



Update Letter – Thursday 28th May 2020

Dear all,

I do hope that you are keeping well. By the grace of God, we continue to attempt to navigate these unusual times. As a church community we have eight values that we believe explain how and why we do things. They are:

Knowing our identity in Christ

Believing in a God of miracles who speaks today

Honouring every person and generation

Blessing others as we are blessed – generosity & partnership

Trusting the Bible as true and relevant

Sharing the love of God – hospitality & outreach

Gathering to pray and worship, seeing God at work

Being guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do



As I reflect on these values, all of which are grounded in scripture, they are just as relevant to us as a community in 'lockdown', as they were 'pre-lockdown.' How we express them is just a bit different. Being hospitable, sadly can't really involve serving food in the church hall, but it does mean welcoming all those who choose to join us in our online meeting. We cannot lay hands on people and pray for healing but we can pray just as effectively over Facebook Live or Zoom or over the phone. I am so grateful to God that we can continue to live out these values despite of lockdown and I pray God will show you how you are living them out too.

THE CREED

A creed is a statement of faith. The Nicene Creed is an ancient one that sums up what we believe as Christians. With the help of some technological geniuses in our church community, we are wanting to create a video of our Church community saying the creed together. We would love you to record yourselves (including children), saying the creed and send it to James. Please let us know if you want any advice or guidelines on how to film yourselves, please let us know. We will then splice the videos together. Please send videos via WeTransfer ([wetransfer.com/](https://www.wetransfer.com/)) by Thursday 4th June. The words of the creed are below, please either record yourselves saying it all or just choose one of the sections.

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again*

*in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.*

Amen

THY KINGDOM COME

This Sunday sees us celebrate the feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came. I love Pentecost because the Holy Spirit came for all, for the young and the old, the white and black, the criminals and the do-gooders, the brexiteers and the remainers, those who have obeyed lockdown and those who haven't. He came to empower, comfort, teach and guide us. Do join us on Sunday morning at 10.30 to celebrate and be expectant that the Holy Spirit will meet with us all afresh.

On Sunday night at 6.15pm there is a city-wide Pentecost Service, that will be live streamed from Swanbank. What an incredible opportunity to join with other Christians across the city to

THY KINGDOM COME

North Staffs United Christian Service
Sunday 31 May 6.15pm



Host: Robert Mountford Speaker: Rev Kathryn Stephens Worship leader: Sam Taylor

With input from other local Christian leaders

All welcome. Please note, this is an online event only, provided by Swanbank Methodist Church via its Facebook and YouTube channels

www.facebook.com/swanbank
www.youtube.com/swanbank

SWANBANK 

CITY VISION MINISTRIES SALTBOX
Strengthening Our Communities

celebrate. Do join in www.facebook.com/swanbank/

PHOTOS

We are loving receiving photos of what you are doing in lockdown. We would like to invite you to send in a photo of *something you have learnt to do* in lockdown. We will then include these in our Sunday services.

CHANGES TO SERVICES

The Thursday night communion has been a really important connection moment for us as a community during lockdown. Especially in the early weeks as people adjusted to the change. As we move forward, we are going to move our Thursday evening communion to a Tuesday lunchtime service at 1pm. This will start on Tuesday 9th June. I know that those of you who work might not be able to join us live, but you will be able to catch up later. The service will last 30 minutes instead of an hour, to enable people to join us on their lunch hour if they can.

The reason for this change is because Zara and I believe God is calling us to run Alpha online. Alpha is an 11-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are can come for a conversation about faith, life and God. We are looking to launch this on Zoom, launching on Thursday 11th June at 8pm. If you would like to join us do be in touch. For those of you new to St Andrew's, to faith or interested in baptism we would like to specifically invite you to join us.



ZOOM

Please join us on a Sunday after the 10.30 service from 11:45am-12:30pm for an opportunity to catch up and have fellowship together. If you are new to Zoom, it is quite easy and safe to install and use – go to <https://zoom.us/> for more information. Sunday Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89651010277>
Just contact us for zoom details.



Please know that we are praying for you,

James and Zara
Vicarage: 01782 363531
Mobile: 07579 795328

Email: james@standrewssneydgreen.com



Services at St Andrew's

Sundays at 10:30am: Morning Worship
Tuesdays at 1pm (starting 9th June) : 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