

Notices

Church Services unchanged by local lockdown.

Sunday 10 am service online and streamed into church

Sunday 4pm service outside

Wednesday at 1pm in church

Church open for prayer through Wednesday and Sunday

Please remember social distancing/face covering regulations

Shoebox Appeal

St Georges church is continuing as a drop off point for Christmas shoeboxes this year. Please ensure they reach church when the office is open by 5th November.

Delivery Lunch Club

Hot meal for local elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

Our next lunch is on **Wednesday October 28th**

There is no charge for the meal as we do not want our volunteers to have to handle cash on doorsteps, but donations direct to the church are welcome.

If you would like one, contact us to book and let us know about any dietary requirements.

We aim to deliver between 12-12.30pm

0191 415 4200

office@stgeorgesfatfield.co.uk

APCM – Wednesday October 28th at 7.30pm

The diocese has told all churches that APCMs must be completed by the end of October.

We need 3 people to stand for Deanery Synod and 4 to stand to join the PCC. If you feel God calling you to get involved with being a trustee and help lead the church through these trying times, or have questions about this, please get in touch with myself, the office or the wardens

The meeting itself must be in church, but obviously numbers are very limited so we intend to record it and put it online. It will be kept as a very straightforward business meeting and only deal with the minimum items legally required to keep it short. The report will be sent out in advance and we ask any questions be put in advance if possible to enable written answers.

Churchyard tidy up.

Last autumn we held a church & churchyard tidy up day and Christmas set up. A socially distanced tidy up is being planned again, especially the clearing up of all the leaves that fall. The date will be Saturday 28th November. Please come to church from 9.30am at any point during the morning – will rake / tools if you are able.

A Poetic Prayer – Valley of Vision –The Dark Guest

O LORD,
Bend my hands and cut them off, for I have often struck thee with a wayward will,
when these fingers should embrace thee by faith.
I am not yet weaned from all created glory,
honour, wisdom, and esteem of others,
for I have a secret motive to eye my name in all I do.
Let me not only speak the word sin, but see the thing itself.
Give me to view a discovered sinfulness,
to know that though my sins are crucified they are never wholly mortified.
Hatred, malice, ill-will,
vain-glory that hungers for and hunts after man's approval and applause,
all are crucified, forgiven, but they rise again in my sinful heart.
O my crucified but never wholly mortified sinfulness!
O my life-long damage and daily shame!
O my indwelling and besetting sins!
O the tormenting slavery of a sinful heart!
Destroy, O God, the dark guest within whose hidden presence makes my life a hell.
Yet thou hast not left me here without grace;
The cross still stands and meets my needs in the deepest straits of the soul.
I thank thee that my remembrance of it is like David's sight of Goliath's sword
which preached forth thy deliverance.
The memory of my great sins, my many temptations, my falls,
bring afresh into my mind the remembrance of thy great help, of thy support from heaven,
of the great grace that saved such a wretch as I am.
There is no treasure so wonderful as that continuous experience of thy grace
toward me which alone can subdue the risings of sin within:
Give me more of it.

Readings and prayers for weeks of 26th

Monday

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1 v12-15)

Think: Why do you think ignorance and unbelief causes so much evil in the world? Paul does not use it to deny his guilt however, how does his description of himself as the worst of all sinners make you feel about him? Why do you think Paul changed? How does this make you feel about God's grace? Do you ever feel like Paul? Do you believe Christ came to save sinners like you?

Pray that people would recognise their sin but also know God's grace and forgiveness

Pray for Christmas and some innovative ideas to make it special for our community. Give thanks for answered prayer and a free offer of a flatbed truck to take carols into the streets.

Pray for people on their own in our local lockdown. Why not give someone you don't usually talk to a ring? Pray for people in your cell group by name. Ask God to strengthen them.

