



**Wareham's Church of England Family
Weekly Update 22nd March 2020
Today is Mothering Sunday,
Let us Rejoice!**

Unfortunately, Following the Government's recent announcements on public gatherings and further announcements by the Archbishop of Canterbury we are unable to hold our usual services today. However, God cannot be limited and so I hope that you will worship in whatever way you can in your home, or wherever you may be.

The Collect for Mothering Sunday:

God of love,
Passionate and strong,
Tender and careful:
Watch over us and hold us
All the days of our life;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer of Saint Anselm (1109)

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us

Bible Readings: Psalm 103: 1-13 and John 13: 34-35

Prayer Focus:

Give thanks to God for:

- *all those around the world affected by Covid 19 whether in person, relative or carer for everyone working in Health Care either directly or as support staff.*
- *all those in Social Isolation now unable to physically contact loved ones*
- *all young people uncertain about exams and the consequences*

Please pray to God for:

- *the resurgence of life as the earth wakes up to Spring. For birdsong and flowers and the warmth of Spring sunshine.*
- *our friends and relatives; all those who care about us and worry.*
- *the many working to find a vaccine against Covid 19.*
- *the love of God showing in the community spirit awakening among so many.*

Prayer Focus cont'd.....

Those asking for prayer: Geoff Foulds, Diana Bowen, Dennis & Edna Farley, Libby & Matthew Richter, Sophie & Paul Swingler, Beth Savage, Lily Brough, Jenny O'Brien, the Reverend Margaret Mulraine, Betty Newiss, the Reverend Ann Ashcroft, Margaret Wason

Those who have died recently and those who mourn: Dennis Randall, Keith Benham, June Benham

National Day of Prayer and Action

Church leaders in Britain and Ireland have urged Christians to take part in a National Day of Prayer and Action about the coronavirus on Sunday 22 March. In particular they are encouraging Christians everywhere to put a lighted candle (or similar) in an outside window as a sign of Christ's light shining in the darkness. (See Church times website for more details, which can be accessed through the Wareham's Church of England Family facebook page).

Churches are open for prayer and reflection

Whilst we have had to suspend all public worship in our Churches for the foreseeable future, the PCC agreed that we should keep our churches open during this time of crisis. Please spread the word, the Lady St Mary Church, will be open daily between 11am and 5.00pm. The key for St Martin on the Wall can be obtained from AJ Joys Gentlemen's outfitters, and St Nicholas' church Arne, will also be open during the day.

We sincerely hope that the parishioners will take advantage of this and take time out to pray and reflect. We would also ask that you are vigilant just in case any miscreants misuse this opportunity to steal from, or vandalize, our churches.

It is the Rector's intention to say evening prayer in Lady St Mary church, every evening at 5pm to pray for our parish and nation at this time of crisis. This has happened throughout history and at other times of crisis and so, we believe it should happen now. In doing this we will be joining many other churches and cathedrals around the land and if you would like to join in please do so.

But let us remember as well as a time of crisis this is also an opportunity to show God's amazing love and power. Let us pray that the people will see the glory of God!

PROVISION FOR NOT HAVING A SERVICE IN CHURCH

Although there will be no church services the ministry team will be putting together an Order of Service for morning worship on Sunday which will include the collect, readings, and a link to the hymns on YouTube. The clergy sermon will also be available along with the weekly Pew Sheet, this will be sent out electronically to all who signed up, if others wish to have this sent by email please let me know. There will be hard copies available in the Parish Hall foyer for collection.

More digital resources are available online and these are highlighted on the Church of England website.

PARISH OFFICE

Please note, the Parish Office will not be open to the general public for face to face enquiries as would normally be the case. Instead we would be grateful if enquiries and queries could be made by telephone and email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Pastoral Visiting

Simon and Stuart are available for visits and home communions. They will be abiding by the Archbishop's guidelines, which state:

- **In circumstances where people are self-isolating because they are symptomatic or have been in contact with someone who has been symptomatic**, no pastoral visits should be undertaken until their isolation ends. However, do offer phone support.
- **In circumstances where someone is self-isolating for their protection and a pastoral visit is thought to be *necessary***, please make sure you follow rigorous health and hygiene practices and maintain social distancing.

Maintaining contact with the Vulnerable

It is our intention to make sure that the vulnerable and isolated are visited or called during this time of crisis. If you know of anyone who would like a visit or a telephone call, please do let us know, especially if they are unable to get out and about. We are here to help.

Collection

If it is your habit to give week by week in the collection, we would be most grateful if you would continue, if possible, to put that money by and bring it to the Parish Office when you are passing. Alternatively you might like to set up a Direct Debit payable to the Parish of Wareham. Please contact Debs in the office for details.

PLEASE NOTE – All planned concerts and special events of this parish, scheduled for the coming weeks and months have been cancelled. This also applies to the groups who meet in the Parish Hall and St Edward's Way Pilgrimage, which was to take place at the end of this week. Please contact Debs Barclay if you have any queries.

Please note that on Sunday 29th March, next Sunday, BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS

Contact details: www.warehamchurches.org.uk

Tel: 01929 550905, **Email:** parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND

New Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Team Rector The Reverend Canon Simon Everett 01929 289236

Team Vicar The Reverend Stuart Cocksedge 01929 550972