



**Stratton Team Ministry**  
**St Leonard's Church, Stanton Fitzwarren**  
**St. Margaret's Church, Stratton**  
**St. Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston**

*Seeking, Sharing and Serving God Together*

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Church Family,

With the concerning rise in infections and moving into Tier 4, I contacted our church wardens to ask their opinions on whether we should remain open for communal worship. The unanimous response was that we should suspend our communal worship services in our churches, this is in align with my own thoughts.

With a heavy heart I believe the right thing to do. Our PCCs understand and we have their support. I have made our Archdeacon and Area Dean aware and they support our decision. This suspension will be reviewed before Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are more than one hour on a Sunday, we are the church and our ministry has always been to go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus. We will continue to offer online services, morning prayer and compline. We will do our best to communicate with all our members, the pastoral team will continue to contact people. Please do let us know through the office if there is anyone you know who is in need at this time.

We are called to love one another and I think the greatest love is to give up what is dear to us to in order to care for another. Worshipping together is integral part of our faith but so is sacrifice and service. This will end and we can I believe best care and serve one another and our community by temporarily suspending our communal worship services on Sundays.

I want to end with the words from our Queen in her Address to the Nation during the first lockdown. 'Never give up, never despair, the streets are not empty but filled with love and care we have for each other.'

Blessings  
Rev'd Elveen Mead

PRIEST IN CHARGE: Reverend. Elveen Mead



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