

Coronavirus Crisis – Suspension of Public Worship

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US AT ST MICHAEL'S?

Worship

We might not be able to meet for worship as usual but the clergy are working on other ways to keep us all connected – via the website, Facebook, email, and telephone. Do check the website often for material to help you with maintaining our life together in different ways. Specifically, I shall be issuing a leaflet for us to use on Sundays, with the suggestion that we commit to pausing in our individual homes at 10am, light a candle, and follow a simple liturgy of praise, Bible reading, reflection and Intercession together. Additional information and material will be offered regarding resources for daily prayer in the next couple of days. Morning Prayer will be said in Church at 8am as usual on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and in addition the Vicar is committing to a dedicated time of prayer at 4pm weekdays Tues-Friday. The Church building will be open between these times for anyone who wishes to come in for private prayer.

Pastoral Care

Lorraine and I have met today to work out a system to ensure no one feels isolated and alone, but this will also have to rely on each other to ensure that we all do what we can to keep in touch not only with church family, but friends and neighbours. While some of our number may be self isolating due to being more vulnerable or if ill, we can still keep in touch and support each other. If anyone is struggling with isolation or needs help with shopping or collecting medication, please do contact Suzanne on 01202 883721 or Lorraine on 07778 197618

Please do continue to think about the Foodbank: as the economic effects of the pandemic take hold the Foodbank is likely to be needed more than ever. I would also hope that although we had to cancel the Lent Lunch, people would still feel able to give to our Lent Charity, A'Rocha.

Funerals

The clergy will continue to be available for funerals. Guidance is still being finalised, but it is likely that there will be a restriction on numbers to avoid larger gatherings. We continue to serve those who have been bereaved with all the care and compassion that is needed at this difficult time in people's lives.

Other activities

Just to reiterate: all church related activities: Lent Communion, Lent Course, Cherubs Toddler Group, the Children's Society Coffee Morning, Centre Rendezvous, and Choir Practice are all SUSPENDED, until we are instructed that the immediate crisis has passed.

And so we pray:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.