



Update Letter – Thursday 29th October 2020

Dear all,

I recently heard somebody say that there are a number of possible options for the word or phrase of the year this year, perhaps 'unprecedented' will be chosen or maybe 'Social Distancing'. Upon reflection on this second option, actually that doesn't sit well with me.

We don't need more social distance, we need more social connection. We all know too well that the regulations require us to keep a recommended 2m apart from other people however as the autumn drawn in, evenings get darker and colder, we must keep connected to one-another. This is where there is such sadness at the lack of human interaction in how we do Church at the moment. For those who join us online, we don't get that sense of worshipping alongside others and for those who come to the building church, we have to sit distanced, with masks on unable to socialise before or after.



The Bible expresses that Church is to be like a body, where each and every part is



needed and important; it is to be a community where we help and care for those in need; it is to be an army where we go into battle alongside our fellow comrades; it is a family who sit and eat together; it is a worshipping expression building one another up and spurring each other on towards the love of Jesus and all that he calls us to. In this ongoing season, we have to consider how we express Church in these ways even in lockdown. I

would like to invite you to pray, to consider how you might be church to somebody else this week – call somebody and share an encouragement from scripture, buy somebody a gift and leave it by their door, write somebody a letter or a card or find out a prayer need and commit to battling with the Lord to see it answered. We are called to be united in our fellowship, in our love and in our mission to the world and we need each other to do that.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the annual meeting on Sunday – I was sad not to be in Church myself but I hope the technology enabled the meeting to happen successfully. Particular thanks to all those who helped make it happen plus those who worked behind the scenes in the weeks and months beforehand.

Annual Meeting

I expressed thanks to a number of people in the meeting but wanted to note in particular Nicola Keeling who has stepped down as Church warden this year. She brought a vital strategic dimension to the leadership and a creativity which we have all been

blessed by. Thank you Nicola for serving us in this way. Steve Proudlove, Dean Hudson and Ralph MacGregor also stepped down and deserve thanks too – we're so grateful for the ways that you have served the Church.

I'm thrilled that both Martyn Turner and Rob Littler were elected as Churchwardens and we welcomed Pam Littler, Nicola Keeling and Steve Ellis back onto the PCC whilst Katy Griffiths and Linda Robinson stood again to represent us on Deanery Synod. I'm looking forward to working to see the vision of St Andrew's move forward under their collective leadership.

Remembrance 2020 is going to look a bit different from previous years but we will be doing a couple of things to commemorate as is appropriate. Firstly there will be a minute's silence in both our services on Remembrance Sunday 8th November, secondly, I will be streaming a short act of remembrance on the 11th just before 11am live on Facebook (there won't be a Tuesday communion on 10th) and finally, we will be inviting people to place a poppy in a simple remembrance garden on the front lawn from Sunday 1st November onwards. Please feel free to pop in if you're walking past.

I have also received a delivery of poppies from the Royal British Legion and would be happy to distribute them to anyone who'd like one – alternatively you can print one off from their website. If you'd like to donate, you can drop cash off in the Coop where there is a collection tin or donate online. Head to www.britishlegion.org.uk for more details.

REMEMBRANCE 2020

Join us online
10:50am
11/11/20



[www.Facebook.com/StAndrewsSG](https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsSG)

Thanks to everyone who came along to the outdoor Harvest service on Sunday which was a great success, and thanks especially to Sarah for leading in my absence. Thanks too to everyone who brought harvest gifts over the weekend, these have been packed up and distributed to local families as an extension of our summer food parcels project, who I know are extremely grateful.

Congratulations to the well-known Methodist Book Centre in Hanley on the celebration of it's 75th anniversary this November – to celebrate they are offering a number of special offers during the month so do check out their website www.crfl.co.uk or drop in if you're in Hanley. This shop have served Christians in the local area faithfully and we would love to encourage you to continue supporting them as they go through a difficult season as well.

Quick Notices

1. Please join the Crossways Residents Association for a **Litter-pick** on Saturday 7th November from 10am – meeting outside Church – more details on Facebook.
2. Our next two-weekly **church prayer meeting** is on Tuesday 10th November at 8pm – please join us as we pray into what we feel God is saying to us as a Church in this season. Contact us for the Zoom code.

God bless,

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Services at St Andrew's

Sunday 9am: Holy Communion IN CHURCH
Sunday 10:30am: Morning Worship ONLINE
Tuesday 12:00pm: Holy Communion ONLINE

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewssg
YouTube: [St Andrew's Sneyd Green](https://www.youtube.com/StAndrewsSneydGreen)
Website: www.standrewssneydgreen.com