

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.

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, those with breathing issues, panic attacks, etc.)

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 September 2nd**

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

Packed Lunch & activity pack for children

Every day this week 11.30am-12.30pm we are providing, activities, craft and a sandwich lunch for children. This will be outside in a CV-19 secure way so do bring a picnic blanket.

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 – Amazing Grace

O THOU GIVING GOD,
My heart is drawn out in thankfulness to thee,
for thy amazing grace and condescension to me
in influences and assistances of thy Spirit, for special help in prayer,
for the sweetness of Christian service, for the thoughts of arriving in heaven,
for always sending me needful supplies, for raising me to new life when I am like one dead.
I want not the favour of man to lean upon for thy favour is infinitely better.

Thou art eternal wisdom in dispensations towards me;
and it matters not when, nor where, nor how I serve thee,
nor what trials I am exercised with,
if I might but be prepared for thy work and will.
No poor creature stands in need of divine grace more than I do,
And yet none abuses it more than I have done, and still do.
How heartless and dull I am!
Humble me in the dust for not loving thee more.
Every time I exercise any grace renewedly
I am renewedly indebted to thee, the God of all grace, for special assistance.
I cannot boast when I think how dependent
I am upon thee for the being and every act of grace;
I never do anything else but depart from thee,
and if ever I get to heaven it will be because
thou willest it, and for no reason beside.
I love, as a feeble, afflicted, despised creature,
to cast myself on thy infinite grace and goodness,
hoping for no happiness but from thee;
Give me special grace to fit me for special services,
and keep me calm and resigned at all times,
humble, solemn, mortified, and conformed to thy will.

Readings and prayers for week of 24th August

Monday

¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
¹² I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.
¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead. (Psalm 86 v11-13)

Think: While the Psalmist never knew Jesus, how does this passage point us to Christ? How can you apply its teachings to your life and attitudes? What do you think it means to have a 'divided' heart? What might be great antidotes to that? How will you praise the Lord your God with all of your heart this week?

Praise God for the deliverance from the realm of the dead we have in Christ.

Pray for a wholehearted faith and love towards Jesus and our only fear would be the Lord.

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, especially throughout much of Europe.

Pray for the activity week planned for this week. Pray it would be CV-19 secure and that lots of young people would be blessed by it. Thank God for the volunteers. Pray for that many new people would link with St George's through this.

Pray for the first large grant application we completed to fund the next phase of the building project. Pray also for a grant application made to help us restart a lunch club in church in a CV-19 secure way by using screens and more small tables.

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 Belarus, especially for freedom from tyrannical government.

Pray : Oh our Lord, if not for you, we would have been dead and forgotten, when the enemies came against us, like a flood, your spirit raised up a standard against them, we are in you as our fortress and the plans of the enemies have failed over us, accept our thanks in Jesus name. You have kept us alive and healthy to come together today to worship your holy name, without you, our gathering would be in vain. Come down oh lord and fellowship with us. Let everything we will do today glorify your holy name and make us refreshed and happy in you forever.

Tuesday

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us – whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter – asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^(a) is revealed, the man doomed to destruction (2 Thessalonians 2 v1-3)

Think : What do you make of the idea of 'second coming' of Jesus? In Thessalonica, people had claimed it had already happened and those left behind had been abandoned by Jesus, how would that make you feel if that is what you were told? How does this passage assure you that it has not happened? How might you respond to someone saying Jesus has come?

Thank God that Jesus will one day return to bring both judgement and salvation and bring in the new creation with the perfect leader.

Pray that we would persuade people of the importance of faith in Jesus, especially now.

Pray for the people receiving lunches and doing activities today at church & lots would come.

Pray for authorities and leaders that they would act wisely as they serve others.

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, especially increasing non CV-19 needs.

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 : Mighty God, your majesty oh lord, we bow before your throne and we sing of your righteousness, of your faithfulness, be glorified lord in Jesus name. We, your children, are before you this day, we call upon you, come and manifest your presence, we want to see

your power flow, we want you to be refreshed in your presence, come with your wonder-working power and visit us today in Jesus name. At the end of today, let us praise you for all you have done through it, in Jesus name. Amen

Wednesday

- ⁷Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.
⁸Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;
rebuke the wise and they will love you.
⁹Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.
¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9 v7-10)

Think : How do you feel when someone corrects you? How does this passage challenge how you normally respond? Do you like being instructed in truth? Why or why not? Why is it important to correct brothers and sisters but not impose Christian morality on those who do not believe it? When the bible talks about the 'fear' of the Lord it is not about being scared of a monster or tyrant, but rather rightly revering God's power and holiness. Do you fear the Lord? Why is this right?

Pray for those who are arrogant, that they might be humbled. Pray for those who mock Christ and his people, that they might repent.

Pray that you and I would willingly accept genuine correction and would be ever growing in wisdom. Pray that we and many more would grow in knowledge of the Holy One.

