

Suspension of Church Services

We are sending this information sheet to all those who are currently on the list of those who receive the weekly bulletin by email. In their recent press release, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said that it was “with a heavy heart” that they had taken the decision to request the suspension of all church services with immediate effect. As it so happened the ministry team met last Tuesday morning to discuss a “Plan B” in the event that such a decision were made. By lunchtime, “Plan B” was no longer an academic issue!

One of the points made by members of the ministry team was that it was vitally important that we continue to be part of a worshipping community and that we see the current situation as an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and with one another. It is also an opportunity to develop different ways of “being church”. We are therefore taking some practical steps to enable worship to continue in the weeks and months ahead. These plans will be put in place as from Sunday 29th March (Passion Sunday).

This coming Sunday (March 22nd) we are encouraging you (if you are able) to tune in to the Virtual Service to be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury which will be broadcast by the BBC at 8 am.

As from Sunday 29th March, those of you who receive the bulletin by email will also receive (separately) a “Sunday Worship Resource Pack”. This will contain a simple order of service for you to use at home, a sermon and other relevant material. You might like to use this at one of our usual morning services times, as this would enhance the sense of being part of a worshipping community. But you can of course use it at any time convenient to you.



On a practical note, if you know of anyone who might like to receive this material but who isn't currently on the list of those who receive the bulletin by email, please ask them to contact the church office (preferably by email) so that their details can be added to the list.

We are also wanting to include those members of our congregations who don't have access to the internet. Hard copies of the material will be available at the back of church.

Have you ever had the experience of finding that one of the prayers we use in our services, or a Bible verse or hymn seems especially appropriate in the situation we are facing? This shouldn't surprise us, because there are many ways in which God seeks to speak to us, draw close to us and assure us of his love and faithfulness. Yesterday, in the Reflections for Daily Prayer there was a particularly helpful reflection on Hebrews 6: 19. You might like to look it up and then sing along on Youtube to the golden oldy hymn “Will your anchor hold in the storms of life”! (There is a great version of this by Ely Cathedral Choir).

Also, the post communion prayer which we used on March 8th seemed to “ring bells” :-

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves
to help ourselves;

keep us both outwardly in our bodies
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
 which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Similarly, some lines from the opening hymn which we sang at Pocklington last Sunday also rang true:

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail;
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

One final thing! If you are looking for a daily prayer resource, the pray-as-you-go.org website and app contain some very helpful material.

Love and prayers to you all

Tony Burdon