**Monday 24th August**

James 4: 8a

Come near to God and He will come near to you.

It still feels strange to have to socially distance. I’m not sure that we will ever get used to it, or that we should. We are designed for community. It is odd not to shake hands with someone you meet, or not to hug a friend. It seems that this will be a part of our experience for the time being though. But when it comes to God, socially distancing is not an issue! Because of Jesus, because He has dealt with the virus of sin that plagues us, we are now able to draw near to our holy God.  Through Jesus He has offered us that invitation.  We have been washed clean by His blood – a sanitiser able to deal with all contamination. Come to Him today in repentance and faith and draw near to God – the one who is closer than any human being ever could be, even in days before social distancing! God Almighty, maker of all things, invites you to draw near. As Jesus said, ‘whoever comes to me, I will never drive away’ (John 6: 37). Don’t keep your distance.

<https://youtu.be/4xx-AaGt29I>

*Father, thank you for your invitation – that you invite me to draw near to you. Lord, what a wonderful thing you have done for me - offering me forgiveness for all that separates me from you.  Lord, I’m sorry for times when I keep my distance from you. I pray that today would be the start of a new closeness in our friendship, as I take you at your word, coming near to you, you will come near to me. In Jesus Name. Amen*

