



Ade writes...

As the restrictions in England are gradually being relaxed, let us continue to pray for one another. There can't be too many prayers. As Ephesians 6:18 says "Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out." (The Message)

Indeed, "...tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!" (James 5:16 NPT), and many in the church have given testimonies of how God has answered their prayers. I am really grateful for all your prayers for the church. And I'm pleased to say as I am now able to go in to the church building, I shall do so daily to pray for the whole church family, our community and the nation.

The pandemic has changed things beyond imagination. It will not be possible to return to even a partial semblance of the church life we used to know until the Government allows places of worship to reopen. But let us be thankful to God for what we can do. David, who has done a phenomenal job with the online services, updates our church website on a regular basis as we receive the latest advisory information from the Diocese.

Even when we are allowed back we shall have to take steps to ensure that the church and our facilities are safe for all our members, especially the most vulnerable. We are blessed with a large building and should be able to make adjustments that will allow us to worship safely. Let us pray for the wisdom, energy and commitment to make sure that this happens as soon as possible. And for discernment to decide what to do differently going forward. The prospect of online fellowship at home on a cold winter's night is especially attractive!!

In the meantime, until we can all return to our building we continue to find new ways of being church. There is now an ASG Youth Instagram account through which our young people can keep in touch. Access to this is necessarily filtered for safeguarding purposes, so do contact me if you want more details. The Wednesday Fellowship Group continues to meet online at 7.30 pm and there is a further opportunity to gather for prayer on Friday evenings at 6.30 pm. We are blessed in having Suresh to arrange all our online meetings and we thank God for him and David.

For those who can not access online services the Church of England Daily Hope phone line provides free telephone access to prayers hymns and reflections and it is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044

Telephone contact is vitally important in these difficult times. Please continue to contact each other and do get in touch if you need any practical help, such as groceries delivered or other essentials. If you are feeling particularly anxious, or need pastoral support, then do not hesitate to phone and ask for me to pray for you or talk about what support you might need. It might be that you just want to have a moan, or you have run out of things to pray about, or you are even fed up with me asking you to pray! Just give me a ring. As you know I am not based in the Parish full time so do send a text if I am not available and I shall get back in touch.

As we approach Ascension Day when we commemorate Christ's ascension to heaven, and then look forward to Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and transformed first the apostles, then thousands and then millions of others; I pray that the God of hope fills you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God bless you.

Ade

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