

With the introduction of Tier 4, rising infection rates in our area and news of a more infectious variant of the virus the Rector and the three PCCs of the Benefice have taken the decision to petition the Bishop to suspend in person worship from 27<sup>th</sup> December until the beginning of February. This has been an extremely difficult decision for us to make and will be disappointing for many of you but at this time the safety of all of us is incredibly important. We will review the situation in the New Year and will resume public worship in our churches as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Christmas Eve Service in Farningham at 11.15pm and the Christmas morning services in St Martin's at 09.30 and St Botolph's at 11am will continue as planned. **Please could I remind you to contact Rev'd Dorothy either by phone (07969175768) or email [revdmgarvey@gmail.com](mailto:revdmgarvey@gmail.com) by 6pm this evening**, if you would like to attend one of these services. Please state which church, your name and telephone number and how many are in your group.

As you know Rev'd Dorothy is taking leave between Christmas and New Year, therefore there will not be any recorded services on YouTube. However, the really good news is that Peter Sansom is going to lead a Service of the Word via Zoom on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 10am. If you would like to join in with these services, please contact Peter directly on **07941 732988** or by email on [petersansomuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petersansomuk@yahoo.co.uk) and Peter will send you the links to join the service.

Keeping everyone safe is our greatest concern so that in the future we may worship together and celebrate Christmas as we would wish to. May you have a blessed Christmas, and may God grant you his comfort and his peace as we approach the New Year, God bless.