

Notices

As things stand today (Friday 18th)

Church Services Unchanged by Local Lockdown.

The 10 am **live stream in now shown in church** on Sundays at 10.15am for those who wish to gather together or have no internet and will be followed by communion (bread only).

With limited spaces due to government mandated distancing laws, please book a place through the office by the Friday.

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

Please remember 2m social distancing requirements

AND

(under local lockdown) not to socialise with people outside your household/bubble

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

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

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.)

Church Open for Prayer on Wednesdays 9am-4pm and Sundays

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

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 30th**

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

A Poetic Prayer – Valley of Vision – Heart Corruptions

O GOD, May thy Spirit speak in me that I may speak to thee.

I have no merit, let the merit of Jesus stand for me.

I am undeserving, but I look to thy tender mercy.

I am full of infirmities, wants, sin; thou art full of grace.

I confess my sin, my frequent sin, my wilful sin;

All my powers of body and soul are defiled: A fountain of pollution is deep within my nature.
There are chambers of foul images within my being;
I have gone from one odious room to another,
walked in a no-man's-land of dangerous imaginations,
pried into the secrets of my fallen nature.
I am utterly ashamed that I am what I am in myself;
I have no green shoot in me nor fruit, but thorns and thistles;
I am a fading leaf that the wind drives away;
I live bare and barren as a winter tree, unprofitable, fit to be hewn down and burnt.
Lord, dost thou have mercy on me? Thou hast struck a heavy blow at my pride, at the false
god of self, and I lie in pieces before thee.
But thou hast given me another Master and Lord, thy Son, Jesus,
and now my heart is turned towards holiness,
my life speeds as an arrow from a bow towards complete obedience to thee.
Help me in all my doings to put down sin and to humble pride.
Save me from the love of the world and the pride of life,
from everything that is natural to fallen man,
and let Christ's nature be seen in me day by day.
Grant me grace to bear thy will without repining, and delight to be
not only chiselled, squared, or fashioned,
but separated from the old rock where I have been embedded so long,
and lifted from the quarry to the upper air, where I may be built in Christ for ever.

Readings and prayers for week of 21st September

Monday

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God ^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3 v14-17)

Think: Where did you first hear about Christ? How did you grow in the faith? How well do you know and understand scripture? How might it help you more in your life? How might it help you more in your evangelism? Why is scripture so important? When was the last time you allowed scripture to change your mind on something? What was it?

Give thanks to God for his word and our freedom to own it and read it. Praise God for the salvation it has revealed to you that you believe. Ask God to challenge you this week.

Pray for people on their own in our local lockdown. Commit to dust off your telephone cell and ring people to see how they are doing. Pray for people in you cell group by name. Ask God to strengthen them and help them to grow in their faith. Pray for any who are lonely.

Give Thanks that the numbers in hospital and death rate remain low despite rising case numbers. Pray that local flare ups would not lead to a real 'second wave', but that herd immunity would take over.

Pray for the regions of the world where there are national hostilities. E.g. Turkey/Greece, Ethiopia/Egypt, Korea, China/Taiwan, Russia, Belarus & Ukraine, Libya, Syria.

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.

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 teachers as they struggle with pressures of COVID. Pray for safety and wisdom.

Pray for front line medical staff. Give thanks that by all accounts, hospitals remain quiet. Pray that people who need medical treatment would not be afraid to seek it.

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.

Tuesday

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' ³¹They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.' (Acts 16 v25-31)

Think : How does the Jailer come to desire salvation? Would you have stayed in prison at that point? It may feel like Lockdown is a prison, how does prayer and singing help you? How might it bear witness to others? With the world in its chaos, do you think we ought to be more upfront about salvation like Paul and Silas are? Why or why not?

Pray that you would be bolder in pointing people to Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Ask God to move people you know by name to want to know how to be saved. Pray you would answer.

Pray for peace and calm during the local lockdown. Pray the government would get a grip.

Pray against racist attitudes and prejudice. Pray for the Nation of Zimbabwe today.

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.

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 continued growth of the disease. Pray we would be wise in the UK but not over zealous and thereby cause more harm than good.

Ask God that church 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, even during this lockdown.

Pray : God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your love and protection

we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday

⁵Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

⁶Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

⁷Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die:

⁸keep falsehood and lies far from me;

give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

⁹Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the LORD?"

Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God. (Proverbs 30 v5-9)

Think : How is God 'a shield'? How do you take 'refuge' in Him? Where do you need a shield right now? Where are you tempted to add to God's words? What are the dangers to Christians when they add to the Gospel of Jesus? The writer asks two things of God. What are they? Why keep falsehood and lies from you? Why neither poverty and riches? How might you be challenged by these verses to change for good.

Ask God to humble you when you think that people need more than Jesus. Pray you would never add to His words and to show you when you have. Ask God to be your shield today.

Pray for our council, that they would quickly ask to allow people to see families and friends.

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 places on earth experiencing fires or floods, that people would be humbled by the power of nature and see the God behind creation through Jesus Christ.