Pray for those in hospital and that the CV-19 death rate would not rise out of control. Give thanks that so far this autumn normal Flu deaths are next to none. Pray that vulnerable people would stay safe and cases would fall. Pray that people would also be realistic in that every winter thousands people die from influenza and pneumonia.

Pray for the regions of the world where there is suffering. Pray for regions where there is conflict, persecution, oppression and corruption.

Ask the Lord to pour out his Spirit on this nation and bring life to many people through His church. Pray that Christians would work to transform society for good.

Give thanks for the small grant we have been offered to enable us to restart our lunch club

Pray for hospital staff who are working hard in those hospitals that are quite full. Pray for safety and wisdom. Pray that people who need medical treatment would not be afraid to seek it. Pray for care homes and staff, where there remain too many cases of CV19.

Pray for the ongoing planning and logistics of both testing and vaccine roll outs.

Pray : Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers, and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Tuesday

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people. (1 Timothy 2 v1-6)

Think : Why do you think Paul urges Christians to pray for all people? How does his call for prayer for leaders/kings etc. strike you? Do you pray like this? What is God's ultimate desire? How is Christ a ransom payment? How is he the mediator between God and you? How does this make you feel? How can you better live a peaceful and quiet life? Why should we?

Pray for leaders in the world, and the UK. Pray for Joe Bidon & Donald Trump as above.

Pray for council leaders and mayors, that they would respond well to lockdown threats.

Pray for Mark, the student from Cranmer this year. Pray we would bless him and he us.

Pray for restaurant / pub staff and owners during local lockdown. Pray against fear and worry

Pray against racist attitudes and prejudice. Pray for the nation of Taiwan today.

Pray for scientists, doctors, nurses and companies involved in healthcare around the world, that their efforts to treat people would be effective, especially increasing non CV-19 needs.

Pray for regions and countries where CV-19 is still spreading fast. Give thanks that while rising, it is not out of control. Pray for students locked up in their halls.

Pray for police enforcing rules, that they would keep the public onside.

Ask God that church leaders would be strengthened to continue through the winter and would be bold and wise in proclaiming Jesus to our community effectively.

Pray : God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday

¹⁷But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸They said to you, 'In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.' ¹⁹These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

²⁰But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. ²²Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. (Jude 17-23)

Think : What do you think 'scoffing' looks like? Have you experienced it? Where? What is the contrast here for how God's people should live? How do we help those struggling with doubt? Or with sin? What does this look like in practice? What do you think it means, 'hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh'? Why is this not contradictory to loving people? Where are you tempted to be led astray by sinful people and ideas?

Pray for people who scoff at the gospel, that they might repent and believe.

Pray for those struggling with sin. Ask for wisdom to be able to help them.

Pray you do not fall into temptation when you see people seemingly having it all through sin.

Pray that this global pandemic would awaken people to Christ, especially in this area.

Pray for the ideas and planning needed for Christmas. Pray for the lunch going out today. Pray many would come to faith as we hope for an Alpha course in the new year.

Pray for our church open for private prayer and our 1pm service. Ask God to help people adapt to changes to our worship and that we would continue to grow as disciples.

Pray for the planning for a community café, teddy bear service and lunch club back in church.

Pray for Bishop Paul and the senior staff as they lead the diocese. For wisdom and grace.

Pray for those facing domestic abuse. Pray there would be support for those in need.

Pray for God to call people into church leadership roles, including a new treasurer and warden. Pray for the delivery lunch going out today and those serving.

Pray : Father God, we thank you that your amazing unfathomable love has been poured out for us at the cross and poured into us by the Holy Spirit. We want to taste and experience more of the depth and breadth and length and height of your amazing love. Help us to walk by faith. Help us to endure in suffering. Help us to own our need of you. Help us to fully embrace your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. So, pour out your love into our hearts, in increasing measure by the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is in his name that we pray, Amen.

