﻿Dear Friends,

This is the first of what will be at least a weekly email, to keep everyone up to date with what is going on at St. James and St. Peters.

As you will probably have heard, due do coronavirus we have had to suspend all church worship and activities with immediate effect. As a result our Sunday worship, daily prayers, meetings and midweek groups are all suspended. This will be difficult for many of us, but we are looking at ways of keeping the life of the church going whilst we're unable to meet together.

1. We are aiming to do a weekly 'live' service on Sunday, available via Youtube. This will probably be through my Youtube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2oameSsM0zLcT\_HMm-OfDA. This Sunday will be a Mothering Sunday themed service at 10.30am, and on Sundays after that we will do a 9.00 live stream aimed at St. Peters church family, and a 10.30am aimed at St. James. We're looking at ways for people to feed in prayer requests during the live broadcast so we can include those. We will also produce a standard service sheet, sent out by email and in hard copy, so that people can follow the service at home.

2. Ruth has also started a daily prayer podcast which you can find at https://anchor.fm/pjs/episodes/Wednesday-18th-March-Daily-Prayer-ebkqou We have ordered 50 copies of the 'Daily Bread' bible notes for April-June so that we can have a shared experience of reading and praying through the same material, for those who want to. We will look at other resources to help people pray at home, but would recommend the Church of England Daily Prayer app https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer. Someone will be saying the morning prayer service from this at 9am every day in church, please join with them from home if you would like to.

3. Cell leaders, could you please aim to make contact at least weekly with the people in your cell, to see how they are doing? Using a Whatsapp group, as a couple of cells do, can be very useful if everyone has a mobile phone. Please could you make sure your cell members get the contents of this email - we have 'blind copied' everyone for data protection, so they might get it twice, but that's better than not at all!

4. For those not in cells, or on this email circulation, we are aiming to set up a 'phone pastor' system, with each 'phone pastor' having 6 people to ring each week to see how they are getting on. If you are not in a cell group and would appreciate getting a call, please let me know, and if you are happy to be a 'phone pastor', again please let me know. This may take a bit of organising so please bear with us! But it will mean that everyone in the church is kept in touch, whether they have internet, mobile or landline.

5. We will be keeping St James building open 10-4 Mon-Fri as usual, probably with some additional prayer stations, and are looking at some opening times at weekends as well. The food bank collection point will still be available. We're asking everyone to use hand sanitiser as the enter and leave, and if other people are there praying to sit at least 2 seats away. There are also some help postcards which can be delivered to those who are self-isolating, so if you would like to take some to deliver to neighbours, please do. If the cards have run out, please let me know!

6. There will be more regular postings and videos on our Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/123274077467/ for St James, https://www.facebook.com/groups/249890582396596/ for St Peters), but we will try to ration these emails so as not to overwhelm your inbox. If you would like to be removed from this circulation, please let me know. We will also aim to keep the church websites updated as far as possible.

There is a video from myself and Ruth explaining much of this https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NClsThdSOrY and the live Sunday services will be streamed either from my Youtube channel or from Ruths.

Please do get in touch with myself or Ruth, especially if you have a prayer request you want to share, offers of help, or if you just want a chat. This will be a very strange few weeks and months for all of us, but it is also a chance to deepen our life as a community of disciples, and discover new ways of being the people of Jesus.

"He who watches over you will not slumber" (Ps 121 - I recommend the whole thing!)

yours in Christ

David and Ruth

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