

Notices

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, priority given to those booking 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/warmclothes 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 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 10am-5pm

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.

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.

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

Zoom based Book club

On Monday evenings I am planning on starting a zoom based book club. We will read a couple of chapters of a book each week (beforehand) and simply chat about our thoughts. If you are interested, we could start with something like C.S.Lewis' Screwtape letters or John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. If interested please contact us. I can bulk buy books if needed.

If anyone else would like to start a zoom based community group as we head into winter to give people things to do then have a think and pray, and let me know.

A Poetic Prayer – Valley of Vision – Self Knowledge

SEARCHER OF HEARTS,

It is a good day to me when thou givest me a glimpse of myself;

Sin is my greatest evil, but thou art my greatest good;

I have cause to loathe myself, and not to seek self-honour,
for no one desires to commend his own dunghill.

My country, family, church fare worse because of my sins,
for sinners bring judgment in thinking sins are small,
or that God is not angry with them.

Let me not take other good men as my example,
and think I am good because I am like them,

For all good men are not so good as thou desirest, are not always consistent,
do not always follow holiness, do not feel eternal good in sore affliction.

Show me how to know when a thing is evil which I think is right and good,
how to know when what is lawful comes from an evil principle,
such as desire for reputation or wealth by usury.

Give me grace to recall my needs,
my lack of knowing thy will in Scripture, of wisdom to guide others,
of daily repentance, want of which keeps thee at bay,
of the spirit of prayer, having words without love,
of zeal for thy glory, seeking my own ends,
of joy in thee and thy will, of love to others.

And let me not lay my pipe too short of the fountain,
never touching the eternal spring, never drawing down water from above.

Readings and prayers for week of 28th September

Monday

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. (Acts 19 v8-10)

Think: Sometimes Paul stays in towns only briefly, other times much longer, why do you think this might be? Why does he stop speaking to the Jews at Tyrannus' synagogue? What does this lead him to do? Have you ever come across people in churches refusing to believe the gospel and even maligning biblical truth? How do you think this makes the leaders feel? What is the result of Paul speaking publicly? How can we get out of 'church' and speak so that everyone who lives in Harraton/Rickleton/Fatfield hear the word of the Lord?

Pray for those in churches who go for cultural reasons but do not like to hear the bible taught or Jesus proclaimed, that they would repent and come to faith. Pray for church leaders who have to deal with hostility when they put teaching Jesus first.

Pray for us, that we would take the gospel out into the villages. Especially Christmas planning where we hope to be innovative since we cannot have big carol services in church.

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 and help them to grow in their faith.

Give Thanks that the numbers in hospital and death rate still 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. Pray for regions where there are wild fires, floods or food shortages.

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 for the planners as they deliberate over the final reports and make a decision.

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

Pray for front line medical staff. 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 : Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for giving us the strength to persevere each day. We enjoy fellowshiping with each other and spending time in your presence. Open doors for lives to be transformed, and situations changed. We want to say thank you. Lord, as we live in this place. Remind us to continue worshipping you in our homes throughout the week. Fan into flames the gifts that you have given us that we may use them out there in the world to preach the gospel and transform lives. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Tuesday

'At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people – everyone whose name is found written in the book – will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. ⁴But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.' (Daniel 12 v1-4)

Think : Daniel is often called 'apocalyptic' literature, why do you think that is? How does this passage speak into that? Much of this imagery is picked up in Revelation, but how does this describe the 'end times?' What will happen to all people? What will be different for some? At the end why is increasing knowledge of God and his plans the right response to this warning?

Pray that you would understand God's word more Give thanks that in Christ you will rise to everlasting life. Pray that your faith would shine bright and lead many to righteousness.

Pray for peace and calm during the local lockdown. Pray that fear would begin to dissipate.

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

Pray for authorities and leaders that they would act wisely as they serve the people

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 where CV-19 is still spreading fast. Give thanks that it has not so far got out of control in the UK and pray that the government do not overreact and cause more harm than good.

Pray for the City of Manaus in Brazil. Give thanks that herd immunity seems to have been reached with far fewer deaths than feared. Pray many more places would reach herd immunity with lower death rates, including in the UK.

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 : Lord Jesus, we come to you to offer the sacrifice worship. Thank you for speaking to us each day. Some of us come with broken hearts, but you can mend them. Others come depressed; you are their only hope. Father, you have shown yourself strong in our lives. Guide us as we go about our lives. Show us the right way to follow throughout the week, and when we come together, we shall testify the great things that you have done in our lives. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Wednesday

⁵Jesus said to them: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, "I am he," and will deceive many. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth-pains. (Mark 13 v5-8)

Think : Revelation also warns of a time when the believers are tempted to turn from Christ. What is happening here? What sorts of deceptions can lead Christians astray from truth? Which deceptions do you find hard to resist? What thoughts/lies/comments cause you to struggle? Why do you think Jesus warns his disciples about wars, famines, earthquakes and the like? How does a global pandemic make you think about these end times?

Pray for places where there are wars, natural disasters and catastrophes. Ask God that they would actually point people to their need for Jesus.

