

Dear St John's Church Family

We refer to the email sent this week regarding the update to the coronavirus and St John's response to it. The Church of England have now confirmed that all services will be postponed until further notice. Therefore, we thought it would be helpful to reiterate the current position for St John's and ensure we remain in line with Church of England guidance. Therefore, the following activities will be cancelled with immediate effect:

Gathering together for Sunday morning and evening services (including Mother's Day)

Mid-week service and communion

Prayer Gathering

Home Growth Groups

PCC and sub-committee meetings

Tots & Toys

Lunch Club

Men's and Women's work/events

Any other St John's activities inside and outside the Church

Pre-School, which is now also closed, along with other schools

We will closely monitor the situation with the Church of England and keep you updated on any changes to the current measures that are in effect as of today.

### Virtual Sunday Services

Although we cannot meet in person, we can meet on the internet and all our Sunday services will be live-streamed through our website [www.stjohnswimborne.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswimborne.org.uk) to be a part of our services starting this Sunday (Mother's Day: 10:30am All Age & 6:30pm Evening Service).

We recognise that not everyone will have access to the internet and as such we will produce a CD with a sermon or sermon series to listen to and/or a booklet of sermon transcripts. Please let the Church Office know if someone would appreciate this and we will arrange for this to be dropped over to them.

Please also join the Facebook page where we will upload more frequent posts, thoughts and encouragements as it will be a great way to keep in touch.

[www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWimborne/](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWimborne/)

We will produce a regular church-wide newsletter with church family news, articles, prayer points, things we are thankful for. Please email or phone contributions to the Church Office. If you are unwell, we would love to include your name for prayer. The newsletter will be circulated by email and delivered by hand to those without email.

### Supporting each other during this time

As brothers and sisters in Christ we need to watch out for each other and provide support in whatever forms are required. Not being able to attend the church services or mid-week church activities can during this time could make those who are vulnerable feel more isolated than ever, and as such we need to be there in whatever way is appropriate to support them. Therefore, please can you consider ways that you can link in with those you know who may be vulnerable at this time (i.e. regular phone calls, facetime, WhatsApp, helping with shopping deliveries, etc.)

Matthew 25: 36 – 40 comes to mind, as it is through our actions that others will see Jesus living in us.

Many have already offered practical assistance (shopping, DIY, educational resources for children, etc.) so please do let the Church Office know if you or someone else has any needs as we can signpost people to help in those areas.

#### Other Virtual Church Activities

Using alternative ways of meeting virtually doesn't have to be limited to Sunday services. Home Growth Groups could consider video conferencing, Skype etc. to regularly catch-up and support one another.

Although the Prayer Gathering is cancelled this doesn't mean as a family or Home Growth Group you can't use the same dates to set up a virtual prayer meeting. We would encourage this, as this is an unprecedented situation and we need to be praying for those who are ill, our Government and leaders that they would have wisdom to do the right things at the right times; our communities and those who are struggling with finances, food or isolation; our Church locally and the wider church that we can be a great witness in this time of darkness and fear. God is mightier than all this, he is Sovereign, and our communities, families and friends need to know the good news of Grace and Hope that comes from Him.

If you have any ideas of things we could do as a Church, please do send them to Matt ([curate@stjohnswimborne.org.uk](mailto:curate@stjohnswimborne.org.uk)). We are producing new posters for the noticeboards, but we would welcome any original ideas.

The Church Office will be open as normal, but for phone and email contact only. Please keep in contact with us via the Church Office, especially to let us know if you need help or support in any way. Most of the staff team will be working from home but are still contactable by phone or email. Please be mindful though that the Office may not be able to be 'staffed' as usual if any of the team fall ill.

As we close this letter, we remember these words from Isaiah 41: 13 "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear, I will help you".

May this be a time of deepening our faith in God, trusting in His promises and being a family who are there for one another.

The Lord bless you all

*Peter James, Stuart*