

Notices

Services are Sunday 10am and Wednesday 1pm in church and Sunday 4pm outside

Our services are also streamed on Youtube, Facebook & Zoom

Morning Prayer takes place online only, Monday-Wednesday at 9.30am

The Church is open for all to visit for prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Please remember social distancing/face covering regulations and rules prohibiting "mingling"

Lunches for young people

On Monday and Wednesday and Good Friday from 11.45am-1pm, working with WCFP, the church family are producing lunch for local young people to take away. The options will include grilled cheese sandwiches, a pasta dish and baked potato with fillings. This is open to all in our community.

Lunch Club (delivery)

Weekly Hot meal for local elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

Our next lunch is on **Wednesday March 31st**

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

Easter Plan

Maundy Thursday

2pm in church – reflection on the Passover

7.30pm online only – Maundy Thursday service

Good Friday

10am readings and prayers at the cross – outside church

11.30am – 1pm Lunch &/or Craft & gift bag for children – to collect

2pm - online only – Good Friday carols and reflections

Easter day

10am in church and online – praise and communion

4pm outside – worship and agape

Lent discussion Group

last Session this Wednesday at 7pm on ZOOM

We will be chatting about the next 3 devotions (16-18) from 'Hope in the face of Suffering'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8836286514?pwd=aGMxOThhWkIKTKIsSWpEc1FqVjQ1QT09>

Meeting ID: 883 628 6514

Passcode: 371151

A Poetic Prayer – Valley of Vision – God Honoured

O GOD,

Praise waiteth for thee, and to render it is my noblest exercise;

This is thy due from all thy creatures,

for all thy works display thy attributes and fulfil thy designs;
 The sea, dry land, winter cold, summer heat,
 morning light, evening shade are full of thee,
 and thou givest me them richly to enjoy.
 Thou art King of kings and Lord of lords;
 At thy pleasure empires rise and fall;
 All thy works praise thee and thy saints bless thee;
 Let me be numbered with thy holy ones,
 resemble them in character and condition, sit with them at Jesus' feet.
 May my religion be always firmly rooted in thy Word,
 my understanding divinely informed, my affections holy and heavenly,
 my motives simple and pure, and my heart never wrong with thee.
 Deliver me from the natural darkness of my own mind,
 from the corruptions of my heart, from the temptations to which I am exposed,
 from the daily snares that attend me.
 I am in constant danger while I am in this life;
 Let thy watchful eye ever be upon me for my defence,
 Save me from the power of my worldly and spiritual enemies
 and from all painful evils to which I have exposed myself.
 Until the day of life dawns above let there be unrestrained fellowship with Jesus;
 Until fruition comes, may I enjoy the earnest of my inheritance
 and the firstfruits of the Spirit;
 Until I finish my course with joy may I pursue it with diligence,
 in every part display the resources of the Christian,
 and adorn the doctrine of thee my God in all things.

Readings and prayers for week of March 29th

Monday

Read – Isaiah 42 v1-4

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;
 I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

²He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

³A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
 In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.
 In his teaching the islands will put their hope.'

Think : This prophecy in Isaiah points to a wonderful future. What is it promising? What is this leader like? How would the earth look if these promises came to fruition? Knowing, as we do, this points to the Messiah, how does this help us understand the purpose and season of Easter? Do you put your hope in his teachings? Which of them do you find most challenging? Why? How does this help you long for the return of Christ?

Give thanks for the rule of law that the Christian faith has helped to establish across the earth. Pray for those involved in justice, that they would be wise and honest.

Give thanks that Jesus did not resort to power or war, but was humble and gentle. Pray for peace where there is conflict. Pray his teachings would spread more.

Pray that you would not be discouraged nor become hostile to trouble.

Pray for young people through the holidays, that they would reflect on Easter spiritually.

Give thanks for the vaccine rollout in the UK. Pray for nations who do not have vaccines where the virus is out of control. Pray for increased supply globally as well as UK and EU.

Pray for the nation as it begins to exit lockdown. Pray that if virus rates rise with schools back, serious illness will not go up and that people will not worry.

