



Dear Friend,

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

How do God's people react when the news is so hard to hear, relentlessly? We pray. Yes, we sigh, maybe allow ourselves a grumble, and maybe even a tear, but we pray.

We pray for our rulers, and all in authority, on both sides of the Atlantic, and for those moving into authority in the near future.

But what to pray? Three things from this list:

First, we should pray for social stability: *that we may live peaceful and quiet lives*. That sounds very boring and mundane, unless you're caught up in a global pandemic and a democratic meltdown. So let's pray for peace, and quiet, in place of riots and fear.

Second, we should pray for God's people to live in *all godliness and holiness*. Again - how middle class and middle aged! But if you were scandalised by a banner saying 'Jesus 2020' outside the Capitol, alongside a noose and extremist flags and slogans, you can see the point of the prayer. Let's pray for our sisters and brother in the States - especially the most visible ones - to be godly and holy, and to recommend Jesus by their lives.

Third, we should pray for peace and consistent discipleship, because that *pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*. The Christian message is great, good, saving news - good for individuals and good for society. So let's pray for salvation - including the salvation of our leaders and those in authority.

Have a great week, and I'll see you online on Sunday,
Chris

SHARING OUR FAITH IN A PANDEMIC – EVANGELISM TRAINING

Thursday 14 January, 7:30pm–9pm

Join Rico Tice (Christianity Explored), Gavin Calver (CEO of the Evangelical Alliance), Rachel Olney (Mission Partner, Vienna) and others to hear more encouragements, get ideas and discuss how we can help our friends come closer to the Lord Jesus. The evening will include time in break-out groups and Gavin will give us an overview of what has happened evangelistically in the church nationwide this past year.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92913055304?pwd=UXRpWXJYNk8xbjhJYktJK1RBZkgzZz09>

Meeting ID: 929 1305 5304

Passcode: 043510

THIS SUNDAY

The reading this Sunday is 2 Peter 2: 1-16.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Songs of Praise this Sunday, 1:15pm on BBC 1, will feature WAVE café! Celia and Bernice are interviewed by Katie Piper who visited WAVE and loved meeting everyone.

CHURCH FAMILY QUIZ

Join us on Saturday 23 January, 7:30pm, for a Burns Night/Scottish-themed quiz! Click [here](#) to sign up.



ST JAMES DAY OF PRAYER

Jesus said we should always pray and not lose heart. So, on Saturday 30 January we will be having a DAY OF PRAYER to bring our current situation before our Almighty God. We will not be meeting in person but asking our church family to pray for a number of issues throughout the day and night. More details to come but please note the date!

RAISE THE ROOF

The work to the south aisle is nearly complete and scaffolding should start to be removed next week. This could take up to two weeks, during which there will be no access to the bookshop. Then there will be a deep-clean and the organ protection will be removed. Take a look to see how the south aisle roof compares to the old north aisle; it is good for the next 100 years!

HELP FOR THE SHIELDING AND VULNERABLE

Please contact Hannah (hannah.whitehead@st-james.org.uk) if you are able to help practically with shopping for those shielding or vulnerable. The list of people needing help has grown and we need more volunteers please.

JOIN THE YOUTH TEAM

We're looking for people to join the Youth team, with opportunities to serve on Sundays and Wednesdays. Whether you're an older Christian or a new Christian, we'd love for you to consider joining the team, investing in young people's faith for the future. Ping me an email and let's chat some more – david.cornes@st-james.org.uk

BESOM HAMPERS

Here are some photos of Besom members delivering your hampers to grateful families over Christmas.







St James Muswell Hill