



Thursday 11th March 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Zara and I want to begin by expressing our deepest gratitude to you all for your generosity, care and prayers over this last month. The arrival of our third musketeer has been a time of great joy and celebration and we are loving being a family of five. My paternity leave was a huge blessing and we really valued the time we had together. I want to express my thanks to the wardens and to Sue for keeping everything happening plus to John and others for making the Sunday services happen in my absence. We have also been overwhelmed by the number of cards, gifts and meals which have made their way to our door plus the extremely generous gift following the collection organised by Rob, Martyn, Pam and Sue. We are touched and humbled to be a part of such a loving family here at St Andrew's. Below is an updated picture of our happy family – Emmanuel is doing well and already feels heavier to me, Sam and Theo love having a little brother and are also doing well.



I want to acknowledge a couple of important moments in the weeks ahead and let you know some of the ways we plan to mark them. This Sunday 14th March is mothering Sunday which is a day which we remember, celebrate and thank our mothers, and indeed all those mother figures in our lives. If you remember, it was mothering Sunday last year which was our first Sunday where we were unable to be together in Church. For many of us, as was true so starkly last year, we may not be able to be with our mothers or indeed attend our 'mother church' as the tradition invites us to. This year, that separation is all too familiar although no less difficult. Join us if you can on Sunday as we spend time reflecting on all that our Mothers mean to us.

This reminder leads me to note the 23rd March 2021, which is the 12-month anniversary of the first lockdown announced by the prime minister as Coronavirus began to spread across the country. The Church of England are partnering with Marie Curie and 'Hope together' to facilitate a day of reflection and we will be offering the opportunity to come and pray in the prayer garden on the front lawn and I will do a short midday service online.

Below are plenty of other things to note in your diary or otherwise, our Easter services plus the resumption of in-person services in church from Sunday 11th April and even a church mouse to try and spot!

We are in a season of waiting, of darkness and of lament, awaiting the new day, the new dawn of Easter (join me on the front lawn at 6am!) which brings hope, joy and new life. Join me in this season of lent in prayerfully considering how we wait well. How do we focus and engage with Jesus in this time, knowing he is there – with the expectant hope of his coming at Easter?

As always, we send our love to you all, we are praying for you and love hearing from you – and please get in touch if we can support you in any way.

With every blessing,

James and Zara

Food Donations



As has been mentioned on Sundays in the service and in a previous email, we are setting up a regular food collection time to support our emergency food parcels project. The church hall will be open from 10-11am each Thursday morning for anyone who wishes to drop food off which will then be stored and used when required. We would ask that any food stuffs have a long life. A list of suggested suitable items is available below.

When entering the hall, please ensure you are wearing a mask, sanitise your hands and maintain social distancing. Please remember that under the current restrictions, conversation should be kept to a minimum whilst in the building.

We are so grateful to all who continue to support this project as we continue to seek to care for the vulnerable in our community. Please do be in touch with Pam or James if you have any questions, or you know of somebody who is in need of emergency support.

Suitable food items for collection

Tins

Meats
Fish
Soup
Beans
Spaghetti
Macaroni
Tomatoes
Potatoes
Vegetables
Fruit
Custard

Packets

Pasta
Rice
Pasta in sauce
Pasta pots
Cup-a-soup
Noodles
Cous cous
Custard
Angel Delight
Biscuits
Cereal

Jars

Pasta Sauce
Curry sauce
Jam
Chocolate spread

Drinks

Teabags
Coffee
Sugar
UHT Milk
Squash
Fruit juice

These are just some ideas, any food items with a long shelf life would be appreciated.

A CALL TO PRAYER

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

Thursday 25 March 8.00pm - 9.00pm

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

Meeting ID: 584 488 6699

***"If my people, who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven,
will forgive their sin and heal their land"***

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

**CITY VISION
MINISTRIES**

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

SALTBOX
Strengthening Our Communities

Meet Trevor!



If you have walked past the church recently you may have noticed a display in the window of the Little Seedlings room, it currently has a message of HOPE but keep an eye on it as it will change. If you have very keen eyesight you may spotted a little animal among the letters and swirls, we've gained a church mouse! His name is Trevor and don't worry, he's quite friendly. See if you can find him next time you're passing—feel free to come into the church garden if you can't see from the path. Trevor is a mischievous little mouse though, he's also hiding on the church website—can you find him there too? Get in touch if you can and we'll give you a shout out!

YOU'RE INVITED

To Worship To Prayer To Fasting

Sundays 8-9pm - Worship night on Zoom
Wednesdays 8pm - Thursdays 8pm - call to fast
Thursdays 7-7:30am - prayer meeting on Zoom
Thursdays 7-8pm - prayer meeting with
Communion on Zoom

Our rhythm of worship and prayer continues with the "You're Invited" series, in addition we have a number of services coming up for Easter, a mix of on-line and in person in/outside church.

We are delighted to say that from **Sunday 11th April** our **9am Sunday service in church** will resume! The format will be very similar to last year with social distancing, face coverings and hand sanitiser in place. Further details to follow, but we are so looking forward to seeing you!

Our Services



Holy Week reflections

Each morning on Facebook at 8am (Mon 28/3 - Sat 3/4)

Maundy Thursday reflective service

Live on Facebook, Thursday 1/4 7pm

Good Friday 2/4

Church open for private prayer around the cross 12-3pm
All age Zoom Easter Service 3pm

Easter Day 4/4

Dawn service on the front lawn with Easter fire, 6am
Online service via Facebook Live, 10:30am
Evening of worship and praise, 8pm on Zoom



Easter Fun!

You're invited to an
**ALL-AGE interactive
 Zoom Celebration!**

★ Games ★ Craft ★ Story
 ★ Music ★ Quiz &
a whole lot more!

**Fri 2nd April
 at 3pm**

To order your craft pack and get the Zoom code please contact:
sarah@standrewssneydgreen.com Tel: 07 888 66 92 33



Be part of living memorial

If you live in Staffordshire or Stoke and lost a loved one over the last year to Covid, BBC Radio Stoke wants to help you mark their memory.

They hope to gather a visual memory where we can all see, share and not forget those who were taken too soon. Please send a photo of YOU holding a picture of the person you loved and lost to lamont.howie@bbc.co.uk including your name, contact details and location and your loved one's name and age.



**NATIONAL DAY OF
 REFLECTION 2021**




Since the first UK Covid 19 lockdown began in 2020, millions have been bereaved. The national Day of Reflection, coordinated by the charity Marie Curie and officially supported by the Church of England, has designated Tuesday 23rd March as a special day to reflect on collective loss and grief. We will be offering an opportunity to come and write a prayer in the prayer garden and we will have a short service online at midday on Facebook - do join us if you can. You can also find additional resources here: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection#involved>

Evening celebration from New Wine

How to lead with joy



Monday 15th March 2021 7-9pm, streamed live on youtube.com/NewWineEngland Part of the leadership conference but this session is open to everyone. An hour of worship led by Lauren Harris (Worship Director at St Aldates Oxford) and Bible teaching from Stephen Foster (Preaching Pastor at HTB Church & Director of Alpha UK). Stephen will be looking at Luke 10:1-11 and 16-21 and how to base your joy not on temporary circumstances, but on eternal significance.



As always, please do get in touch if you need any support, the church office remains open even if there is no-one physically present.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewssg

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

Website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com