Pray that our fellowship would thrive, despite all the limits in place. Pray that the church would grow in community recognition.

Ask the Lord to humble this nation so people would repent and find life through His church as it proclaims the gospel. Pray that Christians would be bold in proclaiming the gospel.

Pray that the lunches going out in the holidays would draw people to Jesus.

Pray for the nation of the Germany.

Pray: Almighty Father, who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, show me how I can honour you and bring glory to your name, by walking in the way of Jesus. Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail, guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things. For your love brings light and life to all who seek it. May I seek you evermore as I walk with you through this Holy Week and beyond. Amen.

Tuesday

Read – 1 Corinthians 1 v18-21

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Think : Why did the cross seem foolish to some? Why is it the power of God? Who do many people see as 'wise' or 'intelligent' nowadays? What does this teach us about true wisdom? How does Easter remind you of God's power to save? Where do you turn for wisdom when facing trials or questions? Where should you turn according to this passage?

Thank God that the cross of Christ is God's wisdom in that it brings forgiveness and salvation for all who believe. Pray for those who think that God 'dying' for us is foolish idea.

Pray that you would seek wisdom through the Spirit in God's word and God's people.

Pray that in this pandemic, more and more people would see 'worldly wisdom' is foolish.

Pray for your family, or others with families who do not know Jesus.

Pray that the world would act to change and stop harming the environment.

Pray for the nation of Tunisia today.

Pray for the unemployed and those still on the furlough scheme.

Pray for wisdom for Nations struggling under unaffordable debt, especially in Africa and Asia.

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.

Ask God that church leaders would be strengthened, to be inspired for the future and would be bold and wise in proclaiming Jesus to our community effectively.

Give thanks for our Sunday services. Pray for growth and new ideas.

Pray: O Heavenly and Almighty Father, who sent his only Son Jesus to live and die as one of us, save me. For all wisdom, all strength, and all glory is in you. You are my rock and my redeemer, my shelter in the storm. In you I place my trust, so that I may have hope. Let me walk in your light all my days, seeking only you. I give you my life to love and serve you, following you in all that I do. Amen.

Wednesday

Read – John 13 v21-27

²¹After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, 'Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.'

²²His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. ²³One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, 'Ask him which one he means.'

²⁵Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'

²⁶Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

Think: How do you think Jesus is feeling at this point? How would you feel if you knew a close friend was going to betray you? What is it that ultimately leads Judas to betray Jesus? How does this help us understand the spiritual battle we all face? How might you betray Jesus? How can you better resist Satan's lies and attacks? Knowing what will happen, why do you think Jesus doesn't try to stop it, but asks Judas to get on with it? What do you fear most? Would you want it to happen quickly if you knew it was going to happen? Why or why not?

Thank God that Jesus willingly allowed himself to be betrayed to the cross.

Pray for those feeling the pain of betrayal. Pray they might be able to forgive and find peace.

Pray for yourself where you may have betrayed Jesus. Ask him to forgive and restore you.

Pray for those who find themselves in modern day slavery. Pray against people traffickers.

Pray for wisdom as we begin to think about our future at the end of lockdown in May.

Pray that our conversations would be full of grace, truth, hope and light

Pray for the persecuted Church in Nigeria

Pray for gospel opportunities for Christian parents and children now schools are back.

Pray for those Bishops who are balancing holding the church together while upholding truth.

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. Pray for a new treasurer and church warden as Terry comes to the end of his time serving as one at the APCM.

Pray : Jesus, you suffered greatly for our benefit. You walked the hard road through shame, betrayal, persecution, rejection. Yet, you only desired good things for us. You came in glory to save us and redeem us from our sins. You came to offer us light and life, a hope in you that surpasses anything the world can offer. So, why do we too often turn our backs? Why do we give in to questions and disbelief when the road gets hard? Why do we look for easier paths to follow? Lord, lead me in your way, encouraging me to persevere on the hard days, remembering the great hope I have in you. Amen.

