



Update Letter – Saturday 20th June 2020

Dear all,

Much has been said and shared about the recent protests and anti-racism campaign on the news and in Churches in recent weeks, and I wanted to share a little bit of what I feel God has been saying in all of this.

1. **Racism matters** – and it's still happening in our society and in our hearts. Although the exposition of it doesn't have the prominence in this country as it does in the USA for example, it is embedded in our history and culture. For many of my friends and colleagues who are from a BAME background, this is something they have to live with day by day. Racism is experienced locally and regularly and it's really important that we recognise that and talk about it.
2. **History is important** – and an understanding of our history is really important for us to build a healthy and hope-filled society together. Having grown up in two post-colonial countries in Central and East Africa, I have seen the benefits as well as the damage and hurt that Western nations brought upon countries all over the world, but there is still more to learn about our past and the implications of actions taken hundreds of years ago. Many of you know that I grieve deeply and pray regularly for the nation of Congo where I was born and where civil war continues, often forgotten by the western media.
As we study our history, many famous and well-respected people have been involved in racist behaviour. These people often contributed significantly for the benefit of our nation, and many loved God. Whilst I strongly disagree with slavery and racism, it's important to remember the good many of these people did as well the bad.
3. **Jesus calls us to stand up against injustice** – in every area of life. Those who are discriminated against for being female, gay or poor, matter to Jesus and therefore they should matter to His Church. Racism is something that Christians should have a voice about too – we are called to represent Jesus and speak his truth and love into situations we see around us.
4. **Faith without works is dead** – and therefore statements of support or Facebook posts are not enough, we need to act and actually push for change. This might be on a macro societal level by joining campaigns or lobbying those in leadership but it may be on a micro level by engaging in conversation with somebody from the BAME community, doing some research into this issue or donating to an anti-racism cause/charity.



5. **This is a Spiritual battle** – and we have to stand and fight in that battle! Racism and the outworking of racism is an evil in the world that we must pray against, knowing that God has power to change things. We do not fight against the flesh and blood but against the powers and principalities of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, we are engaging in a spiritual battle won through prayer.

God created the world incredibly diverse in its beauty, if it's not diverse, it is less beautiful. The Church needs to look as much like it will in heaven, and part of our job in being the bride of Christ is representing that. Please join me in that fight.

FAMILY LIFE

Thanks to all of those who have sent in pictures of yourselves for us to show as part of our Sunday services. Don't forget that tomorrow, the theme is 'animals'. Next week we will have a theme of 'food'. Please do send in pictures of you and your household and what you've been up to in lockdown!

THANKS

Thank you to all of you who have continued to give financially to the Church at this time, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of so many even as jobs are no longer as secure. We have not seen the dramatic fall in income that we might have but our giving is down and our hall rental income has stopped too. If you have not been able to give but would like to, we are happy to receive money paid online or cheques in the post. More details on how to give can be found on our Website here: www.standrewsneydgreen.com/giving We would also like to model generosity at this time especially to those in need, so please give what you can. We fully appreciate that for some, this is a time of particular financial struggle, if you are in need or would like some advice or support, please get in touch.

ALPHA

Please do keep praying for those who have signed up and if you would like to follow the course videos each week, they are going up on our Facebook page and website.

ZOOM COFFEE

The Zoom meeting link for coffee time after Church is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89651010277> . Please just get in touch for the password.



TUESDAY LUNCHTIME COMMUNION

Join us for a short weekly communion service each Tuesday lunch-time, live on Facebook from 12pm. This is a simple, brief liturgical service lasting for half an hour.

TUESDAY PRAYER

The Zoom meeting link for our prayer meeting on Tuesday 23rd June from 8-9pm is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194772359>. Please just get in touch for the password. Let us know any specific prayer requests you'd like us to pray for. All welcome!

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

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

Tuesdays at 12pm: 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
