



Dear All,

You may have heard that the Archbishops have written to us suspending collective worship in churches (and, by implication, other places) on Sundays and all weekdays. They write “Public worship will have to stop for a season. Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold”.

You can read their letter in full by clicking [here](#).

We will have to re-imagine church outside of the buildings – what a great opportunity!!

Before I write more fully about practicalities, a little reflection:

I should explain my priority as your Priest is firstly to the church family. We cannot “be” church, working for and witnessing to the wider community if we are not well ourselves. You cannot pour from an empty vessel. So my main concern is to minister to you pastorally, for both physical and mental well-being, and spiritually. To do that I will need your prayers – thank you. If you have any concerns or anxieties, please do phone me.

Obviously I am still the Parish Priest for all, and will respond to other people’s needs too. I know we will share that load well, as you are such a great team – one parish – and we pull together to do God’s work here.

More practical notes:

- The church buildings will remain open as usual – please use them, but use your discretion about space if others are around.
- I will produce some sort of weekly “worship” sheet by Saturday each week – a simple reading/thought/prayer perhaps. If you can, please use this on Sunday at 10am for a few minutes, but at any other time if you can’t do that. I will send this to a mailing list I’ll create of the church family. Some are not on email, so please print and share more widely as you see fit. If you have any suggestions, let me know.
- Each day, in common with other clergy, I say the daily Office (if nothing else, Morning Prayer at 7am!!). I find this really encouraging, as, although I am alone in my study, I know others are saying the same –

maybe not at the same time. Join in. You can find all this on the CofE website. It is easy to follow. [“Join us in Daily Prayer”](#).

- Light a candle in your window as suggested in the Archbishops’ letter at 7pm on Mothering Sunday. [Read their letter here](#).
- Encourage people to join the TPOTS “Facebook Group” or at least look at the [Facebook Page](#), the latter is public. Notices and words of encouragement will be published there.
- The funerals I have next week will go ahead, but will not be public services. It will be family only at the crematorium. Hopefully, we can arrange public memorials/celebrations later in the year.
- I will await advice about weddings, the APCM etc..
- Being church...if you have concerns about a neighbour in need – let us know. Anthony (07701081077) with the Village Agent, Kim, will help to co-ordinate responses, but it does not have to be the Pastoral Care Team or even church people who help. Let’s keep a special eye out for anyone who wants a chat (by phone) or needs something. There are “official” cards available to drop through doors.

Above all, pray for strength and guidance...

There is a note and prayer from Bishop Peter on the Diocesan website [here](#).

Keep in touch. Call me if you have any questions or just want a chat.

I’ll write more in time or if the situation changes.

Bless you all,

Kevin