

17 March 2020

Dear Friends,

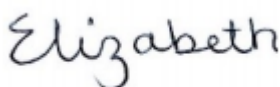
We wonder how you're feeling? Even though we knew it might happen, the speed and extent of changes because of the coronavirus is great. Our daily lives are going to look different for some time to come. The new measures are about protecting ourselves, one another and chiefly those who are most vulnerable. These changes will affect us all.

Today our Archbishops have advised that all public worship and other face to face meetings should cease until further notice. We know this is very hard news to hear. Meeting together to worship God and to love and serve one another and our community is what we do and who we are. At the same time, so much is happening already which is about love and being church, both within and beyond our church community.

- People are phoning each other, to check in and to offer help and support, and this is so valuable and keeps us connected. Please do this if you are able.
- Many of us are praying Morning Prayer between 8am and 10am and we have attached a simple Order of Service for this.
- We have 'Virtual Church' pages on our website: the main page is [www.missendenchurch.org.uk/virtualchurch](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/virtualchurch) and from there you can find prayer resources and links to broadcast and livestream worship, ideas for keeping in touch, video messages from us, an online discussion forum, and our popular new practical help and support page which is full of businesses wanting to help: [www.missendenchurch.org.uk/covid19help](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/covid19help) and this is also attached.
- The 'Your Prestwood & Great Missenden Coronavirus Community Group' has over 500 people in it, all wanting to help. Our friends at Holy Trinity Prestwood have prepared seven helpful principles for keeping safe as we give and offer support: <http://www.htprestwood.org.uk/index.php/home-top/coronavirus/community-response>
- We are hoping to livestream Communion on Facebook from St Peter and St Paul at 10am on Sunday. To join in, visit [www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch](http://www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch) - you should be able to see it even if you don't have a Facebook account, it will be available after the service finishes, and we hope to put it on the website later. We will send round the Collect and reading beforehand.
- Our Archbishops suggest we all light a candle at 7pm this Sunday and put it in our window – as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.
- St Peter and St Paul and St Mary's Ballinger will remain open for private prayer as long as this is safe.

Please let us know your suggestions for things we can do without physically meeting together. Do get in touch if you'd like a chat, a prayer or help. We will write again soon.

With our love and prayers,



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