



**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Dear all,

This weekend is an exciting one for us as a church, as we gather on Sunday on the feast of Pentecost to look back to the year past and rejoice for God's blessings. Please do join us for the APCM which is at 9:45am in church and on Zoom (more details below).

I am feeling a great sense of this being a season of re-birth, of something new is being given to us for this time, as we emerge and unfurl like a flower in spring. I'm expectant and hopeful, I'm encouraged by the words and pictures that came out of our prayer week, by the confirmations of what I have felt God say and by some of the thinking and planning going on at the moment. However this isn't a season to sit and watch, or to let other people go first and watch what happens.

**'Going to church every week doesn't necessarily make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car!'**



I have heard this quote a number of times before, I'm not sure who first coined it and for us, the reality is that very few have been 'going to church' over the past few weeks and months. But I want to encourage you, that as you join with us online each week, if you come to the 9am service in the building, or even as you join the community in prayer and fellowship simply by reading this and keeping in touch over the phone, we are the body of Christ – as we commit to each other, to prayerfully supporting and connecting with each other, we are expressing our fellowship and determination to follow Jesus rather than stand in a garage.

As we celebrate Pentecost this Sunday and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit, and recognise our need for God afresh again, may we be stirred into action, not passivity. May we be a people passionately connecting with one another so that as a body, together

made up of many parts, we can see God's kingdom come in Sneyd Green, bringing transformation and healing.

Our Annual meeting on Sunday will tell of the year gone by, remembering the challenges we have faced in meeting together, reaching out and sharing the Good news with others – as we emerge from lockdown, for those of you who have felt trapped, hindered and unable to express your faith, let us ACT, step out, empowered by the Spirit so that next years' report will be different!

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### City Call to Prayer

It has been a great joy to gather and pray with others across the city monthly since November, our next occasion to do so is tonight, 20th May at 8pm on Zoom. The link:

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5844886699> ID: 5844886699 - no passcode is required.

## A CALL TO PRAYER

An opportunity to join with Christians from across North Staffordshire to pray together for our communities, conurbation and nation

Thursday 20 May 8.00pm - 9.00pm

Zoom : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5844886699>

Meeting ID: 584 488 6699

***'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven'***

*(Matthew 6 v 10)*

Organised by Saltbox and City Vision Ministries with help and support from North Staffs Christian leaders

CITY VISION  
MINISTRIES

SALTBOX  
Strengthening Our Communities



### This Sunday

We are cramming a lot into Pentecost this year!

9am Holy Communion in Church – as usual, please follow the Covid guidance.

9:45am Church Annual Meeting in Church and on Zoom – let us know if you're coming to the building, or log

on to Zoom: contact us for the code.

You should have had the reports and agendas sent to you last week, they are attached again. We won't be hearing verbal reports in the meeting so please make sure you read them and let us know in advance where possible if you have any questions.



**10:45am Online service** – join us on Facebook. Note there won't be a Zoom coffee after this service this week.

**2pm National Prayer gathering** – on Facebook. I heard Jonathan Oloyede share his heart for this at the New Wine Leaders Conference in March and felt that we should join in. Over 38,000 individuals and churches are signed up. At the 2.00 pm online event, we will be using the word C.H.U.R.C.H as the basis for our prayers. Even if you can't make it online, please allow these prompts to lead your prayers.



**C - Covid.** Today, in England, lockdown restrictions are easing with hugs and indoor meetings but for many, the pandemic is far from over. We are going to stand in faith for those who are still very much feeling the effects of the virus, including those communities where the Indian variant is on the rise, such as Bolton, Bedford and some parts of London.

**H - Healing.** The healing we want to pray for exists in many forms, but ultimately we are asking for God to bring His healing and peace which goes beyond all human understanding.

**U - Unity.** Pentecost was about the disciples being together #InOneAccord. We pray for the unity of the church at the national, regional, and local level. How might God use His church in this nation and in our communities more when we unite?

**R - Repentance.** What does the church need to come and repent of as we move forward? In one of our recent 7.00pm prayer meetings, Paul Harcourt, the National Leader of New Wine England spoke about the sin of racism.

**C - Communities.** During the early stages of the pandemic, 74% of people said they knew and were actively serving their neighbour. We are going to pray that we would not stop being those Ambassadors of Hope in our communities, asking for God's guidance as we continue to see what is going on around us.

**H - Holy Spirit revival.** We are going to ask God to fall afresh on us as individuals but also as a church so that we can be sent out to GO!

To join in on Sunday, head to Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ndopw/live](https://www.facebook.com/ndopw/live) and I will try to link to it from our Facebook page too. Alternatively, you can watch on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/nationaldayofprayerandworship](https://www.youtube.com/nationaldayofprayerandworship)

## The Star Café

We're thrilled to announce further details about the café we are planning to open on the Front lawn in June – we have not yet confirmed the exact opening times because this relies on a volunteer team coming forward to help. You will have received an email yesterday from Sue with a survey asking your availability, please do take a look or speak to Pam Littler, Lynn Proudlove or Steve Ellis for more details. We're so excited at the prospect of serving our local community in this way.

## Gardening

We are looking for some volunteers to offer to give us a hand keeping our front garden tidy and looking smart. Are you green-fingered? Have you got some time to spare to give the garden a trim and a weed? If so, please be in touch with Natalie MacGregor.

## Food collection

Quick reminder to bring any donations of long-life food items to the hall each Thursday from 10-11am and if you are in need or know others who need a food parcel, do please be in touch with Pam, Sue or James.

As always, please know that I am praying for you at this time – do be in touch, I love hearing from you,

James

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YouTube: [St Andrew's Sneyd Green](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewsSneydGreen)

Website: [www.standrewssneydgreen.com](http://www.standrewssneydgreen.com)

# The Star

COMMUNITY CAFE

WEEKDAY MORNINGS

OPENING JUNE 2021

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
SNEYD STREET, SNEYD GREEN