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 book group starting. 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 : Lord God, we ask you to continue speaking to us. Open our spiritual ears that we may be able to hear in the spirit and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Help us to continue looking up to you every day even when life does not make sense. Father, do not allow the enemy to steal the joy of salvation that you have filled in our hearts. We come against strife and contention that usually crops up when people are away from church. Help us to continue fixing our gaze on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Thursday

- ⁵Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
- ⁶Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.
- ⁷My salvation and my honour depend on God[☩];
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62 v5-8)

Think : What tires you out most? What makes you feel most disheartened right now? How does this Psalm help you in that? Do you truly trust God? How should that impact any fears you have right now? What do you think it means to 'trust in Him at all times' in a time of crisis? How can you make the Lord even more of a refuge? How does knowing Jesus help?

Ask God in prayer to help you trust him more. Ask him to take all your fears away.

Pray for those who are being swept along on emotion. Pray they take a step back and see the reality of our situation and understand that most people are not at risk of death from CV19.

Pour your heart out to God and take refuge in him.

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 for our ministries to serve others.

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: Holy God, help us to remain faithful to you in everything that we do. Lord, we pray that everything that we have been doing in this community may glorify your name. If there is anything that we have done because of our selfish interests, Father we ask for forgiveness. May we be faithful in our homes, workplaces, and businesses by doing what we have been taught and living our lives according to scripture. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Friday

¹⁰After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, 'The Holy Spirit says, "In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, 'Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.' ¹⁴When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, 'The Lord's will be done.' (Acts 21 v10-14)

Think: What was the prophet warning Paul would happen? How did the people respond? How did Paul respond? How would you respond if you were going out to serve Christ and were warned it might lead to your imprisonment or death? Why do you think Paul is willing to even die in Jerusalem? Do you ever say, 'The Lord's will be done' even when it might be costly?

Ask God to give you the courage to serve him whatever the cost. Ask him to show you how.

Ask God to help you trust his will in your and your family's lives.

Pray for places where Christians do risk their lives to proclaim the gospel. Ask God to end persecution, civil war, corruption and greed.

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

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 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: God, thank you for the gift of life. Some people try to worship for experience, but they do not make it. You have given us the gift of life, it's not because we are good but because you are an awesome God. Help us to remain humble in everything that we do so that your light may shine upon all people through us. May we become useful vessels that bring glory to your name. In Jesus' name, I believe and pray, Amen.

Saturday

Then Job replied to the LORD:

²I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³You asked, "Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?"
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴You said, "Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me."

⁵My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.' (Job 42 v1-6)

Think : Job has been humbled because he has not trusted God, but at the end prays this prayer. What was his fundamental problem? Given the tragedies and suffering he experienced, why do you think he found it hard to trust God's bigger plans? How does God respond to Job's complaints? Do you ever question God? Do you allow God to question you? How do you respond when you know God has shown you that you are wrong?

Pray prayers of repentance for when you have ignored God, or blamed Him. Pray that you would be humble enough to allow him to question you and that you would answer truthfully.

Pray for those who are facing tragedy and suffering, that they would trust God. Pray that they would also be comforted rather than doubting of God.

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 the police and armed forces, that they would be wise when enforcing lockdown rules.

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

Pray for the nations of South East Asia; Vietnam, Cambodia, Taiwan, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, etc.

Pray : The Mediator

EVERLASTING CREATOR-FATHER,
I have destroyed myself, my nature is defiled,
the powers of my soul are degraded;
I am vile, miserable, strengthless,
but my hope is in thee.

If ever I am saved it will be by goodness undeserved and astonishing,
not by mercy alone but by abundant mercy,
not by grace but by exceeding riches of grace;

And such thou hast revealed, promised, exemplified in thoughts of peace, not of evil.
Thou hast devised means to rescue me from sin's perdition,
to restore me to happiness, honour, safety.

I bless thee for the everlasting covenant, for the appointment of a Mediator.

I rejoice that he failed not, nor was discouraged,
but accomplished the work thou gavest him to do;
and said on the cross, 'It is finished.'

I exult in the thought that thy justice is satisfied, thy truth established,
thy law magnified, and a foundation is laid for my hope.

I look to a present and personal interest in Christ and say,

Surely he has borne my griefs, carried my sorrows, won my peace, healed my soul.

Justified by his blood I am saved by his life,

Glorying in his cross I bow to his sceptre,

Having his Spirit I possess his mind.

Lord, grant that my religion may not be occasional and partial,

but universal, influential, effective,

and may I always continue in thy words as well as thy works,

so that I may reach my end in peace.

Sunday

And God spoke all these words:

²'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³'You shall have no other gods before me.

- ⁴'You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷'You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
- ⁸'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- ¹²'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- ¹³'You shall not murder.
- ¹⁴'You shall not commit adultery.
- ¹⁵'You shall not steal.
- ¹⁶'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.
- ¹⁷'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.'
- (Exodus 20 v1-17)

Think: Dwell on Each of God's commandments in turn. How can you live the spirit of tis law out better? (e.g. do not murder – Jesus command not to be angry in your heart, lust, jealousy, greed, dishonesty, etc.). How can you Love God more?

Pray for our world, that people would look to the first 4 commandments and remember that morality is rooted in knowing and loving God rather than law.

Pray for our 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 Iran and especially its Christian population which is growing fast.

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 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: Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen