

Stanton House

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over every heart and every mind,
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence.

I speak Jesus...

Shout Jesus from the mountains,
Jesus in the street,
Jesus in the darkness over every enemy.
Jesus for my family,
I speak the holy Name,
"Jesus".¹



Dear Friends

April 2020

We at Stanton House are not immune to the panic and fear that is gripping our communities at the moment. Emotions are high, people are tense, and it is difficult to lift our eyes from the stormy waters and fix them on Jesus. Nevertheless, it is a daily choice that we are having to make. Sometimes we simply don't know how to pray, but for some of us here at the House the comforting words of the above song have proved to be such an encouragement. Sometimes we reach that point where all we can do is repeat over and over the Name, "Jesus". And that is enough. He is enough.

In order to ensure the safety of our guests and our staff team, and in accordance with the Government instructions, our Trustees took the decision to close Stanton House to guests until 1 June 2020. Despite it being the right thing to do, the implications are huge as they are for so many charities and businesses across the UK – and, indeed, the world – at this time. There have been many worrying discussions about how we at Stanton House are going to approach these weeks ahead without any income. However, as we have to remind ourselves constantly, this House belongs to God and it is crucial that we open ourselves to hear Him. We'd be really grateful if you would pray with us for our Trustees: for wisdom and that they may have "the mind of Christ" about our future.

Under the present circumstances, rescheduling our guest bookings to a later date has been the best way to move forward. Our operating costs each month amount to approximately £10 000. Should you feel it appropriate, a donation would enable us to maintain our monthly running costs. It's at a time like this that we realise again how grateful we are to those who have supported Stanton House over the past 42 years: those who have put time and energy into repairs and the building work to restore what was once a derelict house; those who have helped to maintain the grounds; those who have assisted with the day-to-day operations in housekeeping, office administration and cooking. We thank God for you all.



Despite being closed to guests over this period, we as a Team have been busy doing tasks and projects which, over the years, have been cast to one side because of the busyness of daily life. Half-finished tins of paint have been brought up from the basement and walls have received a

much-needed fresh coat of paint; a vegetable garden has been prepared for planting; Office filing cabinets have been cleared; cupboards have been emptied, cleaned and unnecessary clutter discarded; all the House duvets and pillows have been laundered and stored.

As always, we're so grateful to have Esther and George, our two remaining young volunteers, to help us at the moment. Our two lovely Italians, Laura and Antonio, decided to return home despite the huge implications of living life in Italy at this time. They go with our blessing. Please would you pray for all four of them: for their safety, that God would work in their lives, and that He would give them peace as they face the uncertainty of the future.



Antonio learning how to fold sheets

From north to south, throughout the UK, we are all in a position of self-isolation and we as a Stanton House Team are so very aware that our practical ministry of caring for guests has been curtailed. However, as we continue with our day-to-day duties we feel there is at least one thing that we can do, and that is to pray. So we would like to invite you to let us know of any pressing personal prayer requests and we will then undertake to pray for you.

And so, as we close, we wish you well as we all confront the difficult days that lie ahead. May we find comfort in the words of Psalm 91 v 1 - 2:

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
This I declare about the Lord:
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
He is my God, and I trust Him.

May God bless and protect you.

Adrian and Alison, Mike and Liz, Jonathan and Alison

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May each of us experience new life in Jesus.