

Dear all,

This email is being sent to all our church family to let you know what is happening in the light of the government's advice on non-essential contact during the Coronavirus outbreak. It covers arrangements for church services and pastoral care, alternative ways of sharing prayer, worship and Bible teaching and the importance of continuing with our usual weekly offering.

Please read it carefully and share the information with anyone who doesn't use email.

Church Services and Pastoral Care

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that **public worship is suspended until further notice**. No services or activities will be held in church **BUT**, as always we are here for you if you need us. Please contact Andrew or the Churchwarden if you need shopping or any other support.

We will be keeping in touch by phone with the particularly vulnerable members of our congregations but please let us know of anyone you think we may have missed.

Alternative ways of accessing worship

We need to take great care in looking after ourselves spiritually during these unprecedented times. I have put together some suggestions.

There is a range of Christian resources available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

- **#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation** - the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This daily audio content is available via the app and daily emails. [Sign up for free](#).
- **The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship** - radio programmes will be using some of the [themes from #LiveLent](#) as part of their broadcasts.
- **Prayer for the day** - each day the Church of England [publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day](#).
- **Smart speakers** – daily prayer and #LiveLent audio content can be [accessed via our smart speaker apps](#).
- **Live streaming services** - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches and we will be improving AChurchNearYou.com in the days ahead to make this clearer.

Other resources:

- **Premier Christian Radio** (on DAB nationally, Freeview 725, iPhone and Android apps) have worship, prayer and Bible teaching 24 hours a day
- **Premier Lifeline** is staffed by Christian volunteers who are able to offer emotional and spiritual support for people who are struggling in any way, or are anxious or lonely. It's open from 9am to midnight every day to take calls from anyone who needs to talk, be heard, or prayed with. Call them on 0300 111 0101.
- Plenty of others online: Bible Society, Christian TV, UCB Radio etc.

Giving

The church is very grateful for all your financial support. Although we will not be meeting formally, we still need to pay the bills. If you want to start giving by Standing Order or if you want someone to call in and pick up your offering, please let us know.

God is in control of this situation and we can trust him to work out his good purposes for our world. Keep trusting and praying! Look after yourselves and keep in touch.

I am praying for you,

Revd Andrew (01723 866284)