

## Notices

### Church Open for Prayer on Wednesdays 9am-4pm.

**Chairs are set out individually at a safe distance. Hand sanitizer is available.**

On Wednesday there is also be a short service in Church at 1pm.

Our regular services will remain Online and on DVD for the time being, but there is a Sunday gathering (outside) each week at 4pm. Bring a chair/rug and a flask of tea and cake (for yourself).

If you visit the church, please do not touch doors or surfaces for other people's safety.

The toilets will not be open. It is now law that face coverings are used in places of worship unless an exemption applies (e.g. staff / volunteers working in the church)

### Delivery Lunch Club

Hot meal  
for local elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

While our lunch club cannot meet in church, we are running a hot meal delivery service for elderly, isolated and vulnerable people local to St George's (Harraton, Rickleton, Fatfield and others nearby)

Our next lunch is on **Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>**

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.

Contact us to book a meal and let us know about any dietary requirements.

We aim to deliver between 12-12.30pm

0191 415 4200

[office@stgeorgesfatfield.co.uk](mailto:office@stgeorgesfatfield.co.uk)

### Packed Lunch & activity pack for children

On Tuesday -Thursday each week 11.30am-12.30pm we are providing a holiday hunger packed lunch for children supported by Washington Community Food Project.

Please do let people know. We have a good team running this now, but if you would like to help out, come and join the team from 10.30am

### A Poetic Prayer – Valley of Vision – Paradoxes

O CHANGELESS GOD,

Under the conviction of thy Spirit I learn that the more I do, the worse I am,  
the more I know, the less I know,  
the more holiness I have, the more sinful I am,  
the more I love, the more there is to love.

O wretched man that I am!

O Lord, I have a wild heart, and cannot stand before thee;

I am like a bird before a man.  
How little I love thy truth and ways!  
I neglect prayer, by thinking I have prayed enough and earnestly,  
by knowing thou hast saved my soul.  
Of all hypocrites, grant that I may not be an evangelical hypocrite,  
who sins more safely because grace abounds,  
who tells his lusts that Christ's blood cleanseth them,  
who reasons that God cannot cast him into hell, for he is saved,  
who loves evangelical preaching, churches, Christians, but lives unholily.  
My mind is a bucket without a bottom,  
with no spiritual understanding,  
no desire for the Lord's Day,  
ever learning but never reaching the truth,  
always at the gospel-well but never holding water.  
My conscience is without conviction or contrition, with nothing to repent of.  
My will is without power of decision or resolution.  
My heart is without affection, and full of leaks.  
My memory has no retention,  
so I forget easily the lessons learned, and thy truths seep away.  
Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.

### **Readings and prayers for week of 17<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Monday**

<sup>5</sup>For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,  
my confidence since my youth.  
<sup>6</sup>From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.  
<sup>7</sup>I have become a sign to many;  
you are my strong refuge.  
<sup>8</sup>My mouth is filled with your praise,  
declaring your splendour all day long. (Psalm 71 v5-8)

Think: Given God knows our hearts better than ourselves, why do you think the psalmist is saying these things to the Lord? Why is it good to pray prayers that remind yourself who you are in Christ and how you have lived? Can you say, 'I have been a sign to many.'? What circumstances are you facing now where you have to remember that the Lord is sovereign? Is he your confidence? How can you daily both 'rely' better and 'declare' better?

Commit to God where you are struggling. Thank him that he is sovereign and pray prayers speaking of how you have persevered and lived for Christ in your life.

Ask the Lord to help you to be a sign to others and declare his splendour more boldly.

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 that the number in hospital and death rate are staying low. Pray that local flare ups would not lead to a 'second wave'. Pray for nations experiencing large rises in cases.

Pray for the holiday hunger lunch scheme for children through the summer. Thank God for the volunteers. Pray for that many new people would link with St George's as we provide delivery hot lunches and packed lunches for young people through the summer.

Give thanks for the grants that have been given to enable us to do more. Pray for the first large grant application we completed to fund the next phase of the building project.

Pray for people in your cell group by name. Ask God to strengthen them and help them to grow in their faith. Pray for any who are lonely.

Pray for the people of Lebanon, especially those injured or made homeless in Beirut.

Pray : "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name."

## **Tuesday**

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone."

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.' (Acts 4 v8-12)

Think : Have you ever got into trouble for being kind or doing something helpful? Why was that? How did it make you feel? Have you ever face opposition simply because you are trying to show Christian kindness? Peter basically tells the leaders that by rejecting the miracle done in Jesus name, they are rejecting Jesus, the one who is ruler of all. How does this encourage you to keep showing acts of grace and love? How does the passage, esp. v12 challenge you?

Pray that leaders and rulers would see the love of Christ's people and welcome and encourage them rather than try to silence or limit them.

Pray for your witness and that of St George's so many more would find salvation in Jesus.

