

St James' Treasurer

From: Haldon Mission Community <haldonteam@gmail.com>
Sent: 19 March 2020 08:39
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Haldon Mission Community - Keeping in Touch

Dear friends,

As you may have heard, the Church of England has asked us to suspend public worship until further notice. This means there will be no services held at any of the churches in the Haldon Mission Community. Making this announcement, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said, 'Far from having to "shut up shop", the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others.'

Over the last 2-3 weeks I have been meeting regularly with Revd Jane Frost, Revd Sue Astbury and one of our Readers, Richard Frost to discuss the implication of the Coronavirus upon our churches. This e-mail is the first of a **New Weekly Newsletter** that we will be sending to all members of our congregations and our ecumenical partners in the area. We are also working on ways of conveying the same information to those who do not have e-mail.

Keeping Sunday Special

Jane, Sue and I will celebrate the Eucharist on behalf of the whole community at different churches each week, a practice that is being adopted by Exeter Cathedral. Sadly it is not possible for congregations to join us in person.

However, a member of the ministry team will be present in each church at a time when there would usually be a service:

- 10am St Michael's, Teignmouth
- 10.30am St John the Baptist, Bishopsteignton
- 10.30am (First Sunday) St Mary the Virgin, Ideford
- 10am (Third Sunday) St Nectan, Ashcombe
- 10.30am St James, Teignmouth
- 6.30pm (Second Sunday) St John the Evangelist, Luton

This will not be a service but simply a space where prayer is offered.

We do not yet know the implication the suspension of public worship has for Holy Week and Easter but will let you know as soon as we have such guidance.

Open for Prayer

In this last week we have been opening for prayer at St Michael's at 12 noon each day. Starting next week, we are also going to be have similar times for prayer in each of the churches across the team:

- Every Day at 12 noon St Michael's, Teignmouth
- Mondays at 5pm St John the Baptist, Bishopsteignton
- Tuesdays at 5pm St Mary the Virgin, Ideford
- Wednesdays at 5pm St Nectan, Ashcombe
- Thursdays at 5pm St James, Teignmouth
- Fridays at 5pm St John the Evangelist, Luton

Each occasion will last for 15 minutes a member of the ministry team will be there. Please also join in prayer from your own home at 12 noon each day or as shown above.

This Sunday 22 March also sees a **National Day of Prayer** and we are encouraged to put a lit candle in our front windows at 7pm. More information is available by [clicking here](#).

The churches at Bishopsteignton, Ideford and, when possible, St Michael's will be open during daylight hours as per current practice. You are welcome to come to those places as you wish ensuring you maintain the government guidelines regarding social distancing (no less than 2 metres between you and another person).

Praying at home

We are currently developing some information and resources you can use to enable you to pray at home. These will be available soon and will be sent by email and we are working out a mechanism of enabling them to reach people who do not have internet access. You can also download [some prayers here](#) and [Daily Prayer](#).

We are also working on ways in which you will be able to watch a short video on YouTube produced in the churches by the ministry team.

The clergy and ministry team will also be happy to pray over the phone.

Support for one another

We feel it is very important that we maintain contact with all our congregations. Thus, **if you would be willing to commit to phoning a small number of people once a week** please would you contact Sue on 01626 873807 or at sue.ast@btinternet.com

All the clergy team are available by phone and email to offer support – Jane on 01626 870288 revjanefrost@gmail.com and myself on 01626 779177 roderickwitnell@btinternet.com. You may also contact the Church Office on 01626 770115.

Social Media

We now have a new presence on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) so please do follow us. Other information will also be regularly posted on our team website at www.haldonteam.org.uk

Another newsletter will be sent out next week. We will be posting out a version of this newsletter to those who don't have e-mail. However, **if you know someone who does not have e-mail** please print and pass this on – or tell them what happening.

We appreciate this is a time of concern and please be assured of our prayers and support.

Yours

Roderick

Revd Roderick Withnell
Team Rector

This e-mail is sent from a general account to enable clearer communication across the Haldon Team. If you wish to contact an individual member of the clergy please use the personal addresses shown above.