

# **Benefice of Lower Quinton with Admington, Long Marston, Meon Vale, Welford on Avon and Weston on Avon**

Dear friends,

As you are aware, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have now issued advice that public worship should be suspended until further notice. This follows the most recent Government guidance about avoiding all non-essential contact and further updates are available on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

However, Welford, Weston and Quinton Churches will remain open during daylight hours for personal prayer and reflection.

We are members of the body of Christ. We are one in Jesus and one in the Spirit with the whole people of God throughout time and space. This continues to be true even though, for the time being, we cannot physically meet together. As members of Christ's body, it's vital that we continue to look out for one another, particularly those who are especially vulnerable or isolated. So be kind to each other. Pick up the phone. Hold one another in prayer.

The next few weeks and months will feel very strange. We will feel anxious or afraid. But Christians are always people of hope. At Easter we will celebrate the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead and so we are reminded by St Paul:

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8.38,39).*

As your parish clergy, Jim, Yvette, Andrew and I will continue to support you in any way we can. We will be in touch with you regularly, so do look out for emails from us. Our phone numbers and email addresses are below under 'communication'.

**Notices** Church wouldn't be church without a few notices! So, here are the notices:

## **Prayer and Worship**

**Morning and Night Prayer** - Although we cannot meet together for worship, your clergy and others will be praying Morning and Night Prayer every day on your behalf in all the churches. A copy of the service we will use is included in this pack – do join with us from the safety of your own home.

**Light in the Darkness Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday** - has been designated a Day of Prayer and Action and we are all encouraged to place a lit candle in our window at 7pm. As we do that we pray for our neighbour and our world.

We would like to go one step further and are asking you all to look out your Advent/Christmas white lights and put those in your window or outside your door – to be lit every day during the crisis as a sign that we are people of hope and that we stand alongside our neighbour in what will be a very difficult time. Do join in with this – we would love to see our villages lit up with the Light of Christ.

**Resources** – the Church of England have a lot of resources and prayers for you to use at the link above. There are also links to churches who are 'live streaming' their services.

If you are slightly less technologically able then why not tune in to '**Songs of Praise**' every Sunday at 1.15pm on BBC1 or the **Sunday Morning Service** on Radio 4 at 8.10am or the **Daily Service** on Radio 4 at 9.45am.

**Prayer stations in churches** – Churches will have prayer cards available which you can write on and leave a prayer which will be included in Morning and Night Prayer. Do you use the churches for personal prayer whilst we can – but please abide by current Government guidelines for hygiene and social distancing.

## Pastoral Care and Practical Support

**Practical Support and volunteers** – are being coordinated by the Parish Councils:

Welford – contact [welfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:welfordpc@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone 07715 211340

Long Marston – [longmarstoncommunity@gmail.com](mailto:longmarstoncommunity@gmail.com) or 07753 904304 or 01789 721375 or 07955 885529

Quinton – [PCQUINNRS6493m@outlook.com](mailto:PCQUINNRS6493m@outlook.com) or 07588 524758 or 07365 517962

**Only use these official channels for help and advice and be wary of strangers offering help.**

**Emergency Church Contacts** - If you need any support from the clergy, especially if you are self-isolating and do not have friends and families to support you do contact us:

Revd Ros Greenhalgh (Rector) email: [revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com](mailto:revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com) Telephone: 01789 751546.

Revd Andrew Goy (Pioneer Minister for Meon Vale) email: [cotswoldpioneer@gmail.com](mailto:cotswoldpioneer@gmail.com) Tel: 07554 932271

Revd Jim Edie (Assistant Curate) Email: [revdjim.edie@gmail.com](mailto:revdjim.edie@gmail.com) Tel: 01789 722416

Revd Yvette Grundy (Assistant Curate) Email: [ygrundy@icloud.com](mailto:ygrundy@icloud.com) Tel: 01789 750006

**Phone Buddies** - We will try and keep in contact with everyone by phone for which volunteers are required. Do let Ros know if you would like to take responsibility for telephoning a small group of people on a regular basis. In addition, do keep in contact with your friends and neighbours by telephone.

## Communication – keeping in touch

**Emergency contacts:** as above

**Electronic Communication:** if you are on email, then please let Tim Greenhalgh have your email address by sending it to [karibu@talk21.com](mailto:karibu@talk21.com) so that we can keep in touch with you.

**Telephone:** if you are not on email, make sure we have your telephone number.

**Social media:** if you are on Facebook join the 'South Warwickshire Church of England Benefice' Facebook page. In addition, there are other Facebook groups in all the villages so you may also join one or all of them.

## Finance

On the news you will be hearing about various business ceasing to trade. Sadly, the church is similarly at risk and will not benefit from tax breaks or government support. Even though we are not meeting together physically as a church, expenditure continues as we maintain the fabric, pay for various utilities and pay our Clergy via the parish share. Set against that, regular giving on the plate has ceased, so too has our social and fundraising activities which are crucial to the survival of some of our churches.

Please do consider how you might continue regular financial giving to the church – we are reliant on your help. Details of how you can set up a 'Standing Order' with your bank are included in this mailing or can be provided by contacting the Tim Greenhalgh on 01789 751546 or one of the church treasurers.

As you consider how much you can give, please do consider how much you may have donated to the various fundraising activities over the year in addition to your regular Sunday giving. Thank you for your support at this difficult time.

**Finally:**        *Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage; hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.*

With all our love and prayers for the next few weeks and months.  
Do stay in touch with us as we will with you

Ros and the Clergy Team