Pray for the people receiving packed lunches today at church. Pray more would come.

Pray for authorities and leaders that they would act wisely when dealing with trouble.

Pray for the expedited and safe development of vaccines, particularly the Oxford vaccine in trials in Brazil and South Africa and that challenge trials may be allowed and successful

Pray for scientists, doctors, nurses and companies involved in healthcare around the world, that their efforts to treat people would be effective and for their mental health.

Pray for regions and countries that are seeing second 'spikes' in the disease. Pray we would be wise in the UK but not over zealous and thereby cause more harm than good.

Pray against racist attitudes and prejudice.

Ask God that leaders would be inspired to begin to build new and exciting ways to serve and reach more people for Christ. Ask God to give us both boldness and wisdom to proclaim Jesus to our community effectively.

Pray : Creator God, we glimpse your beauty in setting sun, mountain top, eagle's wing.  
We sense your power in thunder crash, lightning flash and ocean's roar.  
Creator God we praise you  
Precious Jesus, we see your love stretched out upon a cruel cross.  
We stand in awe at your sacrifice, pure love poured out for humankind.  
Precious Jesus we praise you  
Holy Spirit, we see your power in lives transformed, hearts on fire.  
We listen for your still, small voice, comforting, guiding, calling.  
Holy Spirit we praise you

## Wednesday

<sup>3</sup> Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.<sup>4</sup> The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. <sup>5</sup> When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. <sup>6</sup> He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. <sup>7</sup> Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." (1 Samuel 28 v3-7)

Think : Saul had initially banished all the mediums, but now seeks one. Saul is later rebuked by the dead Samuel, who the medium raises. Why do you think Saul disobeys God's law and goes to the medium in the first place? What does this show about his faith? In our region, mediums and tarot card readers seem to be well accepted, why is it wrong to turn to these sorts of people? What harm can they do, even when they are frauds? What would you say to someone considering consulting a spiritualist, tarot card reader, etc?

Pray for those who have been harmed, both spiritually or mentally, by visiting mediums, etc.

Pray for healing and forgiveness if you have ever turned to other spiritual experiences rather than the Lord for help and guidance. Pray that you would hear God's voice in your life.

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 week of activities and a potential 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 people in nations where CV-19 is out of control. Pray against its growth in UK. Pray that it would continue to challenge people to think deeply about life and faith.

Pray for God to call people into church leadership roles, including a new treasurer and warden

Pray : God of all ages, who from generation to generation  
has heard the cries of your children humbly seeking forgiveness,  
and has welcomed sinners back into your embrace,  
hear the thoughts of our hearts, examine our motives, forgive us our faults,  
of word and action. We ask this through your Son,  
who died that we might know the true cost of forgiveness. **AMEN**

## Thursday

<sup>5</sup> Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

'Praise our God,  
all you his servants,

you who fear him,  
both great and small!’

<sup>6</sup> Then 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.

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear.’

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’

(Revelation 19 v5-9)

Think : This image is of the end of time when God’s people come to be with Jesus. What emotions does this bring to your heart. The fine linen and image of the bride is the church made pure, how does the church fail to be pure in this world? Why do you think a wedding image is used? How does this passage challenge how you think about righteous acts and sin? How might these words help you find joy in these times? How might you praise God now like you will in the new creation?

Meditate on these words and praise God and give him the glory for making you ‘clean’.

Rejoice in being invited to the wedding supper. Pray that through our ministry, many more would hear and accept that invitation.

Pray for world leaders. Pray for Boris Johnson and the government. Pray for church leaders.

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 that we would support lonely and vulnerable people in new and better ways.

Praise God that the new Annexe planning application is open for community comments. Pray that there would be no objections of substance and that it would go through without issue.

Thank God for 3 positive responses so far and that the DAC has recommended the project.

Pray for the fundraising and grant applications that are being made or 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: By the word of our Lord the heavens were made

By the spirit of our Lord was life begun

By the wisdom of our Lord his laws were laid

By the love of our Lord was born his Son

By the grace of our Lord mankind was saved

By the power of our Lord the victory was won

**Amen.**

## **Friday**

<sup>27</sup> Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,  
when it is in your power to act.

- <sup>28</sup> Do not say to your neighbour,  
 'Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you'—  
 when you already have it with you.
- <sup>29</sup> Do not plot harm against your neighbour,  
 who lives trustfully near you.
- <sup>30</sup> Do not accuse anyone for no reason —  
 when they have done you no harm.
- <sup>31</sup> Do not envy the violent  
 or choose any of their ways.
- <sup>32</sup> For the Lord detests the perverse  
 but takes the upright into his confidence. (Proverbs 3 v27-32)

Think: Consider each of these proverbs, why is each one wise? Consider each one, what might happen when you don't follow it? How does living this way bring light to the world? What do you think it means to be 'taken into the Lord's confidence'? Why is this good and how would this help you live as part of His people?

