

Coronavirus COVID-19, the parish of Nursling with Rownhams - update Information as of 17th March 2020

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. This means that there will be no church services or group activities until we are advised otherwise by the Church of England.

St John's Church will remain open in the mornings between 9:00 and 11:00 for prayer and reflection but with no public worship services taking place. This means that all of our groups and gatherings, youth work, Coffee Break etc will need to be suspended until we are told otherwise.

Daily Prayers will be led by myself and others on behalf of the church and the whole community. We will undertake **Morning Prayer at St Boniface on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 and at St John's on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:00am.** These acts of worship are not communal in nature, though should you wish to join in, social distancing recommendations will need to be observed. Perhaps you could join in and pray from home. In addition St John's Church will be open for prayers on Wednesday evenings between 19:00 and 21:00.

For the duration of this crisis, here are some ways we'll continue to love and support those around us:

1. Be open about our faith in Christ. Share in an uncontrived way, what we believe with those we meet, that we are able to live in wisdom but without fear. Be bold and help others to find hope and strength in Christ.
2. Always offer to pray for others you meet. Pray for the Lord's protection, pray for courage and for healing through the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus.
3. Offer practical help wherever we can. Those known to us, family, colleagues and friends who are sick may need you to take on additional workload. Neighbours might value food or supplies left on their doorstep with a kind note attached.
4. Isolation of the elderly and vulnerable is a real danger. Please stay in touch with your relatives, friends and neighbours by phone. Join community forums such as <https://nextdoor.com/login/> and offer help.
5. Use social media to reach out and support your own networks.
6. When you next shop, buy extra to support the BASICS foodbank. There is every indication that many more people will need support from foodbanks in the days ahead.
7. Within the church family many of our brothers and sisters are NHS staff or employed elsewhere in the care sector. Please can we hold them up in prayer daily and look to encourage and support them over the coming weeks and months in every way that we can. Those in the education sector are also under intense pressure and deserve our prayers and assistance.
8. In the coming days and weeks we'll be rethinking our ministry to our community in the light of Coronavirus. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas that will enable our church to support those who need it at this time.
9. As a church we will be requiring additional resources to support those in need around us. We will be facing a reduction in our regular income without the Sunday collections and this may have a significant impact in the future. May I therefore ask you to join with us in this and all other responses over the coming weeks? The church office will be able to provide bank details to assist you in making donations by standing order or other online banking methods.
10. If we don't currently have your email address, or you have not given your permission for us to email you, it would be great if you could let us know or change your permission so that we can keep you up-to-date, thanks.

Please be assured that we are developing plans to enable us to care for otherwise isolated and vulnerable folk in our communities in alternative ways.

- ***We would like to support folk, both within and outside our church community by phone to offer friendship, a listening and caring ear, to respond to prayer requests and to stay in touch a couple of times a week. If you are able to support in this way, can you please let the office know. We would like to build up a team of folk who have the capacity to offer this ministry as soon as we are able.***
- In addition, can you please think about those you talk to and share with on Sundays and let us know which people in your own network of church folk that you are happy to phone a couple of times a week. Moreover, if you are able let us know if you would be comfortable to phone support others who are not known to you.

Let us continue to pray that God would bring healing to those affected and let's keep looking out for one another.

We believe God wants to do something powerful in our church, even during this season!

Finally, if we can help you in any way please do not hesitate to contact the office by phoning 023 8073 8293 by email at office.twinspires@gmail.com

A Prayer for Deliverance

Lord Jesus,
Who in your earthly life
Bore our grief and carried our sorrows,
Stand with us, we pray,
In our fear, distress and uncertainty.

Draw near to all who are suffering;
Strengthen those who care for them;
And guide those involved in research.

Lead us all, through the depths of the cross,
to the height and joy of resurrection. Amen.

Rev'd Graeme Dixon, Vicar