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 that lockdown 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 : Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Thursday

¹A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall round it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ²At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

⁶He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, "They will respect my son." ⁷But the tenants said to one another, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." ⁸So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

“the Lord has done this and it is marvellous in our eyes” (Mark 12 v1-11)

Think : Jesus tells this parable to show the chief priests and pharisees how they hate God and his servants. What does this passage teach you about humanity? About yourself? Why do you think people still reject Jesus and his teaching? How do you respond when Jesus comes and asks for some of the fruit of your harvest? How does it change your views when you remember that as a Christian you too will share in the inheritance (eternal life) of Christ?

Pray for religious leaders who prefer to have power, that they would hand it back to Jesus.

Pray or yourself that you would give to Christ what belongs to him.

Praise Jesus that he is the cornerstone, i.e. guide and foundation, of our faith

Pray that those who feel low because of social media bullying, or the lack of approval would find joy and life in Christ. Pray especially for teenagers and the peer pressure they face

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 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 are, 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: God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Friday

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

³ a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3 v1-8)

Think: Dwell on this passage and each verse. How does each one make you feel and why? The writer of Ecclesiastes is lost, he is going through everything he has ever held dear and recognising that it fails to bring lasting joy and satisfaction. Dwell on what you value or have valued in the past, how does it fail to bring everlasting joy and life? Why does it fail? What do you love? What do you hate? When can it ever be right to hate? How should you respond as a Christian when you feel like that?

Pray to God, that you would be a person who mends and bring peace. Pray you would hate evil, but love your enemy. Pray for those who mourn. Praise God for times of joy.

Praise Jesus that he has opened your eyes to life and thank him for dying for you.

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

Pray that you and the church would live out this faith more and more.

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

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.

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. Pray especially that with the local lockdown it would not give the wrong impression.

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

Pray for police and people in the services as they cope with the new world we live in.

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.

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give us joy and peace in our faith, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us for ever. Amen.

Saturday

¹As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?

³My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
'Where is your God?'

⁴These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One^(a)
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.

‘Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God. (Psalm 42 v1-5)

Think : When do you most thirst for God? When do you least think about Him? Where do you ‘go’ to meet with God? When you have been going through a hard time has anyone ever asked you, ‘where is your God now?’. What was your reply? How might you reply better in the light of this passage? The Psalmist is clearly going through a time of suffering or grief. Where did he find solace, hope and joy? How does this help you, especially right now in the midst of a broken world?

Come to God in prayer and commit your soul to Him. Pour out your feelings to Him.

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

Praise God that he provides ‘living water’ in Jesus. Pray you would know his protection.

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

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 Nicholas and Harry. Thank God for their time serving us this summer.

Pray for people taking services tomorrow and those helping.

Pray for the letter sent to the government and the councillors. Pray they would see the reality of low death rate on the ground, the evidence from Sweden, and end this unjust lockdown.

Pray : Contrition

O THOU MOST HIGH,
It becomes me to be low in thy presence. I am nothing compared with thee;
I possess not the rank and power of angels, but thou hast made me what I am,
and placed me where I am; help me to acquiesce in thy sovereign pleasure.
I thank thee that in the embryo state of my endless being I am capable by grace of
improvement; that I can bear thy image, not by submissiveness, but by design,
and can work with thee and advance thy cause and glory.

But, alas, the crown has fallen from my head:

I have sinned;
I am alien to thee;
my head is deceitful and wicked,
my mind an enemy to thy law.

Yet, in my lostness thou hast laid help on the Mighty One
and he comes between to put his hands on us both,
my Umpire, Daysman, Mediator, whose blood is my peace,
whose righteousness is my strength, whose condemnation is my freedom,
whose Spirit is my power, whose heaven is my heritage.

Grant that I may feel more the strength of thy grace in subduing the evil of my nature,
in loosing me from the present evil world, in supporting me under the trials of life,
in enabling me to abide with thee in my valleys,

in exercising me to have a conscience void of offence before thee and before men.
In all my affairs may I distinguish between duty and anxiety,
and may my character and not my circumstances chiefly engage me.

Sunday

¹² Listen to me, Jacob, Israel, whom I have called:

I am he; I am the first and I am the last.

¹³ My own hand laid the foundations of the earth,
and my right hand spread out the heavens;
when I summon them, they all stand up together.

¹⁴ Come together, all of you, and listen:

which of the idols has foretold these things?

The LORD's chosen ally will carry out his purpose against Babylon;

his arm will be against the Babylonians.^(a)

¹⁵ I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him.

I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission. (Isaiah 48 v12-15)

Think: What does the remind you about Who God is? Do you ever have a small, or friendly view of God and forget his glory and power? How can work, or family, or wealth, or education, or holidays, or experiences become idols? What are your idols? How can they point you back to God? How does Jesus lead you away from them? Even though they do not know it, God uses the Babylonians to punish Israel. What if God were using the governments of the world to punish the nations with lockdown and imprisonment? What might God be trying to warn us all? What might he be trying to teach the church? What is his mission in Jesus? How do we know it will succeed? How might you repent in the light of this passage?

Ask God to show you your idols. Say sorry that they cannot teach you about Jesus. Ask Jesus to forgive you and to trust his sovereign hand, even if he is rebuking us.

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.

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 for bereavement support group restarting soon.

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: Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:

open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence

and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen