

NewsLink

22 March - 5 April 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Gathered or apart we are the body of Christ; each time we pray we do so with the whole company of heaven and are bound together in love.

Dear friends

On Tuesday, the Church of England cancelled all public worship. Whilst not unexpected, it is still a shock and does not mean that our churches are closed!

'Church' has always been less about a building and much more about people supporting and caring for one another. This we will continue to do!

In the weeks to come we shall be doing 'church' differently. We shall continue to use our buildings as a welcoming place for people to visit, perhaps light a candle or say a prayer. Our churches will remain open every day and I'm sure our communities will appreciate that.

As I write, we are planning to prepare the churches for Mothering Sunday, leaving posies in our churches for people to come and collect to give to Mothers if possible, or others who care for them. We are making our churches as welcoming as possible with music, candles, prayers to take away; all signs that their church is there for them, and we invite them to use the church as a resource.

During the weeks to come we shall be setting up on-line prayer groups (let us know if you would like us to pray for you), publicising on our website resources available locally and nationally, setting up virtual coffee mornings, videoing and relaying some services on-line as well as continuing to pray for people, our schools and businesses and offering practical care and support.

During Lent we can use the Church of England's #LiveLent daily reflections and at <https://www.churchofengland.org> are national prayers and resources. Do keep looking at our website below and within the church for what is happening locally. Tess in the office welcomes your pictures too, so she can keep Instagram populated.

This is a very worrying time for those who are unwell or isolated and especially those whose livelihoods are affected by loss of income.

We have also tended to see self-isolation in negative terms but when we think about it, like the Woman at the Well, it can be very positive. The Samaritan Woman, on her own at the Well met Jesus, the Messiah, and her spiritual life, and that of her community was transformed.

We have an opportunity now to serve our communities in different ways. Pray for people, shop for them, and keep in touch with them so they don't feel lonely.

I was reminded by a member of the congregation of the interview with a woman trapped in a tent by bad weather in the Antarctic. She turned her isolation into a positive experience and had advice for us all. If we're forced not to go out, she said read those really thick books you'd love to read but never have the time to concentrate on and really listen to music rather than just having it on in the background. We can also watch some new programmes the BBC is planning to air for us, follow some podcasts, take time to really explore the features of our iPads, handwrite some personal letters, exercise with yoga on line and so on.



Also, as well as considering how we can use our time differently, we can consider how to use our church buildings differently. Whilst mindful of social distancing and hand gelling/washing, what can we facilitate in our churches?

As we remember those less fortunate than ourselves, could we encourage our communities and promote giving to the Food Bank via our churches?

Instead of having our usual Christian Aid Collection Week, could we set up a display and provide the opportunity to give to that charity? Our amazing flower arrangers can decorate our churches with flowers for Easter but can we think of creative ways we can encourage people in our communities to also play their part in decorating our churches?

Do please let your creative juices flow and let me have your ideas.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has designated today, Mothering Sunday as a day of prayer. Please use some of the prayers in your churches and on-line, especially praying for those who are sick or anxious and all involved in our Health Service.

Also, at 7.00 pm this evening, please light a candle and place it in your window for neighbours and passers-by to see as a message of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. In the meantime, stay well and God Bless you. Do get in touch if I can help in any way. *Ann, Rector*

Jesus said: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

John 14:1

Notices

Our usual groups are currently postponed. As soon as we can get them up and running again we will let you know. This includes: Women's and Men's groups, house groups, prayer groups, The Ark, Sunbeams, Meditation groups, Lent groups, Soup lunches, Wives group, Kettles on coffee morning etc.

Request from Avril Clarke at the Hub food bank. As the Easter holidays approach we hope to pack up food parcels for families identified by the schools, who would normally receive free school meals. We were able to give out 76 to families at Christmas and would expect to do a similar number for Easter. If you are able to help with any of the following that would be really appreciated **Easter treats, small Easter eggs, packets of mini eggs, cream eggs etc (this makes the parcels a little more seasonal)** Supplies of the following are getting low: tinned hot dogs, packets of dried spaghetti (**specifically** spaghetti as this packs more easily), jars of pasta sauce, tinned tomatoes, biscuits As always we are immensely grateful for your support .

Office Opening hours: Every Wednesday & Thursday 9.30-3.30pm



Ministry Team

Rector Rev Ann Keating
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com
(722230)
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

Benefice Office

Tessa Stacey (865046)
nboabenefice@gmail.com

Website

nboachurches.co.uk

Church Wardens

Winsley:

Roy Ludlow (868779)
Linds Batson (720069)

Christ Church:

Denise Leigh (863916)

South Wraxall:

Dave Wyper (865384)
Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Denise Leigh (863916)
Stephen Pike (782537)
Denise Davies (863678)
Gill Fairhurst (867560)
Daphne Cox (868224)
Elizabeth Bush (866624)
James Middleton (920564)



Instagram

facebook

Children's and Families Worker

Zoe Yeomans zyeomans3@gmail.com