



Tuesday 17th March at 17:00

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.

Please see the website for any updates

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

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby suspends Church of England services amid coronavirus lockdown but weddings and funerals will still go ahead.

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that **public worship is suspended** until further notice.

They are, however, encouraging churches to be open

We will therefore NOT be holding our regular services from today until such time as the restrictions are lifted. We do plan to open the Church on Sunday morning.

Please let those who do not use computers or emails be aware of this!

There are some very helpful on-line resources for you to consider on the Church of England website (search for “Church of England CoVid 19” and you will find links to a variety of resources.)

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.

Those in homegroups are encouraged to keep in regular contact with one another via phone, WhatsApp or email.

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

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 under 70 years of age without underlying health issues, are you able to volunteer in any way?

If so then 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 this is dependent on members of the Church Family stepping forward to offer an hour or two to be there.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

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

Yours in Christ,

Paul Barton