Thursday

¹I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
 he heard my cry for mercy.
²Because he turned his ear to me,
 I will call on him as long as I live.
³The cords of death entangled me,
 the anguish of the grave came over me;
 I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
⁴Then I called on the name of the LORD:
 'LORD, save me!'
⁵The LORD is gracious and righteous;
 our God is full of compassion.
⁶The LORD protects the unwary;
 when I was brought low, he saved me.
⁷Return to your rest, my soul,
 for the LORD has been good to you. (Psalm 116 v1-7)

Think : Why does the psalmist love God? What was his situation? What does he know about God? How do you think this helps him pray in these ways? How can you grow in this knowledge and truth? How can you pray better like this Psalmist?

Praise God for his grace and compassion. Thank God he is righteous.

Pray for mercy in any situation you know about where people are facing death or suffering.

Pray for rest and to experience God's goodness to you. Thank God for past blessings.

Pray that the Lord would raise up amongst us evangelists and gospel teachers.

Pray for churches that run foodbanks, homeless shelters, schools and other social action projects, that in them Christ would be made known. Pray for our ministries to serve others.

Pray for people serving in the armed services.

Pray for those negotiating the Free Trade Agreements with Europe, US, etc. that they would be equitable and fair to all nations.

Praise God that the new Annexe planning application is continuing and that both bat surveys have been completed and although there are bats around, it should not (pray is doesn't) have a major impact. Pray for the fundraising and grant applications that will be made.

Pray for the world to be changed for good. Pray for nations where there is persecution and oppression. Pray for refugees and those trying to cross open seas to find a better life.

Pray: Lord, you hide your face
 when we trust in ourselves;
 strip us of false security
 and re-clothe us in your praise,
 that we may know you
 as the one who raises us from death,
 as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday

¹⁷The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,'^[a] and 'The worker deserves his wages.'^[b] ¹⁹Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. ²⁰But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. ²¹I

charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism. (1 Timothy 5 v17-21)

Think: Who are the 'elders'? What is their key work in the church? How does verse 19 challenge you or make you think? What about verse 20? Timothy has a hard job calling out sinful elders, why do you think often people do not do it and let senior church members get away with sin? Why is important that people speak out when church leaders go astray? What is the risk if we do this too much? What is the risk if we never do it?

Pray for the 'elders' of St George's. Pray God would help us to preach and teach god's word faithfully. Pray for church leaders everywhere. Pray especially where churches underpay their ministers (sadly in many independent churches this is true).

Pray that church leaders act wisely when falsely accused. Pray church members would not listen to gossip and false accusations against leaders.

Pray for wisdom and strength that churches, including our own, would act boldly and wisely when leaders do sin or go astray. Pray that false teachers would repent or be silenced.

Pray to God to end persecution, civil war, corruption and greed.

Pray for those who serve in different ways. Pray for those struggling with life.

Pray for those who have lost jobs and that more new jobs would be created as the way the world works continues to be turned upside down. Pray for people to show grace.

Ask God to guide you in how to view 'church'. Pray we would be more united and less focussed on our preferences of style or location of 'church'. Pray that we would be transformed for good and made ever more missional, like the early church.

Pray for our outdoor service as it gets colder, that we would dress us warm and continue to meet so that we bear witness to Jesus in the area. Pray especially that with the local lockdown it would not give the wrong impression.

Pray that the technology being put together to stream services from inside church works well and that we can start gathering safely inside.

Pray: Come, creator Spirit, source of life;
sustain us when our hearts are heavy
and our wells have run dry,
for you are the Father's gift,
with him who is our living water,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

'Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both great and small!'

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

'Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
⁷Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.
'Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.' (Psalm 97 v1-7)

Think : How do you imagine God almighty? How do you imagine seeing Christ for the first time? Why do you think the theme of a wedding is used? What do you think the symbolism of fine linen is all about? Do you like big crowds? Why do you think it will be different in heaven/new creation? Why should we fear God? What is the hope and encouragement here?

