

Dear Parishioners

A short time ago, following consultation with the bishops, the Archbishops released a statement with regards to public worship. The decision has been made to **suspended all public services of worship following those services being held this coming Sunday 22 March.**

### **22 March (this Sunday)**

This will be a last opportunity for us to gather in public worship until the immediate impact of this pandemic has passed. Please read through the COVID-19 update as below as this will apply for this Sunday.

This Sunday we are celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving and encourage people to **bring canned food items to put into a food reserve that we can donate** to people throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

We were to hold a **Parish Picnic** after the 9.45am service this coming, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, but this has now been cancelled.

### **AGMs**

We have been advised by the Diocese to postpone our AGM to a later date. Diocesan Council has been asked to agree to accommodate new arrangements which allow for this within our statutes. This would include the provision for current Governing Bodies to continue to hold office in the meantime.

### **Selwyn Centre**

Earlier this week the decision was made to **close our Selwyn Centre** for the foreseeable future during the COVID-19 outbreak for the safety of the attendees who are a vulnerable group in regarding to COVID-19. Jennie will still be working for the centre and keeping in regular contact with attendees and checking on their well being.

### **Other Activities**

Movie nights, preschool music, kids club, youth group etc. will be still running at this stage.

### **Vestry**

Our Vestry will be meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March to discuss how we as a church will respond to this situation. As a church we need to stay connected and care for each other and as a church extend our ministry out into the wider community the best we can.

In the mean time we are **starting a Parish Whatsapp group** as one way of keeping digital connected. If you like to join this group please put your name down on the list at the back of the church this Sunday or send me an email to the Parish Office. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to Stephen or Marjon.

### **Diocese & Anglican Communion**

Our Anglican Communion across the world is being asked to continue to pray and serve wherever they may be, and asking us all to care for our communities and ensure that the most vulnerable are regularly checked on and supported.

Plans for online worship services are under way and will be widely publicised within the Diocese.

All Anglicans and all people of good will are called by the Archbishop of Canterbury to join in a world-wide action of prayer. At 7pm local time on Sunday 22 and at 7pm every Sunday that worship services are suspended, we are being asked to light a candle in our homes and pray with and for others.

Pray for your families, your neighbours, our country, and those ill with the virus. Pray for our health professionals and all those on the frontline who are working tirelessly to care for our community. Pray for the lonely and the frightened. Pray for the courage and grace to be a comfort and a light to the world.

It is important in these times to make these changes and try to care for one another in the best possible way. If you have any questions or prayer request please don't hesitate to contact Stephen the Wardens or Marjon in the Parish Office.

## **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ TILL THE END**

**Please note we be making some changes during our services due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We ask that parishioners:**

- If you are unwell with flu symptoms, please stay away from church until you are well.
- Don't shake hands before, during and after services.
- Please wash your hands when coming into the church in our bathrooms and follow the recommended practice of washing your hand for 20 seconds and drying them well.
- Please remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds when need be, while at church.
- Someone in the church will sign you in on an attendance list when attending a service in the event that we need to contact you regarding COVID-19 at a later date.
- Please place your offering in the Offering bag at the back of the church as we are currently not passing the bags around during services.
- While in church please sit the recommended distance apart.
- Please refrain from hand shaking and hugging during the passing of the peace and greet each other from your places.
- Please note the bread will only be given at Communion to the congregation and the Priest will receive the Common Cup on behalf of the congregation.
- Currently we are low on hand sanitizer, due to lack of supplies nationally, but will supply this when we can. Please bring your own if possible.
- Vestry will be meeting next week to discuss our further responds to the COVID-19 outbreak and ways in which we can keep in contact and support each other.