



Abington Pastoral Letter No.32 2.11.2020

Dear Friends.

National Lockdown: 5 November to 2 December

In case you haven't seen the official announcement by the Prime Minister, England is going to be under lockdown from 5 November to 2 December. All places of worship must close and all public worship will have to be conducted online only. There are a few exemptions and they are funerals and burials of ashes. Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people. Burials of ashes can be attend by a maximum of 15 people. Weddings sadly will not be permitted to take place except in exceptional circumstances.

It is possible to broadcast from the church building however it is not clear yet who will be allowed to be present to enable that. I am awaiting for further guidance from the national church. Once there is more information I will be able to share it with you. Depending on those guidelines, I will be able to confirm whether it would be the Church or the Rectory where our worship will be led from.

Sadly this also means that our plans for Remembrance Sunday will all have to change. I am in the process of making multiple changes of plans and arrangements. I will be able to share more details with you later but it will be an online only service.

Pastoral Support

If you need any pastoral support or know anyone who might appreciate any form of pastoral support (whether it is about joining a zoom prayer group or having a conversation with our pastoral visiting team over the phone) then please do contact Liz Kelly our Lay Pastoral Minister at lizmk@outlook.com.

If you or someone you know requires an urgent priestly ministry (for example, emergency

baptism, emergency marriage, Ministry at the time of death etc), then please do contact me at prayandwork@gmail.com.

Practical Support

If you need an assistance with essential shopping or if you know anyone who might be in need, then please contact Bob Purser, our Lay Chair at bob.purser@abingtonchurch.org.uk. Bob is also in charge of organizing a team of volunteers to deliver the Pastoral Letter. If you know anyone who might appreciate our pastoral letters then please let him know so that we can include the person in our emailing list or arrange a delivery.

Contribution to Worship

You can contribute to our Online Worship. Send me anything that you would like to share with your church family. It could photographs, drawings, a video clip, a reflection, a passage from the book you are reading. Anything!

One thing that we learnt during the first lockdown is that everyone plays a part in worship. Those bible readings created by families, the intercessions recorded by people, the preachers who preached remotely, those anthems recorded by the choir, those photo slide shows and those comments and emojis on our chat screen that kept everyone engaged with smile. All of that is our offering to God and he receives all of them with love and blessing just as he receives us as we are.

Let's not forget that! Let us once again encourage each other and pray for each other with blessings that each one of us received from God.

So please do feel free to send me anything that you would like to share. Let us know what you and your family are up to over the next 4 months.

I will see you all shortly at the All Souls' Day Service on the internet. And I will write to you again soon. Stay safe and God bless you all.

With love in Christ

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