Thursday

Read – John 13 v12-17

¹²When he (Jesus) had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. ¹³'You call me "Teacher" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Think : What is Jesus doing for his disciples here? What is he teaching them? Why would this be quite shocking for his disciples? Why is God being a servant such a radical idea? Although he is serving, what does he teach you about how we respond to God? How can you sometimes try and make God your servant in a wrong way? Why should you serve the Lord? Why should you serve others? How might you do that today?

Give thanks that Jesus willingly served us by going to the cross for us.

Pray that we would never treat God like he owes us something or should do what you want.

Pray that as a church and as individuals, we would have servant hearts for Christ.

Pray that the gospel would thrive in our community now and after this pandemic.

Pray that the church would reflect on the pandemic and learn better how to be 'church'.

Pray for hauliers and delivery drivers who have hard jobs driving many hours a day.

Pray for the mission to seafarers and those who work as industrial chaplains.

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

Pray for our Easter plans, that we would bless our community and make Jesus Christ crucified and risen known to many people. Pray for volunteers to help. Pray for the Lent Study group.

Praise God that the new Annexe planning application is continuing. Pray for the council as they (hopefully) make a decision. Pray for the fundraising and grant applications.

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 for Open doors, the Christian charity that serves the persecuted church worldwide.

Pray: O Lord, the King of Kings, who led and taught not as a mighty ruler, but a servant leader, show me how to lead and live through love. Teach me how to love and serve others with a gracious and humble heart. Help me to always remember your words, being reminded each time I come before your table to share in the cup and the bread. As I come before you to eat the bread of redemption and drink the cup of your salvation, may I recommit my heart to serving you and leading through love. To you, O Lord, who are mighty to save, pour out your mercy and grace and lead me in your way. Amen.

Friday

Read – Isaiah 53 v3-6

³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.
⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Think : How does this prophecy help you understand the work of the cross? How are we 'healed' by his wounds? How are we all like sheep? Iniquity, another word for sin and disobedience is rife in us all, in what ways have you gone astray? How does it make you feel that God has laid your iniquity on Jesus? How should you respond to that truth.

Give thanks that Jesus allowed himself to be pierced by nails on the cross and died for you.

Confess where you have gone astray recently and say sorry to God. Thank God's forgiveness.

Pray for boldness to be willing to suffer for the gospel like Christ suffered for you.

Pray for those who are persecuted and rejected because of their faith.

Pray for our children's ministry and vision for the future.

Continue to pray for Myanmar/Burma where the army took power a few weeks ago.

Pray for those who have been made unemployed recently. Pray for new jobs to come.

Pray for the new CAP centre being set up in Sunderland that we are supporting as a church.

Pray for the local businesses that are making preparations to reopen in the near future.

Pray for summer camps for young people, that they would take place and grow disciples.

Pray for the Good Friday craft/activity/gift bags going out. Pray for the lunches for young.

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

Pray for those who work in shops especially those that have to deal with difficult customers.

Ask God to guide you in how to view 'church'. Pray that as we head through 2021 that we would know how we can meet as church in a united way and not dwell on preferences or what has changed. Pray Christ would help us to have unity in the gospel.

Pray : O Jesus, on this day we remember your death, the day your light went out from this earth. We sit in the darkness today, remembering the trials you faced on our behalf. You have borne our sin and made the ultimate sacrifice to save us. Today, as we recall your final hours, we consider a world without you and hold onto the hope we know we have in you. Lord, commit my heart ever closer to you, because I don't want to live in a Good Friday world without you. I want you and your light in my life. I believe in you and want to follow you all the days of my life, even knowing the road ahead will be difficult. Come, Lord Jesus, come and fill this world with your light. Amen.

Saturday

Read – 1 Peter 4 v1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body has finished with sin. ²As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Think : Pagans can sound derogatory, but refers to anyone who does not know Christ. Why do you think pagans do not care if they live as described here? Why should Christians reject evil human desires? Of course some desires are good, but can be misused, sex being one of those that is right in marriage but sinful outside of marriage. What other examples can you think of like that, which can be good if used well, or evil if used wrongly? Have you ever found people surprised that you do not join in with their sinful actions? How does verse 5 challenge you to not get involved in groups that are gossiping, bullying, mocking, etc?

