Bishop James has shared a message for the season of Lent. In a video message to the Diocese, he encourages us to use this time to consider our shared responsibility to the environment.

Endorsing the national church, '#LiveLent - Care for God's Creation' materials - which focus on the Creation story in Genesis chapter one - Bishop James says:

"The Creation, which is so central to Christian thought, teaches us, not just about God's hand as it were in creation, but about our responsibility for the care and the nurture of creation."

He adds that, the challenges facing the environment can seem overwhelming, but this is not a reason not to act:

"I realise that every day, I fall short. I make mistakes, I do things which I perhaps don't have to do. I consume things that I don't have to consume. Let's use this period of Lent to reflect on these matters."

Watch the Bishop's message in full, as well as series of films for Lent highlighting local church environmental projects at:

www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/environment/
The concern about the Coronavirus at national and international levels has understandably led to people becoming anxious.

The national church is regularly reviewing its guidance for parishes and is updating it as necessary on their website: www.churchofengland.org/

Churches are already encouraged to follow best-hygiene practices, which include:

- Having hand-sanitisers available for parishioners to use.
- Advising parishioners with coughs and sneezes, to refrain from handshaking during The Peace and to receive Communion in one kind only.
- Intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) is not recommended, as this represents an infection transmission route, as well as a risk to those with certain allergies.

At present, there is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended.

If anyone is concerned about receiving the Common Cup, they are advised to receive communion in one kind.

If you wish to exchange The Peace without contact, simply cross your hands over your chest.

You can find more advice on the websites of the Church of England (www.churchofengland.org) and the Diocese of Rochester (www.rochester.anglican.org).

We pray
For all those infected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world. For those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combating the spread of infection, and for all who at this time are feeling anxious.

TRAINING & EVENTS

WILBERFORCE WALK
Saturday 14 March, 9.30am
Keston Parish Church

Join this 4.5 mile pilgrim walk to raise awareness of Modern Slavery. Walking through Downe to the Wilberforce Oak. All ages and abilities welcome. The day will begin with a talk and blessing by the Bishop of Tonbridge. Please e-mail: caroline.clarke@rochester.anglican.org

MESSY FIESTA
Saturday 21 March, 9.30am to 15.30
St John's Church Centre, Meopham DA13 0AA.

A day of inspiration, celebration, conversation, creation and learning for everyone involved in Messy Church. Tickets £5.

For further details and booking, contact: carol.kitchener@messychurch.org.uk

INSPIRE AND EQUIP
23, 26, 28 March - 2pm to 4pm
Various locations

Join us for one of these free, two-hour session that will explore simple and creative prayer activities for everyone, and to suit a wide variety of styles of worship or prayer.

Find out how you can get involved in Thy Kingdom Come in 2020.

To book visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/thy-kingdom-come/