Pray for people falsely accused, that they would be vindicated. Pray for wisdom for all of God's people and that we might learn and grow in it more and more.

Pray that people would recognise the benefits of following God's wisdom.

Pray that you and the church as a whole would hear Christ's call more clearly.

Pray for those who serve in different ways. Pray for those still too fearful to join us at church.

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 this lockdown would transform us for good and make us more missional, like the early church.

Pray for our outdoor service, that people would hear it from a distance, come, and be saved.

Ask God to end persecution, civil war, corruption and greed. Pray for the persecuted church.

Pray for schools as they plan and parents who have the whole summer ahead of them.

Pray for police and medical staff as they cope with the new world we live in.

Pray: Holy Lord, you are worthy of our praises. You reign in majesty, you are God forever. We appreciate you for giving us the grace to be in your presence today. We hallow your name. Accept our adoration in Jesus name. We are here again mighty God, you are the father of light as we come into your presence, we nullify every evil presence, we pray your light shines brightly in us and making us shining lights for you. Let people see your glory in us and let them come to worship you, the living God. **Amen.**

## **Saturday**

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law.... " <sup>38</sup> Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." (Acts 5 v29-39)

Think : Where do people obey humans instead of God? Where do you do that? How can we be better at following Jesus instead of succumbing to the pressures of the world and follow desires to be seen to conform? Why is it ultimately futile to follow humans over Jesus?

Pray for boldness for yourself and the church to stand up and be counted. Ask God to help you to be a witness of Jesus to others.

Pray that Christians and churches would act faithfully, even when it is costly.

Pray for those who do not want to believe the message of God's Kingdom come near.

Continue to pray that a safe vaccine would be ready soon and that people would be sensible now that we are much freer to move about. Pray for the people in localised 'lockdowns'.

Pray for the friends and family of those who are ill or grieving, that they would be comforted and enabled to care for those who are sick.

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 the persecuted church.

Pray : Resurrection

O GOD OF MY EXODUS,

Great was the joy of Israel's sons, when Egypt died upon the shore,

Far greater the joy when the Redeemer's foe lay crushed in the dust.

Jesus strides forth as the victor,

conqueror of death, hell, and all opposing might;

He bursts the bands of death,

tramples the powers of darkness down, and lives for ever.

He, my gracious surety,

apprehended for payment of my debt,

comes forth from the prison house of the grave

free, and triumphant over sin, Satan, and death.

Show me herein the proof that his vicarious offering is accepted,

that the claims of justice are satisfied,

that the devil's sceptre is shivered,

that his wrongful throne is levelled.

Give me the assurance that in Christ I died, in him I rose,

in his life I live, in his victory I triumph,

in his ascension I shall be glorified.

Adorable Redeemer,

thou who wast lifted up upon a cross

art ascended to highest heaven.

Thou, who as Man of sorrows wast crowned with thorns,

art now as Lord of life wreathed with glory.

Once, no shame more deep than thine, no agony more bitter, no death more cruel.

Now, no exaltation more high, no life more glorious, no advocate more effective.

Thou art in the triumph car leading captive thine enemies behind thee.

What more could be done than thou hast done!

Thy death is my life, thy resurrection my peace,

thy ascension my hope, thy prayers my comfort.

## **Sunday**

<sup>3</sup>We put no stumbling-block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. <sup>4</sup>Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great

endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; <sup>5</sup> in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; <sup>7</sup> in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; <sup>8</sup> through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; <sup>9</sup> known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 6 v3-10)

Think: How does this statement of Paul make you feel? How might you put stumbling blocks in front of people which might prevent them from faith in Jesus? Why is it important that ministry is not discredited? Consider Paul who wrote this. How does his life and attitude: Help you? Challenge you? How might you rejoice like Paul? What is of true value in this world?

Give glory to God for your salvation in Christ

Ask Jesus to help you live a blameless life and be wise to false teaching and those who twist a message of love to enable sinful living. Ask for wisdom to discern falsehood in the CofE.

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.

Ask God for opportunities to share the gospel. Pray you would take them.

Pray for those who risk their lives for proclaiming Jesus Christ, for boldness and faith in the face of opposition, difficulties and suffering. Pray we would be bold too.

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 that as some of us begin to meet together in smaller groups over the coming weeks that we would not forget those choosing to stay at home.

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

Pray for our treasurer Lynn and wardens, Terry and Chris, as they do their important 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 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: Righteous Father, King of heaven, we, your children, are gathered here today. We are those called by your name, we are alive to praise and worship you, we come to fulfil our purpose on earth. Accept our thanksgiving in Jesus name. In your presence, oh Lord, there is fullness of joy, fill us with your overwhelming joy. Strengthen us in you that we would remain standing even during the storms that we may be counted with you at the end. Go with us lord and make our gathering today successful. Thank you for answered prayers.

God of glory,

the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.