

Dear Friends,

26th March 2020

They did warn us things would move swiftly and it has indeed been an extraordinary week, filled with anxiety but also hope, crass selfishness and wonderful generosity and kindness, a strange uneasy stillness but beautiful sunshine and spring blossom. The news has just broken that Prince Charles has the virus - we are all vulnerable!

The Government have now made the rules on physical isolation much more clear. It is both our civic and our Christian duty to obey those rules. Our Archbishops have advised that not only must public worship cease but our Churches need to be closed even for private prayer. It will only be for a season and we believe that God will be there in the silence.

We are unable to take any weddings or baptisms until further notice. Please do spare a thought for all couples who had planned a wedding at St Peter and St Paul in the next three months. Not only will they not be able to get married on their chosen day, but they can't rebook with any confidence because we simply don't know when this will end.

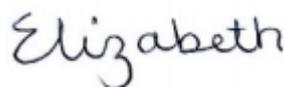
Maybe toughest of all are the new funeral rules. Many of you will have heard of the sad death of Paul Fullagar who was a good friend to the church. The latest rules mean that only his wife and four children will be allowed to attend his funeral at the crematorium. That is the case for all funerals at the moment. It's heart-breaking. However, the human spirit is magnificent. The NHS called for volunteers has had a superb response. You can still volunteer and there are things you can offer to do even if you are not allowed out such as telephone support. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/03/your-nhs-needs-you-nhs-call-for-volunteer-army/>

Some updates:

- On Wednesday we had our first virtual coffee morning on Zoom. It was great fun. Do email Rosie or Elizabeth and we'll make sure you get an invitation to join next week.
- We have 'Virtual Church' pages on our website: the main page is [www.missendenchurch.org.uk/virtualchurch](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/virtualchurch) and there is a new page of ideas for families with children at home: [www.missendenchurch.org.uk/Articles/570348/Ideas\\_for\\_children.aspx](http://www.missendenchurch.org.uk/Articles/570348/Ideas_for_children.aspx) 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)
- We are hoping to livestream Communion again on Facebook at 10am on Sunday. Sadly we can't do this from inside the church so this week it will come from Rosie and Tim's home in Amersham. To join in, visit [www.facebook.com/greatmissendenchurch](https://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. The newsheet with Collect and reading and the order of service are attached. Also look out on the Facebook page for prayers in the evening and for some lovely music recorded by some of the choir, and a very special video from Ken with some lovely shots of the inside of the church, good thoughts and a beautiful version of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow.'

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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