



**The Parish Church of
St Anne's Brondesbury**
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Pastoral Letter to the congregation of St Anne's

Dear St Anne's,

Our Bishop's wrote to us yesterday and reminded us of the words of Paul to Timothy:

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7) We are living through global events the like of which most of us have not experienced in our lifetime. S Paul reminded Timothy not to be diffident, but to exercise the charism, common to all Christians, of drawing on the Spirit's power and resources of love, and the equilibrium which is necessary to counter fear, panic, and knee-jerk responses to such a crisis.

The Wardens met last night to consider the advice of the Church and of the Government. We are also mindful that advice is changing on a regular basis. In line with the Archbishops recommendation, all Public Worship in cancelled until further notice. **This means that there will be NO 8.30am or 9.30am Service on Sunday's. At this point there are also NO public worship services during the week. There are also no other weekday activities normally hosted by the Church. That means no My Move, Tea and Chat, No Lent Group, or other Lent activities.** Other hosted events in the Church will also cease. It is our desire to be good role models of best practice in the extraordinary situation.

Having said this our church remains open; our faith in God is undiminished; public worship may be suspended; but the life of God's kingdom is inextinguishable.

At St Anne's this means:

- The Daily Office (Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer) will still be said daily. Why not join Mo C, by praying with her at 8.30am or 6pm where you are! The words for Morning and Evening Prayer can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>
- This Sunday morning the church will be open from 9am - 12noon. People may come in for private prayer if you would wish and light a candle.
- We will also have the church open each morning from Tuesday next week so that people can come in and pray or light a candle.

- If you live closer to Christ Church, the prayer chapel there, which you can access via the Willesden Lane entrance, is open daily from 9-4pm.

In all contexts please maintain physical distance (2 metres) and wash your hands as soon as you enter the building. **No more than 10 people can be in the church space at one time. Please do not come to the church if you are unwell or in a group which is at risk (over 70 or have an underlying health condition).**

Our faith is one that unites us in prayer; and regardless of our location we can all be praying. There are good resources available on the Church of England website. www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

We will also put some resources on the parish website, and we can be praying with each other over the phone. If you are well, and can walk to the church, you may want to come to the church to pray. **Please also join with me in the National Day of Prayer on Sunday 22nd March by praying at home and lighting at candle at 7pm.** See <https://ctbi.org.uk/calls-to-prayer-for-coronavirus-pandemic/>

The other thing we can do is look out for each other. Please work with your neighbours and family to ensure we help each other. This may even be regular phone calls to those who need to stay at home.

I am fully aware at how upsetting this is for many of us, but we have been encouraged to think creatively about new ways in which we might worship and share in sacraments. These will emerge for us as we come to terms with our new realities. We will keep you informed with plans for the coming weeks in due course.

We will stay in touch via email, and place regular updates on the website. It is also our hope to set up a phone network between people in the parish. More to come on this in the next few days. Most importantly - please pray for each other, for those who are working with those who are ill and for all those making difficult decisions.

May we know God's strength in these strange and uncertain times.

Best wishes

Mother Christine

Vicar

St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

18th March 2020