

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Who would have thought it? What strange times we live in. But we always say the church is the people, not just the word for a place where the church meets. Only last Sunday when we were looking at the lady by the well in John 4, Jesus said a time is coming when you will worship neither here nor in Jerusalem, but true worshippers will worship in Spirit and in truth.

Place is not as important to us as our true relationship with God through Jesus by the Spirit.

And Psalm 46 says

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble

We can't meet in St Andrew's at the moment. But we can pray and read the Bible at home, even more!. I have recorded John Bell's sermon for this coming Sunday, and plan to try to live cast on Sunday at 11 from in the church building. If you go to the church website, www.standrewsheadleholme.org.uk there is a link to the St Andrew's You Tube channel on the website (St Andrews, Cheadle Hulme). You can listen to recent sermons on our church website. We also have a St Andrew's Cheadle Hulme Facebook page.

Bence has had to go back to Hungary, but he wanted to say how much he had enjoyed being part of our church, and that he hopes he can come back.

I am drawing up a list of the congregation, with the aim that we will all have someone phoning us and encouraging us in our Christian lives and checking how we are.

There are lots of links and apps to pray at home.

The Church of England website has Morning and Evening Prayer and many other topics.

If you want to do some learning:

Lots of secular courses on <http://www.futurelearn.com/>

A heavy weight Christian theology course you could do is

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/soteriological-debates/#course-introduction>

Some free children's learning from

America: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

The Cheadle Hulme North Ward has started a help line. We have been asked to distribute leaflets in the part of the ward that is in our parish, please let me know if you can help. There will also be a manned phone line from 8 till 8 and that wants volunteers.

If you are worried about the people who started their banns last Sunday, as there will be no services they can't get married by banns, but they can get a Common Licence, if they want to go ahead, with a smaller wedding (I think that will be the case for our son in June).

PCC and committee meetings will still take place using something called Zoom. We haven't been told yet whether the Annual Meeting can be postponed, but I guess so. We will still need people to be on the committees in the coming year! Zoom might also be good for house groups - people can use phone if they don't have a computer.

Let's use this strange time to be even more connected as a church.

Christopher

PS I would like to ask you to respond to this email so that I can make sure I am contacting everyone in the best way. Please let me know if there are any problems!