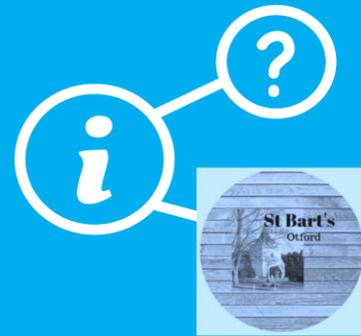


COVID-19

Information and Updates



November 3rd, 2020

Friends,

It was with sadness that we learned that places of worship will again have to close in the latest lockdown announced by the Government.

Although the Church of England/Diocese of Rochester have not yet issued particular detailed guidance to churches, we are able to make some decisions based on the information released on Monday by the Government.

Our aim is to offer all that we possibly can do while carefully following the guidance and keeping each other safe.

Sunday services will all be livestreamed on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsOtford>) and our church website (<https://www.stbartholomews.co.uk>). We are recording several parts of these services in advance to make them look as familiar as possible. These services will all be at 10.00am apart from on November 8th.

This coming Sunday is **Remembrance Sunday**. For this Sunday only the service will be at 10.30am and will include all the usual elements of our annual Act of Remembrance. Many in the village will be standing outside their houses to mark the two-minute silence and we will reflect that in our service. We are also linking with Otford & District Historical Society who will be screening a video showing historical footage of our village during the Second World War live on the Facebook Village Hub (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/otfordhub>) at 11.15am immediately after the live streamed church service.

After all Sunday services there will be the usual Zoom Coffee and Chat at 11.30am. Details will continue to be available on the weekly notices.

On **Wednesday mornings** Revd David will be offering a Book of Common Prayer service of Spiritual Communion from the Vicarage at 10.00am on Facebook so we can continue to share together virtually. Following that service at 11.00am we will be adding a time of Zoom Coffee and Chat in the same way that we do on a Sunday – you can join in even if you don't attend the service! Details will be available on the weekly notices.

Zoom coffee can be accessed on your computer, laptop or mobile device by clicking the link in the notices but there is also an option to telephone in if you don't have access to any of these, enabling you to hear everyone else and join in the conversation.

The weekly notices email will continue to be sent and will contain extra resources, information and news, so keep watching your inbox. If you know anyone who doesn't have access to emails and you are able to print off the notices and deliver them to someone, this would be very useful.

Our main aim is to ensure we keep in touch with everyone, so please don't hesitate to contact one of the ministry team if you would like a chat, prayers or if we can do anything for you, appreciating that the restrictions mean strict limitations on the contact we can have with others.

The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays to Fridays from 9.00am to noon. Please feel free to visit the church, observing all the necessary precautions and taking note of the signage. You can also continue to drop items for the Loaves and Fishes foodbank in the entrance lobby at these times.

An extra noticeboard will be in church next to the font where you will be able to find resources, prayers and notices. If you take any nice photos of things you are doing or when you go out for walks please email them to Revd David and we will try to have a display on the board as well as sharing on social media pages.

The Parish Office will not be open during the Lockdown period.

Please keep an eye on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as our church website and A Church Near You pages for news, daily prayers and updates.

Website: www.stbartholomews.co.uk

Twitter: [@stbartsotford](https://twitter.com/stbartsotford)

Facebook: [StBartsOtford](https://www.facebook.com/StBartsOtford)

Instagram: [otfordstbarts](https://www.instagram.com/otfordstbarts)

A Church Near You: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/

With all our love and prayers,

Revd David, the Ministry Team, and Churchwardens



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

0800 804 8044

