

St Peter's Church, Woolton

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17th March 2020

Dear friends

As you may have already heard, the Archbishops are instructing parishes to stop public worship 'for a season'. Our normal pattern of Sunday services must therefore be put on hold and in the light of this we have also made the decision to stop all other gatherings and activities in the church, the Hub and the Hall. We will review this after Easter.

This is hugely disappointing but it is the Church of England joining in with all those trying to limit the opportunities for the spread of the virus and doing the best to protect the most vulnerable.

We are making decisions on how to offer support in this time of isolation and worry; if you need support please phone the Hub (0151 428 6810), leaving a message if no one replies and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. If you yourself can help by supporting someone in isolation with phone calls, or in another way, again do please phone the Hub.

Being a part of the Church of England and St Peter's 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.

There will be times on Sunday when the church will be open for private prayer and we will publicise the times once they are decided. I hope that by the end of the week there will be resources available on St Peter's website and on our Facebook page to support prayer and worship in the home. We will also have printed prayers available for people to use.

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday and has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are, please do join praying especially for those who are sick or anxious and all involved in our health service. The Archbishops are asking us all to place a lighted candle in our window at 7pm this coming Sunday, "as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished".

A verse I am holding onto is 'Perfect love casts out fear' (1 John 4.18) May the unfailing and unquenchable love of God protect and surround you.

Lord we pray for your peace to surround our communities
that we may weather the storms that surround us, support those who need us,
be lights in the darkness offering hope and companionship in new ways. Amen

This comes with love and prayers.

Kip