



Update Letter – Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear all,

I do hope that you are keeping well. Since I last wrote, Boris Johnson has begun to explain his plan for the country to begin easing the lockdown restrictions. This will be a slow journey but, in the meantime, for many of us, life continues in lockdown. We are beginning to think about Church in the months ahead but I'm cautious about setting expectations too early, I suspect we won't be meeting in the building in a normal way for some time yet. So for now, we must keep going as we are, with written and online resources to keep us connected, maintaining regular contact with each other and knowing that this will end eventually and we will be able to be together physically once again.

I want to share a short Bible passage from Luke 6:46-49:

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."



This is in Luke's recounting of the sermon on the mount. Jesus here is speaking to those who have come to hear him, who have been following him but who don't have integrity in that decision. He is calling out their decision to follow him without actually changing the way that they live – putting into practice the words that he speaks. He even suggests that the man might build a very nice house on the sand, he may even live in it quite happily for a time, but because there's no foundations, it will be blown away when the storm comes. I wonder if we need to dig down and re-establish our foundations in Jesus. Are we building on his words or our own? Do we have words of scripture, encounters in prayer, passionate worship as the building blocks in our life? I know at times, I have to check the foundations are strong in my own life – and allow him to shine a light on the cracks or holes that need some attention. I pray for you as Jesus does this for you too.



THY KINGDOM COME

The annual season of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost begins this week, Thursday 21st May is Ascension Day and Sunday 31st May is Pentecost Sunday. There's a number of ways to get involved both online and with printed resources plus we will be hosting various services and opportunities to pray too.

- **Daily** thought for the day – 8am on our Facebook page: just 3-4 minutes thinking about a verse of scripture and praying together – from Thursday.
- **Thursday 21st May** – 8pm: Ascension Day Communion Service (after the clap)
- **Sunday 24th May** – 10:30am: Sunday service live on Facebook
- **Tuesday 26th May** – 8pm: Church prayer meeting on Zoom (see below)
- **Thursday 28th May** – 8pm: Communion Service (after the clap)
- **Sunday 31st May** – 10:30am: Special Pentecost Communion Service
- **Sunday 31st May** – 6:15pm: City Celebration service shared with Swan Bank Church (on Facebook)

Resources:

- Daily Prayer App – including audio: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/thy-kingdom-come>
- Prayer Journal – downloadable versions: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/key-resources-2020>
- FOR FAMILIES: The family prayer adventure map – interactive app, downloads and podcasts: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/digital-family-prayer-adventure-map>

THY KINGDOM COME

North Staffs United Christian Service
Sunday 31 May 6.15pm



Host:
Robert Mountford



Speaker:
Rev Kathryn Stephens



Worship leader:
Sam Taylor

With input from other local Christian leaders

All welcome. Please note, this is an online event only, provided by Swanbank Methodist Church via its Facebook and YouTube channels

www.facebook.com/swanbank
www.youtube.com/swanbank







Strengthening Our Communities



DYLAN IS BACK!

With thanks to Phil, we are bringing you a series of Bible stories told by Dylan the Donkey and Phil (plus jokes!) – aimed at Primary aged children – check out our Facebook page and do share with those who might enjoy them!



PHOTOS

Last Sunday we invited people to send in pictures of what you've been up to in lockdown to share with the rest of the Church – we are going to try and do this each week so keep your pictures coming!

ZOOM ISSUES

Unfortunately we also fell foul to the national issues that Zoom were having on Sunday (I saw a headline that suggested that 'The Church broke Zoom' because it happened on a Sunday morning!) I think they have sorted their issues out so we will try and again this week. Please join us from 11:45am-12:30pm for an opportunity to catch up and have fellowship together. If you are new to Zoom, it is quite easy and safe to install and use – go to <https://zoom.us/> for more information. Contact us for the link.



TUESDAY PRAYER

We will be gathering to pray on Zoom on Tuesday 26th May from 8-9pm – everyone is welcome, please contact us for the link.

Please let us know any specific prayer requests you'd like us to pray for.

If you have any questions regarding Zoom and how to use it, please do be in touch.

COMMUNICATION

Many of you will be on our email postal distribution lists – if you're aware of anyone we've not been in touch with, please let us know so we can include them in future.

We have also set up a texting service so please let us know if you want to be on that list too – we will only text you once or twice a week and you can be removed from the list at any time. You can text me if you want to be included.

Please know that we are praying for you,

James and Zara

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Services at St Andrew's

Sundays at 10:30am: Morning Worship
Thursdays at 8pm: Holy Communion



To watch live, go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/standrewssg

Catch up on our YouTube Channel: [St Andrew's Sneyd Green](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Full details and news on our website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com
