



Wednesday 4th November 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

I don't often start a letter like that, but we want you to know of the love and affection we hold you with and just how sad we are at the current state of events. As humans we are designed for community, for fellowship, for physical relationships and at the moment much of that just isn't possible.



Our desires for these things are not to do with our fallen natures in fact quite the opposite they are because we reflect the very nature of God. Our God is three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living perfect in the company and communion of each part of the God Head. So if like me, there are times when you want to hibernate like a hedgehog until this is over, remember a lot of your sadness, even depression is because you are reflecting Jesus.

On Sunday as the 9am service finished both James and I felt quite emotional. No

matter how odd sitting physically distanced, not socialising and wearing a mask is, being together and sharing communion has brought us much comfort and hope since we restarted services in the building in September. As followers of Christ, we are called to obey our laws, and we will do just that and so we will not be meeting together physically at 9am on a Sunday for the time being.

However, it is important to remember, it is not all 'doom and gloom'. We worship a God of miracles and *when we can't look forward with confidence we look up with hope*. I was thrilled to read a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York calling for a month of prayer in November. As a church community, let us join with Christians all over our nation and pray.

I was trying to think of a time when there was such hopelessness and despair and I found myself reflecting on World War II. Before the D-Day landings on 6th June King George VI called the nation to a day of prayer. People had endured 5 years of war and extreme hardship and to be honest the future still looked bleak. The King in his address shared that the Queen finds '*fresh strength and comfort in such waiting upon God.*' King George knew at that time that only God could bring an end to the evil Nazi regime.

Right now, only God can bring an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. A lockdown might help decrease cases but it won't get rid of the virus. We know the God of miracles, the best doctor, the true healer and the only one who can save our nation at this time: Jesus. This is what King George said in his address:

“At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young, or too old to play a part in a nation-wide, perchance a world-wide, vigil of prayer as the great crusade sets forth. If from every place of worship, from home and factory, from men and women of all ages and many races and occupations, our intercessions rise, then, please God, both now and in a future not remote, the predictions of an ancient Psalm may be fulfilled: “The Lord will give strength unto his people: the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace.”

Please join us as a church community in making November a month of prayer. Let us call upon the name of the Lord, let us seek his face and ask him to heal our land and our world. Let us stamp on the enemies plans to stop us meeting together and living out our God given desires for community. Jesus said we could do *‘greater things than He’*. So let us



call an end to Covid 19 and try and cling to that glimmer of hope that maybe, just maybe we can celebrate the birth of our Saviour and redeemer in the way both He and we would desire.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18

As always please don't hesitate to be in touch with us at the vicarage, whether for a chat or for a particular need. We miss you, are praying for you and long for the day we can be together again.

Blessings,

Zara



Let's pray!

As we enter this season of prayer for our nation, we are providing you with some resources and spaces to pray.

1. We will be sending out a booklet of prayer resources and readings leading up to Christmas, we hope it will inspire and encourage you in your personal devotions.
2. We would like to encourage the Growth Groups that are meeting to spend some time this month praying together – focussed on the needs of the nation at this time.
3. The Archbishop's have suggested that we dedicate the four Thursdays in November to prayer and fasting and would like to invite you to join us in whatever way you feel able in that.

Morning prayer

We will start the day with a short service of morning prayer streamed live on Facebook from the church building at 8:30am (approximately 10 minutes). This will be liturgical but informal and will include a brief thought for the day ahead.

Church Open

The Church will be open for three hours to facilitate a time for *private prayer*

from 9am-12pm. No collective worship or prayer is allowed sadly and we can only speak or pray with people on a one-to-one basis outside. We will produce a pack of resources and activities to aid prayer.

Fasting

You are invited to fast either 8pm Wed - 8pm Thu or 8am-8pm on Thursdays. We would encourage this to be food where possible to allow that space to be a place of

**MORNING PRAYER 8:30AM
LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE
PRAYER 9AM-12PM**

**PRAYER MEETING 7PM &
COMMUNION 8PM BOTH ON
ZOOM**

**INVITATION TO FAST 8PM
WED - 8PM THU**



Day of prayer and fasting

encounter with God in prayer. We are conscious that many will be working during the day but we would encourage you to consider how this might look for you.

Prayer meeting and communion

We will gather on *Zoom* to pray from 7-8pm and then break our fast together with a brief communion service at 8pm. Next week the 12th November, there will be a city-wide Zoom prayer meeting as part of this call to prayer and fasting – exact details are still to be confirmed. We would also like to invite everyone to place a candle in your window (safely) during that meeting as a sign of light of Jesus shining out in our dark world. Contact us for the login code.

What will stop

We have felt that during this time both the Tuesday lunchtime communion services and two-weekly prayer meetings will not continue for the time being.

Remembrance 2020

Please do join me for a service of Remembrance on Wednesday 11th November at 10:50am live on Facebook and don't forget to visit our poppy garden if you have an opportunity.

Sundays

Sadly due to the new lockdown restrictions, we are no longer able to hold our 9am service in the building each week, however our 10:30am service will continue to be streamed on Facebook.

Please stay in touch and know that we are praying for you all at this time,

James and Zara

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Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 10:30am: Morning Worship ONLINE

Thursday 8:30am: Morning Prayer ONLINE

Thursday 7pm/8pm: Prayer time and Communion ON ZOOM

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewssg

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

Website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com

