

Abberton, Bishampton, Flyford Flavell, Grafton Flyford,
Naunton Beauchamp, North Piddle, Throckmorton



The Flyfords Flyer
The Flyfords Family of Churches News

Sunday 22nd March 2020 – Mothering Sunday

Notices and Announcements

Dear Friends,

You will all be aware by now of the Government advice regarding Covid-19 and the guidelines for self-isolating, etc. Within this advice, the Church of England have suspended all public worship in its churches until further notice. (Please see their website and the Diocese of Worcester site). In addition, all meetings have been cancelled in our parishes.

Our bishops have said that churches should be open for prayer where possible, but with no public worship services taking place- this is an opportunity for churches to consider ways of reaching out to our communities in new and imaginative ways. In fact, the way we do church will need to change: the Archbishops say in their open letter: 'Being part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead- less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service that we offer to our community each day'. By our service, love and compassion we make Jesus Christ known- countering fear and isolation, and underlining the fact that 'perfect love casts out fear.'

I will be praying for you, as I hope you will be praying for me during this time of 'social distancing' that we are facing. Although we will not be having any services on Mothering Sunday, (22nd) we are being called to make it a Day of Prayer and Action, and then to place a lighted candle in the windows of our homes that evening at 7pm.

We will, of course, endeavour to minister to all our parishioners as much as is possible at this time- keep a look-out each week for 'Pews News', (Bowland Benefice) and the Flyfords Flyer, (Flyfords Benefice website.)

Here is a blessing for us all as we enter together into these unprecedented times: *'Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now, and evermore. Amen.*

Every blessing, Gary

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Revd. Gary Noyes
Priest in Charge of The Benefices of Bowland and The Flyfords
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We would like to share with you a letter from our Archbishops



To All Church of England Clergy

17 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We wanted to write to you today to offer you advice and encouragement at this very difficult time for the whole of our country. Please find attached to this letter some careful guidance. We write this letter having consulted with the bishops across the Church of England and are grateful to them for their wisdom and help.

Thank you for all that you do and will continue to do as disciples of Jesus Christ and ministers of the Gospel. We recognise what a very unusual and painful time this is for everyone and we want to stress that we are praying for you all and are very grateful for all that you are doing.

It has always been the historic vocation of the Church of England to be the church for everyone. William Temple, one of the great Archbishops of Canterbury and York of the last century, is often quoted as saying that we are the one organisation which exists for the benefit of its 'non-members'. As the challenge of the coronavirus grips the world, and as the Government asks every individual and every organisation to rethink its life, we are now asking the Church of England in all its parishes, chaplaincies and ministries to serve all people in a new way. Public worship will have to stop for a season. Our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold. But this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Far from it.

We need to look at new ways of serving everyone:

1. Where you can and where it is prudent, we encourage all clergy to continue their pattern of daily prayer and, if it is your practice and can be done within the constraints as set out, a daily Eucharist. It is vital to observe strictly the protocols of hygiene and, where necessary, self-isolation and social distancing. This will not be public worship that everyone can attend, but an offering of prayer and praise for the nation and for the world.

Please do of course keep the church buildings open for private prayer wherever possible as we know so many do all the time.

2. If churches and worshipping communities have the resources to live stream then they should do so. This will enable the people of God and anyone and everyone who looks to God for support and meaning in this time of crisis to participate in the life of worship at home. At the same time, both nationally and in our dioceses, we will produce and provide resources for prayer and worship in the home. This will be especially important for those who are self-isolating, but also for the benefit of everyone.
3. Many people are going to suffer during these coming months as the coronavirus reaches its peak. Tragically there will be deaths and so many will be grieving and fearful. We, the Church of Jesus Christ, with our sisters and brothers from other Christian churches, must be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor and the most vulnerable, and we offer our services to all those who are beginning to think through how best to provide for those in need.

Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters wherever possible are kept open. There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable, so do continue to play your part in those. Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that will counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.

We have called, along with our fellow church leaders, for a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March). Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. As one action, we are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves? We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world. Please, therefore, join us in this great challenge; and pray for our Government and nation, for each other, and especially for those who work in our health and emergency services.

With every blessing,

+Justin Cantuar

+Sentamu Eboracensis

Can we especially draw your attention to the day of prayer and action this coming Sunday, Mothering Sunday the 22nd March and the act of placing a lighted candle in the window at 7pm.

LATEST CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

This is regularly updated so please visit the website frequently on:
www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus

Please bookmark this page - it will be constantly updated with the latest guidance as the situation changes. The national team is working closely with public health experts to provide the best advice.

Live streaming of any (non-public) acts of worship/ reflections or homilies, will be listed on the diocesan website.

There are also lots of resources for individuals on the Church of England website to suggest to your congregations. (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturg-and-prayer-resources>) as well as the weekly sermon podcast on the diocesan website.

Forthcoming Services

We will of course be keeping you informed of any future services once we have the directive that they can once again continue.

In the meantime Revd Emma Goldby is hoping to live stream Holy Communion services from Drakes Broughton church at 10am every sunday. **This will be attended only by herself and one other person.**

You can watch the live stream on St Barnabas' facebook page by clicking the link below. You do not need a Facebook account to access the page. Any PC, Mac, or mobile device can be used.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/St-Barnabas-Church-Drakes-Broughton-1417165101886766/>

Emma has created a service sheet so that you can follow along the service. Download the service sheet here https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vfEdKlnhTM9RlqbBTZ_IOUxM1rKv381Y

You will need pdf reader to open the file.

Also, Monday to Thursday, she will livestream Morning Prayer from her home also at 10am. Use the same link above to watch. Morning prayer is about 25 minutes long.

If you have any queries or suggestions for good ideas during this time, please contact our administrator on the number below.

Contact: Priest in Charge - Revd Gary Noyes 01905 841563

Licensed Lay Minister - Delia Harding 01386 462308

Administrator- Caroline Ward 07514901344, flyfordfamilies@gmail.com