



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 21:30

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As most of you will no doubt be aware, Boris Johnson with his team of advisers has significantly increased the measures that are to be taken to try to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Things are changing rapidly, and at St Matthias we are trying to react speedily to these changes.

Julie Bouskill has added a page to the website where messages can be posted.

<https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/>

Forthcoming events:

**MESSY CHURCH** – This has been CANCELLED for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**LENT COURSE** – This has been CANCELLED for Tuesday evening and for Wednesday morning.

Andrew Green has offered to record the next sessions and these will be posted on the website together with the notes for each session.

Last Tuesday's Session is available at

<https://st-matthias-church.org/media/>

**WEDNESDAY COMMUNION** – This will be held at 09:00, and people will be encouraged to sit at a distance from one another.

**LENT LUNCHESES** – These have also been cancelled.

**THURSDAY PRAYER MEETING** – We will cancel the Prayer Meeting *per se* (so people are not gathered in a small space together) but the Church will be open on Thursday morning for prayer if people would like to come to pray for our nation and our community.

**SUNDAY SERVICES** – At the moment these have not been cancelled. However, we are expecting further guidance from the Diocese and the Church of England in the next day or so.

## **VOLUNTEERS** -

We are very aware that in these unprecedented times many people in our congregation and in our neighbourhood are going to become very isolated, some not having the luxury of nearby family or friends.

We are looking at ways of being able to offer one another prayer support as well as social contact.

We would also like to co-ordinate those who are willing to help in practical ways – shopping, collecting prescriptions, and more – putting volunteers in touch with those in need.

If you are able to volunteer in any way, please email the office at St Matthias with your details and we will get back in touch with you.

We hope to keep the Church open during the week as usual, although a number of our volunteers will be self-isolating.

The latest message from Bishop Robert can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpf0Q1ns5ZE&t=39s>

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

Please keep an eye on the website or Facebook for updates.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Barton