

St Andrew's Church Woodside
5th May 2024, 10am
Informal Communion at [St Paul's](#)
'Remain in me and ask Another'

Message from Nick

Today's Gospel Reading: John 15:9 - 17



In our reading, Jesus is teaching about himself as the True Vine, the Father as the Gardener. In his illustration, the branches represent disciples who believe in him. He reveals a plan and purpose for his disciples' life. The plan is that they remain in the True Vine. The purpose is so that the disciples can bear fruit. As branches we are not to depend on our own strength to thrive for God's kingdom. The True Vine provides for us. Jesus gives a very precious promise here. He says in verse 7 'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.'

This is a conditional promise. Remaining in him and his words remaining in us is a prerequisite for carrying out what is asked for. Today, we are thinking about corporate prayer. Prayer is one of the essential disciplines for the Christian life. Prayer is asking God to align you with His will rather than asking Him to be aligned with yours. So here are five highlights of the benefits of corporate prayer.

- Corporate prayer enlarges our vision
- Corporate prayer unifies the body of Christ
- Corporate prayer displays and spreads God's glory
- Corporate prayer teaches us and encourages our hearts
- Corporate prayer creates a sense of expectancy

Join us for corporate prayer during the monthly prayer meetings as advertised. But we also want to hear what would make corporate prayer more effective in our churches. So I have put together a short 10 question survey which I'd ask all of us to complete. You can complete it today or you can take it away and bring it back to church next Sunday.

For those not in church, 10.30 Sunday services will be available on Zoom:

Meeting 878 5926 2657, passcode 664663 or click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?pwd=dTdada291VDk2anA5aGtmdnFCN3kzQT09>

Contacts at St. Andrew's

Priest in Charge: Revd Nick Mwandia **Vicarage:** 01582 285791 or 07398 663729

e-Mail: revstandreww@gmail.com

Nick's day off: Friday

Reader: Julie Taylor: 01582 413912

Churchwardens: Steve Baird: 01582 738205
Tony Smith: 07976 830906

**We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God,
to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.**

Practical help for the Community



Azalea sends thanks to all those who contribute in various ways, which include our regular Gift Aided donations. They regularly collect our offerings of food, toiletries, etc; always gratefully received!



We continue to deliver food items to the Foodbank monthly as needs are greater than ever. Your generous support provides aid to both adults and children: our offerings are thankfully received. Please donate high protein food items: e.g. tinned beans, dry pasta, long life milk, etc. dropping your items in the Foodbank trug at church or at 7 Crawley Close. We plan to drop off at the Food Bank on Thursday 30th May.

**The Foodbank appreciates regular Gift Aid donations where possible.
See <https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk>**

Items for Asylum Seekers

Adult toothbrushes, Shampoo, Body Moisturiser, Shower Gel, Spray deodorants, Baby's toiletries, Baby oil/moisturiser. New T-shirts & Joggers S/M/L, Crop tops, Bras, Socks. Please place items into the box in church.

Blister Packs Recycling

We have a collection box at the back of church for used blister packs, which Paula has kindly volunteered to take for recycling.

THY KINGDOM COME
Light Up The World In Prayer
9th-19th May 2024

We are creating opportunities at church with prayers stations to explore different ways of praying and some short led prayer sessions. Why not come and see if there is something for you?

To pray together is to share our lives with God and in the work of God; moving closer to God, to each other and the world.

Let us pray together "Thy Kingdom Come."
Dame Sarah Mullaly CBE, Bishop of London.

Church Diary

May

Sun 5th	10:00	Informal Communion: joint service at St Paul's
Tue 7th	12-2	Soup & Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wed 8th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thu 9th	9:30 7:30	Bible Study on Zoom Thy Kingdom Come: Ascension Day Service
Fri 10th	7:00	Thy Kingdom Come: Prayers for Peace
Sat 11th	9:30 onwards	Thy Kingdom Come: Mary & Martha Day
Sun 12th	10:30	Morning Praise
Mon 13th	10:00 7-8	Little Singing Stars Explore the Prayer Stations in church
Tue 14th	12-2	Soup & Sandwich at the Rising Sun

Monthly Prayers on first Wednesdays & Weekly Bible Studies ...

Zoom on 589 233 412, passcode 090636 or use:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/589233412?pwd=d1lLL0E2Y0w4dDdpUXlTR0pHcGdSQTO9>