

CORONA TIMES

Friday, 20 March 2020



Greetings

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I bring you good news of great joy: we're still up and running as a church despite services of public worship being put on hold indefinitely.

In case you missed it, on 17th March the Archbishops of Canterbury and York advised, in line with Government advice, that all public worship in the Church of England be paused until further notice.

For the time being there will be no services in the church on Sundays or any days for people to attend.

We don't know how long the restrictions will be in place.

Continuing

I've spent a few days in 'coronavirus crisis mode' making and planning adjustments.

There are things we'll try to keep doing even if we can't meet in anything like normal ways.

Non-public worship

Otherwise known as praying and worshipping quietly in our own ways - this will continue because we will all find ways to keep on

praying, reading the scriptures and even singing some songs and hymns, perhaps.

We can provide some materials for you if you need them. Tell us what you want.

Prayer

For all affected by coronavirus

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*

Pastoral Needs

We may not be able to meet so easily, but we can still offer love and support. If you need something delivered to you, maybe we can help. If you want someone to listen, we can do that - standing on a doorstep or on the telephone. We'll work in accordance with the health guidance and restriction. We have various authorised ministers who are qualified to offer pastoral help.

We can talk about baptisms, but we can't arrange any for a while.

Weddings and funerals are currently permitted but with significant restrictions in place.

We can offer bereavement counselling and other emotional support but we must respect present guidance to keep everyone safe.

Open Church

I'd like to get the church open as much as possible. Its relative isolation and inherent 'social distancing' is now more a gift than ever! The church could be somewhere for people to go that is not crowded. It has so much to offer our wellbeing and spirits.

We've got some tower repair work due to begin on Monday

23rd March, so there will be some activity and noise outside, but there's no reason the church cannot be open and in use.

I don't see why we can't put together a rota of people to unlock and lock up each day. Can you help? Let us know.

Community

I'm sure we'll try to be supportive of our communities as much as we can - not only as a church congregation, but also as families, friends, neighbours, villages, districts and nation. Telephone bills will be higher. Fingers will blister from all the typing and messaging. Garden fence familiarity will increase.

There are various ad hoc support groups and schemes being set up locally to support people, especially the vulnerable.

If you think we can help, even if only to talk to someone, give us a call.

Weekly newsletter

There will be news to report, of course, so we can still produce our 'green sheet' as we affectionately call it. Guess what colour it is? It will be on the church website and we'll print a few copies to put in the church porch and Church Rooms. Maybe you can deliver one to someone who doesn't bother with all the online malarkey. Contact Linda to submit items for consideration.

Monthly magazine

Many people look forward to our monthly Outlook magazine, so we'll keep it going. We won't need to print so many as the School will be closed and operating at a much reduced level. Copy deadline is the 10th each month and we print it in time for the last Sunday each month. Contact the editor Christine to offer articles and information.

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Sunday Club

The SC team will be trying to keep in touch and providing support and suggested activities for children and young people. If you have children who might like to link up and join in, we do all we can to assist. Sally can help with details.

Churchyard mowing

If you need a reason to get out of the house for a while and get some exercise in a beautiful secluded place, you visit the churchyard and pull up some weeds or join the mowing team. Linda can advise you.

Website

Webmaster Bill will be looking after the church website. We'll try to keep it up to date as much as we can.

The address is:

www.sendparishchurch.co.uk

Facebook

Follow us at Send Parish Church. Here's a link

<https://www.facebook.com/Send-Parish-Church-138535956202538/>

Church of England

There are many resources for prayer, worship and general Church news and information on the C of E website:

<http://www.churchofengland.org>

Diocese of Guildford

Local news, information and resources can be found here:

<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk>

New Good News

We've just replaced the chairs in the Church Room and soon there will be new (quieter) heaters. We're going to update all the hymn books in church and get a new printer. We're investing in the community and the future.

Towering Costs

We need urgently to fix the tower roof and various other crumbling bits and pieces. The problems are out of sight and mind, but not of the architect. As a grade 2* listed building the specification and costs are high. We need over £100,000. We have already raised a lot of the money needed and we are seeking grants, but we need your help. It's local communities that keep churches going not the government or other mysterious benefactors. How else can it be?

If you have fondness for the church, Send's oldest building still in regular use, and you'd rather it didn't end up looking like Newark Priory on a bad day, please support the repair fund.

We know there are many choices about how we allocate our charitable giving these days – and it can be big business. But this is a local appeal; this is your parish church, sustained so far by local people for 800 years. Please do what you can to keep the building fit for use.

We have a Just Giving page 'SendPCC' that you might find simple to use:

<https://www.justgiving.com/sendpcc>

Cash, cheques and other transfers can be managed.

We're very grateful to have just received a legacy of £1500. Similar gifts will add up to make a huge difference.



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