



St Mary's Church Droylsden

During this difficult time for our community,
we need to remember we are the family of God.

Just because we are not meeting together
shouldn't mean that we stop worshipping our Father.

Contained in this pack - the first of a series intended to be monthly -
are resources designed to enable us all to maintain
our spiritual relationships

even though our face to face encounters have had to change.
(If you would like to receive further packs electronically, please provide us
with an email address.)

You'll find prayer suggestions, ideas for families to try together,
and contact details in case you need to reach out
for support.

We are all in this **together**.
So let's work **together** to find new
and exciting ways of being church.

Covid Buddies

Much has been made recently of social isolation within our communities. Yet we are now in the unprecedented position of actually asking folk to avoid contact with each other.

To help maintain links between us, we would encourage you to exchange contact details with one another. Set up Whatsapp groups, facetime and Skype, wave through the window - anything to keep lines of communication open.

Lean on one another

Many of us are going to struggle over the next weeks and months. If you are one of those people, please reach out to others for support.

You might need some practical support; shopping, picking the kids up, collection of medication. Or emotional support; to offload your frustrations, to cry, to simply tell it how it is that day. Or spiritual support; prayer for you or a loved one.

At the back of this pack is a list of people who have offered to act as a contact. Please lean on us, as we will no doubt lean on you.

Family activities

If you as a family are cooped up indoors, instead of sitting still, look for Christian craft ideas on the internet.

Learn a new skill such as knitting and make a gift for a friend or neighbour.

Make a card and push it through a stranger's door. Tell them you hope they are well. No names, completely anonymous.

Decorate a box to fill with your ideas and the results of your labours. When we can meet again, we can celebrate your achievements.

Available resources

There are many ways we can receive God's Word even if we can't get to church.

There are television and radio programmes such as Songs of Praise and Good Morning Sunday. The BBC broadcast a Daily Service each morning at 09 45 and there are Sunday Worship and Choral Evensong each week.

Word for Today is a booklet that contains a Bible reading and reflection for each day.

If you have access to the internet, the Church of England website has many resources as does the Diocese of Manchester.

The Church of England Daily Prayer app is free to download from your app store.

Prayer for the day

In this section there are prayers for each day of the week. We invite you to make space in your routine to sit quietly, light the candle and hold the situation in prayer. Each day, a member of the leadership team will use the same prayer. In this way, there will be a link between us all.

At such a time, it is all too easy to focus on the darkness. At the end of your time of prayer, why not consider your day and recall all the times you have been blessed by something or someone. Why not keep a Blessing Journal and when we can all meet again, we can celebrate these together.

Monday Prayer Companion Beth

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.

Tuesday Prayer Companion Pat

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.

Wednesday Prayer Companion Nancy

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thursday Prayer Companion Sue

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Friday Prayer Companion Christine

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Saturday Prayer Companion Stephanie

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen

Sunday Prayer Companion Team

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.
Amen

Group prayer

If you are a member of a small group, perhaps you would all like to set time aside on the same day as your usual meeting to follow the service outline below. If you're not currently a member, create a new prayer circle where you and your Covid Buddies agree a day and time to suit.

Clear space, light a candle, still your mind...

A Reflective Service: for worship in isolation

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart.

As God's people we have gathered;
Let us worship God now together,
across the miles yet joined let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Keep a short silence, leave your sins at the cross

Confession: Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again, have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution: May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,
and strengthen us to live in the power of The Spirit all our days. Amen.

Select a Bible reading which brings you comfort.

In quietness, reflect on this reading:

What is God saying to you through this reading?

What in this reading challenges you?

What in this reading brings you joy?

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself
and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.

Lord, meet us in the silence

And hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept:

Pray for yourself in your isolation, that God would sit with you

Pray for others in their loneliness

Pray for our country

Pray for the world

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Silence is kept

Faithful God, may we who have shared in this time of worship
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation and hope, Who reigns as Lord now and forever.

Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;
And as you have fed us with your presence,
so make us one in heart and mind,

In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Contact details

Rev'd Nancy Alexander 0161 371 9667

Rev'd Sue Ball 0161 682 1439

Pat Catterall 07753213784

Beth Cutler 07941085665

Christine Withers christine.withers12@talktalk.net

Foodbank - Contact Pat on the above number if there is any way the Foodbank can support you or anyone you know.

Facebook page St Mary's,Droylsden

Church website: <http://stmarydroylsden.co.uk>

Church of England resources were taken from the website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources> (retrieved 17/03/2020)