



Dear

RE: SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP ACROSS THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AND BEYOND)

We are writing to members of the congregation to see how you are all getting on as we have had a week quite unlike anything we have experienced.

Following advice from the Government and Bishop Rose, we hope many of you will be “self-isolating” due to being over 70 years old or with an underlying health condition. There are other members of the congregation putting “social-distancing” in place.

But, despite a lack of public worship – and I know that is difficult for us to get our heads around – we want you to know that the work of the church does not stop and so far we are doing as follows:

1. **Saying the Daily Office** – this is not a public service, but we want you to know that as St. Michael's Ministry Team, we are saying daily Morning Prayer (10.30 am) and Evening Prayer (5.30 pm). So the Rhythm of prayer will continue, and if it is helpful to you, we can send through a St. Michael's version of Morning and Evening Prayer that can be used any time, should you wish to “tune in” with us prayerfully at those times.
2. We are, between us **keeping a presence on the High Street** by opening the church so that people can come in and pray (between 11 am and 1 pm) with strict attention to hygiene and maintaining a safe distance from one another.
3. I have also enclosed this week's **Pew Sheet** – and with lots of extra space we have included the next in the series of Reflections for Lent from this year's Book: “At Home in Lent.” Who knew!
4. And in terms of staying in touch **we would like to double check contact details** – especially mobile telephone numbers that can often change, and to know if you have an email address, or access to email so that we can email pew sheets and resources through for you. With that in mind, could you ring, text or email Elizabeth please and make sure she has your telephone number and email details and if you are on social media please? Can you also let Elizabeth know if you would like to receive regular phone calls and give us permission to share your phone number with other members of the congregation too?
5. We can also **do our best to help out** with shopping or picking up prescriptions. If you do not already have arrangements in place, just let us know.

And finally, this Sunday may feel very strange for a lot of Christian Communities around the world, however local BBC Radio Stations will broadcast a service **from 8 am led by Archbishop Justin**. We have also made arrangements to have a weekly Sunday Morning “Thought for the Day” with SFM Radio – this Sunday its about 8.30 am.

Please be assured of our love and prayers at this time,

Lesley, Tracy and Elizabeth

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Ignite

*The Parish of St. Mary's and St. Michael's, Sittingbourne.
Part of the Sittingbourne Team Ministry.*

