



Update Letter – Wednesday 19th August 2020

Dear all,

I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the summer sunshine inbetween some amazing storms recently – we've enjoyed a bit of time away and are away again this week camping so we pray for not too many thunderstorms! We are reminded in storms as well as in sunshine of the power of God, his authority and majesty.



I've become aware recently of a number of people struggling with mental health issues at the moment. Jesus invites us to know that in times of anxiety or darkness that he is with us. Jesus doesn't says that anxiety will never afflict us, but he does say "Do not fear". Jesus doesn't say that we won't wake up feeling low, but he does say that we can experience a 'full measure' of joy in him. If this is you, know that Jesus is with you and that he longs

for you to cry out to him. Please be in touch with any of the team if you would like a chat, we'd be delighted to pray with you.

Services in Church resuming

All of our plans for our first service in Church on 6th September are going well. You will find a detailed document attached to this letter with all the practical details of what this will look like. Sadly we will have a limit of 20 households in the building (not including the service team or me) so if possible, please contact us if you are planning on attending using the office email address: office@standrewssneydgreen.com. We understand that this is going to be unsettling for many but we're looking forward to gathering physically again, please do be in touch with Sue, Rob or myself if you have any concerns or questions.



A reminder that a cleaning morning has been arranged for **Tuesday 1st September** at 9:30am coordinated by Jenny Plimer. If you could help out, please contact Jenny. Please note that we are not planning to stop our 10:30am online service and there will be some extra online provision aimed specifically at Children and families coming as well. Please do pray for us in this season as we move to physical services in the building alongside continuing the online services too.

Quick notices

1. **Sunday morning coffee** after the service each week is going to be hosted by Sue while we're away. Contact us for the Zoom codes.
2. Our next two-weekly **Church prayer meeting** is on Tuesday 1st September at 8pm where we'll be praying specifically for schools and all those returning to education settings. Contact us for the Zoom codes.
3. **NO Tuesday Communion service** on 25th August but it'll be back on September 1st at 12pm – everyone is welcome.
4. **James & Zara** are on holiday between 20th and 31st August.

With every blessing,

James and Zara
Vicarage: 01782 363531
Mobile: 07579 795328
james@standrewssneydgreen.com

Online Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 10:30am: Morning Worship

Tuesday 12:00pm: Holy Communion

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/channel/UCStAndrewsSneydGreen)

Details and news on our website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com



Opening the building - Returning to Worship at St Andrew's

We love welcoming people to St Andrew's! During the pandemic, we have been grateful for the community we have shared online and through contact with the congregation. We have now decided to start a short 9am service back in the building from September 6th. The decision to open our buildings is dependent on the restrictions and guidelines set out by the government and Church of England. We have had to take a number of precautions to ensure we keep everyone safe.

For everyone's safety, it is vital that these guidelines are followed:

- Please *do not attend* if you currently have any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, a new continuous cough, or changes to your smell or taste). If you have any of these symptoms you must get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible, and immediately self-isolate.
- We want to be a community where Children are always welcome however we are currently unable to provide separate provision for Children and young people as part of our services in the building. Should Parents/guardians wish to bring Children, they must be responsible for supervising them and ensure they are able to follow hygiene and social distancing precautions. Please be in touch if you have any concerns about this.
- We recognise that there are some in our church community who are at particular risk and especially vulnerable. In considering attending please seek relevant government and medical advice, as well as the wisdom of family and friends. For those not currently able to attend we will continue to do all that we can to include you in other ways, eg. online church, posted resources, phone calls etc.
- We are required to take the names and phone number of everyone who attends the building and keep this information to enable contact tracing by the NHS if necessary. The records will be kept securely and destroyed after 21 days. If you become ill after the event, you must contact NHS track and trace to advise them that you have attended worship at St Andrew's.

What will coming to Church look like?

- 1. ARRIVING.** We would ask that you do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the service is due to begin. There will be a socially distanced queuing system outside the main door. We will have some plastic chairs available for those unable to stand for long periods of time.
- 2. ENTRY.** Immediately on entry to the building you will be asked to sanitise your hands. We will then ask your name and check your contact details. If we already have them, you will not need to give your contact details again.
- 3. FACE COVERINGS.** Current guidance is that face coverings should be worn by people attending a church service – a similar arrangement to public transport and shops. Some exemptions apply, but we are legally obligated to ask you to wear a suitable face covering when inside the church. Please bring your own but there will be some available for those who may forget. James is exempt from wearing a mask when leading the service which will enable those who need to lipread the ability to do so – he will also have a microphone.
- 4. COLLECTION.** You'll have an opportunity to give as you enter the church building using via the collection plate by the door. If you would prefer to give online, please go to our website www.standrewssneydgreen.com or contact us.
- 5. ONE-WAY SYSTEM.** We will be operating a one-way system throughout the building. We are using the main door to enter and moving to the front of the building to exit through the side door via the Little Seedlings room. The only exceptions will be the service team each week. There will be clear signage and we will make sure you know where to go.
- 6. SEATING.** You will be directed to your seat, as will fill up from the front. At all times please maintain two metres social distance from anyone who is not in your household. The seats are in groups of three however if your household is more than that, we will be able to accommodate you sitting together if you contact us in advance. We ask that you remain in your seat during the service, unless instructed otherwise by the service team.
- 7. BOOKS AND BIBLES.** Each chair will have a red service book placed on it and there are Bibles in the back of the seats as usual. Please return each book to the seat/pocket after use. The building will be quarantined for a minimum of 48 hours after each service.
- 8. COMMUNION.** Each week we will have communion available however, in accordance with Church of England guidelines, only wafers will be distributed to the congregation. James will come to your seat to administer communion. You are welcome to stand, kneel or remain seated. For communion, James will wear a mask and you are permitted to remove yours. He will also sanitise his hands before and after the distribution.
- 9. TOILETS.** The toilets in Church are available, preferably before or after the service. If you need to use the toilet then please speak to a member of the Team who will direct you – following the one-way system. If you feel unwell at any point during worship, please

advise a member of the team, leave the building as quickly as possible and seek medical advice.

10. LEAVING. At the end of the service we will guide people as to how best to leave using the side-door. Each person/household will be asked to sanitise their hands again on leaving.

We are looking forward to gathering a small number physically each week for a service in the building however, our current capacity is just 20 households. If more than 20 turn up we will sadly have to turn people away. It would therefore be really useful if you haven't done so already to let us know if you plan to attend on September 6th and on subsequent weeks. We are continuing with our online worship at 10:30am each week as well.

In these difficult and confusing times, things are going to look and feel very different. Please know that we are still the body of Christ and he hold us together even as we worship in different places and in different ways. Please be in touch with any questions, concerns or just for a chat.

James and Zara