

Will it make a difference?

Books for life

Have you been reading more during lockdown? We put out a box of free things to read for all ages and are glad that some people noticed and took them. Reading helps us realise that we are not the first people to face difficult situations, and we can be helped through them.

Changed values

Has the loss of a family member or friend made you realise that some things are more important than you thought? Don't lose that!

Seize the day

Don't let's go mad and grab every experience we can now without thought for the future, but perhaps we can learn to take actions which matter now so we don't miss the chance.



www.standrewsheadleulme.org.uk
www.emmanuelch.co.uk

Christianity Explored

Are you one of the 1 in 4?

According to the media, 25% of adults in the UK have attended an online church service during lockdown. You can find ours if you haven't yet tried it!

What is life all about?

There are many possible answers to this question, but not all of them can be true. If you want to see what the Christian answer is from the Bible, why not join an on line Christianity Explored discussion group? Any questions are allowed, and no-one is forced to answer either.

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ROUND THE HOUSES

SPECIAL Summer Edition 2020

Covid, Church & Community

What are the plans?

We can't wait to get back together in person, but of course have to operate within the guidelines of both government and C of E. So we are making arrangements for safe social distancing in our church buildings, but also hoping to keep going with online church.



had a daily prayer meeting on Zoom, and other groups have also met this way: our Youth group, home groups, singalong and even a Bingo social! There are toddler circle time podcasts on YouTube, we've tried to keep in touch by telephone and email, and members have been involved in a number of community groups such as the Cheadle and Cheadle Hulme COVID Support group, collecting for Chelwood foodbank and Barnabus, and Cheadle FM.

What difference will it make?

Inside there are a few personal reflections on the impact of this pandemic. All of us have had to get used to changes, and perhaps you have had time to think too.

One way we would like to help with processing the events of this time is to have a service for all those bereaved during the pandemic. Every death brings sadness, but we need to be able to support each other in this. Do check our website.

What have we been doing?

During the lockdown some jobs disappeared, but the vicar's hasn't. We've had weekly services both recorded and published via Facebook and on YouTube, and live on Zoom. We've



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How have you found lockdown?



Isolated overseas: Dani

Dani has a daughter who lives in Spain and one in Cheadle Hulme, and she was in Spain when the lockdown started.

I have spent lockdown in Spain's Costa Blanca in a small studio flat close to the beach. It consists of one main room, kitchen and bathroom. The glass doors open up to get plenty of sea air.

So how have you found the experience?

What helped was maintaining a close connection with both my family and my Church family. Another was the fact I could meditate and read my Bible regularly looking for my personal answers. In that sense I have had the benefit of being solitary.

So what are your hopes now?

My hopes are that I can return soon to see the people I love. For me being prevented from going out is not so important. The illness I have forces me to stay in most of the time. I've been an active person in my lifetime so it was hard being in bed for six months



after an operation nearly three years ago, but that prepared me for this time. It is very difficult for me being unable to sing as I love that very much, but whatever the Lord decides for me then I will accept. I need to pull myself together at the moment to prepare for getting home. I'm looking forward to going to Church again even if it's via zoom!

Priest and Doctor on the front line: Peter

While most other people have been at home during the lockdown, I have been able to continue going to work.

As well as my role at St Andrew's and Emmanuel, I am also a doctor at the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Many people have been effusively grateful for what I have been doing in the NHS



but to me it has been an immense privilege to carry on working. My life has been so much more "normal" than so many other people. I have been



able enjoy my usual routine, continue to interact with colleagues and above all keep a sense of purpose in life.

For many people the changes that have been forced on us as a result of coronavirus have taken away their sense of purpose. That might be work, it might be some leisure activity, it might be your family – the current restrictions have limited all of these. If these are what you use to bring meaning to your life, then the lockdown must seem pretty dismal.

Perhaps these strange times have forced you to think about what is important and what gives you a sense of purpose in life. Maybe in the light of what has been happening recently your outlook has changed and what was once important seems less so now.

At St Andrew's and Emmanuel, we believe that the most important purpose in life comes from being part of God's plan for his creation. This is a goal which will outlive any lockdown and is more important than anything we are able to do.

Mum working at home and at school: Rachael

Where have you spent lockdown? I've been working as a Teaching Assistant at Gatley Primary School, part time at first alongside home schooling my 2 girls. Since 8th June,



I've been working full time, being a Bubble Leader for year 1 children.

What have you found hardest? Not being able to hug my mum and dad, home schooling is tough too!

What has helped?

I've found online church services wonderful. God has been so good during this time, keeping our family safe and bringing glorious weather to enjoy.

We've done a few projects in the garden as a family and definitely feel we've got closer during this time. Not having the planes fly past every minute has also been a great bonus!

What are your hopes for the future?

To have a big party with family and friends when coronavirus disappears. For life not to be as much of a rush as it was pre-lockdown and to make Sunday a real day of rest where praising God is at the forefront.

Meet us at Emmanuel!