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 : Our Father in heaven, the lord that answers with fire. Our wonder working father, we come together to worship your precious name, accept our thanksgiving in Jesus name. Oh God, we are gathered here in your presence, visit us mightily, let us have an encounter with you. Your word says "Who is the mountain in front of Zerubbabel, it shall be made low". Let all our mountainous problems be made low. Let all our heart desires be met by you today. Give us joy all round in Jesus name. Amen

Thursday

⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(1 Corinthians 1 v4-7)

Think : What blessings and gifts can you give thanks for in your life? Which people do you thank God for because they know God's grace in Christ Jesus? How does the promise to keep God's people firm (in their faith) to the end make you feel? While all of us sin, because of Jesus we will be seen as 'blameless' on the final day. How does that challenge you / help you to live for Him each day?

Give thanks in prayer for the blessings you have received, especially being blameless.

Pray for patience, perseverance, faith and joy as we await the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 teachers, pupils, parents and school leaders as they go back next week.

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. Thank God that a potential issue regarding a missing bat survey (which we thought could be done later) seems to have been resolved. Pray for the surveyors as they do the work very soon. 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: Heavenly father our maker, the provider and protector of our lives. It is because we are alive and healthy that we can gather together to worship your name. We praise you and give you all adoration, accept our thanks in Jesus name. Oh God, we commit all the activities of today in your hands, let everything we do be to your glory and at the end, let us be refreshed with your presence.

Amen.

Friday

²² "How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³ And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴ You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God. (2 Samuel 7 v22-24)

Think: Do you ever think of God as just there to help you out in your troubles? How does this challenge your thinking about how you: understand God? respond to God? How does this help you think about your own personal evangelism? The universal church (all Christians everywhere in all time) is often seen as the new 'Israel'. How does this help you think about the purpose of the church? How can you help it achieve that?

Pray that the church would be more distinctive in the world as we follow Jesus.

Pray God would do great and awesome deeds through us here at St George's and that people would experience them and come to faith.

Pray that you and the church would experience Christ in your life more and more.

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 that we would be transformed for good and made ever 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 prepare to start their first week in these new circumstances

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

Pray: Oh Lord our God, the maker of heaven and earth. You the lord that shines in darkness and darkness cannot comprehend, you reign in holiness and no evil an impurity can associate. We call upon your presence with us. Come, oh Lord, and let every evil and darkness disappear. As we go through today fill our hearts with joy, recharge and refill us with the sweetness of your presence. Empower us to live all the rest of our lives for you. Amen.

Saturday

⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

⁷He gathers the waters of the sea into jars^[a];
he puts the deep into storehouses.

⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.

⁹For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

¹⁰The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

¹¹But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. (Psalm 33 v6-11)

Think : When you look at creation, be it plants, animals, stars, scenery, people, what are your first thoughts? How does this passage challenge your view on the plans : you have in your life? The government has planned? What do you think the 'plans of the Lord' and the 'purposes of his heart' are? How does this passage help you pray in line with 'God's will'?

Pray that you, the church, and the nation would act and pray in line with god's will.

Pray that Christians and churches would act faithfully, even when it is costly. Pray for the persecuted church. Pray for Iran and the UAE. Pray for Israel and Palestine.

Pray that people would become increasingly aware of creation and come to desire to know know the Lord as they do.

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 : Resurrection

ALMIGHTY GOD,

I am loved with everlasting love,
clothed in eternal righteousness,
my peace flowing like a river, my comforts many and large,
my joy and triumph unutterable, my soul lively with a knowledge of salvation,
my sense of justification unclouded.

I have scarce anything to pray for;

Jesus smiles upon my soul as a ray of heaven
and my supplications are swallowed up in praise.

How sweet is the glorious doctrine of election when based upon thy Word
and wrought inwardly within the soul!

I bless thee that thou wilt keep the sinner thou hast loved,
and hast engaged that he will not forsake thee,
else I would never get to heaven.

I wrong the work of grace in my heart if I deny my new nature and my eternal life.

If Jesus were not my righteousness and redemption,

I would sink into nethermost hell by my misdoings, shortcomings, unbelief, unlove;

If Jesus were not by the power of his Spirit my sanctification,
there is no sin I should not commit.

O when shall I have his mind! when shall I be conformed to his image?

All the good things of life are less than nothing when compared with his love,
and with one glimpse of thy electing favour.

All the treasures of a million worlds could not make me richer, happier, more contented,
for his unsearchable riches are mine.

One moment of communion with him, one view of his grace, is ineffable, inestimable.

But O God, I could not long after thy presence

if I did not know the sweetness of it;

And such I could not know except by thy Spirit in my heart,

nor love thee at all unless thou didst: elect me, call me, adopt me, save me.

I bless thee for the covenant of grace.

Sunday

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see.

¹⁹Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3 v14-21)

Think: The letters to the churches in revelation include warning and encouragements. This church is in a particularly bad way, what is the problem? How does the church view itself? How does God view its faithfulness? What is the hope held out to the people? What do you think it means to open the door? How can we be like this church as a church? What about you as a person? i.e. lukewarm and not distinctive? What is the right way to act when you realise you are in such circumstances?

Pray that God would show us where and when we are 'lukewarm'. Ask God for strength to be distinctive as a church and as individuals.

Pray that you would be distinctive for Jesus today in the way you treat people and in your own witness to Jesus, even if it is hard or causes people to think less of you.

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: Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation Amen.