

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH ... NOT shutting down – just doing things differently

Dear friends

With the Coronavirus taking a grip and disrupting so much of daily life, many of us are finding ourselves increasingly isolated and anxious.

As our local village church, we have had our gathered services suspended, though there are still facilities for conducting weddings and funerals. However, that doesn't mean that the church is shutting down, but just doing things differently.

There are online resources available for watching, listening and participating in worship for those who would like to use these, and of course there are regular services on the BBC TV and radio. There will also be links on the church website (www.stnicholasrestored.co.uk) We are also planning to have the church open at times during the week, as well as Sunday mornings so that people can come and sit quietly and pray.

Mondays : 9.30-12.00
Wednesdays :19.00-20:30
Fridays : 14:00 – 16:00
Sundays 10.00 – 12.30

The archbishops called for a national prayer day on March 22, when we're encouraged to light a candle at home at 7.00pm and put it in the window as we pray for our village community and nation. I suggest we do this every Sunday and turn the darkness of this virus to light – always a good symbol of hope.

It looks like the Easter services will be suspended, and so we will celebrate later in the year – but we will certainly have the church open on Easter Sunday morning – again a lovely image of hope!

For those who find themselves alone with no family or friends locally to cover them, please feel free to ring the vicarage and we can arrange someone from church to phone you, or even try and deliver any needed items. I know many will already be looking out for their neighbours, but it would be awful for someone to get missed! If anyone can help

provide things for the Foodbank, please do help keep it going. It will be needed more and more. There is a collection point in church.

Some of the Digital resources available ...

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation - the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first 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.

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.

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.

- All Hallows by the Tower
- Buckingham Parish Church
- St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island
- St James' Church, Clitheroe
- St Mary's Kenton

If you have any concerns or questions, do contact the vicarage and please keep an eye on the church website, the village community Facebook pages and other information sites for further updates

Let's get through this together as we care for one another.

Rev Martin Green (01926 613466)