Pray that you would have the same attitude as Christ to sin and suffering.

Pray for pagans who are harming themselves in their rebellion against God.

Pray for yourself that you would not join in with wrong even when pressured by people.

Give thanks that you know the will of God and that you would live for Him.

Pray for missionaries working overseas in dangerous places, e.g. Afghanistan.

Pray for athletes and sportspeople who have had so much of their training interrupted.

Pray for our Church wardens and PCC today. Pray that God would raise up a new treasurer.

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 local residents and church members that we would build relationships.

Pray for the nations of France, Spain, Oman and Botswana.

Pray against the vaccine hesitancy being experienced in some communities and countries.

Pray for those who face racism. Pray for the government as they plan for the future.

Pray for Sunday services being prepared and the communion we will share outdoors.

Pray : The Gospel Way

BLESSED LORD JESUS,

No human mind could conceive or invent the gospel.

Acting in eternal grace, thou art both its messenger and its message,
lived out on earth through infinite compassion, applying thy life to insult, injury, death,
that I might be redeemed, ransomed, freed.

Blessed be thou, O Father, for contriving this way,

Eternal thanks to thee, O Lamb of God, for opening this way,

Praise everlasting to thee, O Holy Spirit, for applying this way to my heart.

Glorious Trinity, impress the gospel on my soul, until its virtue diffuses every faculty;

Let it be heard, acknowledged, professed, felt.

Teach me to secure this mighty blessing;

Help me to give up every darling lust, to submit heart and life to its command,

to have it in my will, controlling my affections, moulding my understanding;

to adhere strictly to the rules of true religion, not departing from them in any instance,
nor for any advantage in order to escape evil, inconvenience or danger.

Take me to the cross to seek glory from its infamy;

Strip me of every pleasing pretence of righteousness by my own doings.

O gracious Redeemer, I have neglected thee too long, often crucified thee,
crucified thee afresh by my impenitence, put thee to open shame.

I thank thee for the patience that has borne with me so long,
and for the grace that now makes me willing to be thine.

O unite me to thyself with inseparable bonds,

that nothing may ever draw me back from thee, my Lord, my Saviour.

Sunday

Read – Mark 16 v2-8

²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."'

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Think: How would you feel if you found an empty grave of someone you knew had died? How would you feel if someone then told you they were alive again? Spend a few moments dwelling on the empty tomb and the resurrection. What does it mean for you? How should you live knowing that there is life after death?

Praise God for his power to raise the dead. Thank him that you share in this resurrection hope

Pray that you would experience the resurrection life today and in your life and live it out.

Pray for people grieving, especially those you know, that they would believe these truths.

Pray that plenty of visitors come to church this afternoon to our outdoor Easter service.

Think about what you have read in the Lent devotions book 'Hope in the face of suffering'

Pray through the themes that have spoken into your life. Pray for someone else by name.

Pray for those who feel discouraged today, that they would know the resurrection hope.

Pray for the nations of Mali, Lithuania, Paraguay and Cuba.

Pray for people now we are allowed to meet in 'groups of six' that we would make the most of what we can do to serve others and make Jesus known.

Pray for our many volunteers, that they would be energised by their faith in Jesus.

Pray for Nick & Lucy (and kids) as they take a few weeks to recuperate after a very long time without a break. Pray they would be refreshed when they return to serve at the end of April.

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 graciousness and unity.

Pray God would help us to work well with other gospel focussed churches and leaders.

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.

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: Heavenly Father, what great love you have for me that you would send your only begotten Son to die for my sins. How can I ever doubt your love or your ways? Yet in these dark moments, I start to question and doubt. I wonder what comes next and I fail to recall your great faithfulness. Lord, forgive my unbelief and help me believe. Help me to trust you in all things, in all times, even through the valleys and dark seasons of my life. For you are my rock and my refuge, my strength in the storm. Your love never ceases, your mercies never end. You are enough for me – more than enough. Help me to remember that all the days of my life. Lead me to walk in love, as a shining reflection of your love into this world. And help me live the life you desire of me, bringing glory to you in all that I do. Amen.