Praise God that he is holy and worthy of vast crowds shouting praise.
Praise God that we are forgiven all our sin and made clean in Christ.

Praise God for the wedding we will attend when Christ and his church are united forever.

Ask God to help you live for eternity and not fear death knowing Christ has you in his hands.

Give thanks that we can still meet as church. Pray that we would be wise as we plan more.

Pray for local voluntary sector groups, especially those who are rooted in Christ.

Pray for nations where poverty is rampant and the CV-19 has made it worse. Pray for the millions unemployed globally and those losing jobs each week.

Pray for the Church of England, that it might be renewed and get back to the job of proclaiming Jesus in and out of church and trust Jesus.

Pray for people taking services tomorrow and those helping.

Pray for local residents and church members that we would build relationships.

Pray for the nations of Egypt, Oman, Yemen, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Pray for those who are grieving the loss of children recently.

Pray : Regeneration

O GOD OF THE HIGHEST HEAVEN,
Occupy the throne of my heart, take full possession and reign supreme,
lay low every rebel lust, let no vile passion resist thy holy war;
manifest thy mighty power, and make me thine for ever.
Thou art worthy to be praised with my every breath,
loved with my every faculty of soul, served with my every act of life.
Thou hast loved me, espoused me, received me,
purchased, washed, favoured, clothed, adorned me,
when I was worthless, vile, soiled, polluted.
I was dead in iniquities, having no eyes to see thee, no ears to hear thee,
no taste to relish thy joys, no intelligence to know thee;
But thy Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a new world as a new creature,
has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me thy Word as light, guide, solace, joy.
Thy presence is to me a treasure of unending peace;
No provocation can part me from thy sympathy,
for thou hast drawn me with cords of love, and dost forgive me daily, hourly.
O help me then to walk worthy of thy love, of my hopes, and my vocation.
Keep me, for I cannot keep myself;
Protect me that no evil befall me;
Let me lay aside every sin admired of many;
Help me to walk by thy side, lean on thy arm, hold converse with thee,
That henceforth I may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all. Amen

Sunday

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Isaiah 55 v1-3)

Think: Hebrews 11 is a list of people who did incredible acts because of faith and trust in God. Why is this so striking when we read v39? Why are we so much more privileged? What sin entangles people and crushes their faith? What sin can entangle you? How can we persevere better? (v2) What does that mean in practice for your daily life? What was the Joy before Christ as he went to the cross? Why did he endure it? How should you respond to that?

Praise Jesus that he willingly endured the cross for you. Praise him as Lord and King.

Pray that you would live by faith every day. Ask God to help you fix your eyes on Jesus.

Ask God to help you throw off those items, wasted time, sin, etc that hinders and entangles your life. Ask that you would be more effective in your Christian life.

Pray for out 10am being streamed into church and the communion afterwards.

Pray for our Sunday outdoor service at 4pm. That many would come and the Holy Spirit would open many blind eyes. Pray that Jesus would help you to grow in faith.

Pray for the nation of Russia and its Christian population.

Pray for St George's church family, that we would remain united in the gospel. Pray for wisdom as we plan for the future. Pray for bereavement support group restarting soon.

Pray for graciousness and unity. Pray for your cell group members by name.

Pray for our children's and youth volunteers. Pray God might raise up more young people to serve and lead and preach. Pray for a new treasurer as Lynn comes to the end of her work.

Pray that as we begin to open up church we would be safe and new people would come in.

Pray that younger people would step forward to volunteer to clean and restart new ministries.

Pray that the church would be transformed for good so we may bless many more people as we come out of this. Pray for ways to reach children and youth in this time.

For people to find faith that would endure and that they would recognise all of us can rely on no one but God for eternal life. Pray for those who have drifted away from church.

Pray for the future of the Church of England, that it might be renewed and transformed by the Spirit and return to its biblical roots given by Cranmer and the reformers.

Pray:

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen