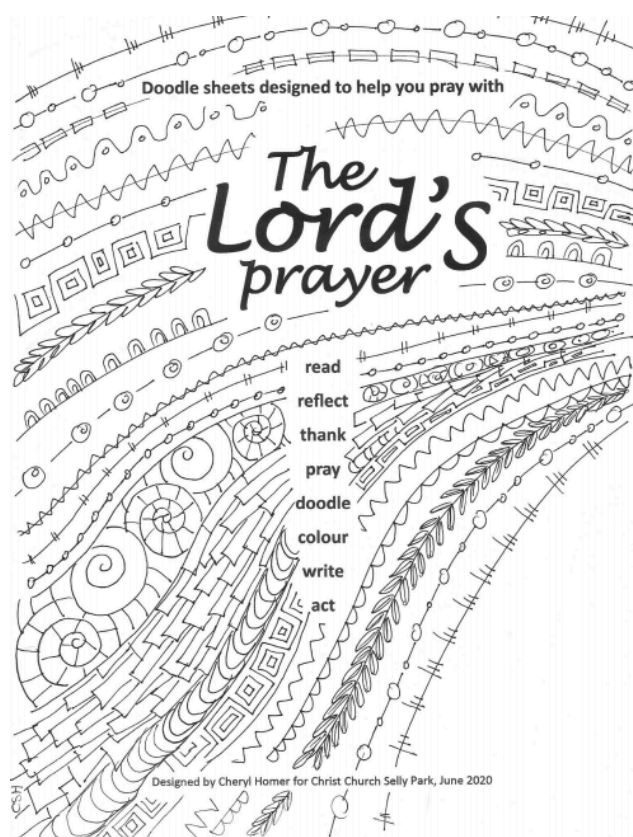
Special thanks to Sarah and Nat for much hard work they have put into it!

Colouring project

Many of us have been praying the Lord's prayer each day at midday and we have come across this resource based on it from Cheryl Homer (thanks Nicola). It is a series of A4 pages to doodle on, reflect and pray suitable for all ages. We'd love you to use them over the coming weeks and send us your best ones so we can share them with the wider Church, possibly print some out and send an encouragement back to Cheryl. If you'd like a copy emailed or sent to you, please let us know.

Gardening

We can't arrange a group gathering to do gardening in the front garden but we'd love it if anyone could spare some time to trim some of the bushes or do some weeding. There's a brown bin round the back by the hall.



Bible readings for August: Please find these attached.

Quick notices!

1. Church prayer meeting – Tuesday 21st July 8pm on Zoom: Contact us for the Zoom code. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th August at 8pm.
2. Sunday morning coffee this week (19th July) – on Zoom: Contact us for the Zoom code
3. NO TUESDAY COMMUNION services on 21st or 28th July – they will resume on 4th August. There will however be communion this Sunday 19th July.
4. AND FINALLY: Joint City service – Sunday 26th July 6:15pm – on Facebook



Stoke-on-Trent 
CITY CELEBRATION

Sunday 26 July 6.15pm

Virtual event only - please visit:
facebook.com/swanbank
youtube.com/swanbank


Speaker - Pastor Ian Brayshaw
(Hope Community Church)

**"The valley of
dry bones"**
- Ezekiel 37:1-11


Worship - Adrian & Esther Stone
(Trentham Parish Church)

For more information contact
robert@city-vision.org.uk

hosted by Swanbank Church with Adrian and Esther from Trentham doing worship and Ian Brayshaw from Hope Community Church speaking (plus our own Rachael Dabbs doing the reading!)

Thanks for reading all the way to the end! Please know that we are praying for you,

James and Zara
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Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 10:30am: Morning
Worship

To watch live, go to Facebook:
www.facebook.com/standrewssg
Catch up on our YouTube Channel:
[St Andrew's Sneyd Green](https://www.youtube.com/standrewssneydgreen)
Details and news on our website:
www.standrewssneydgreen.com