

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray that you, with steadfast love, would keep your watch around us while we sleep. Tonight we pray especially for (names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus) and the people of (country or place which is affected by Coronavirus). Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them. Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me. You are with me in the day and in the night. You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad. You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill. You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried. Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way). Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. Amen

Following government guidance and on the advice of our Archbishops of Canterbury and York, all church services have been suspended but four of our churches will remain open for as long there are good folk to undertake this task. They are open for private prayer and reflection but at all times Government guidance must be observed – use sterilisers (taking your own is advisable); keep a minimum of two metres from others; do not share service books, pens, pencils etc; refrain from touching all surfaces; groups must not assemble to share in worship in any form.

Our APCMs (annual church meetings) have been postponed.

I will, of course, keep you informed of developments.

Being over 70 I am self-isolating but you have my telephone number should you need to contact me.

The Weybourne Group of Parishes

Bodham, E&W Beckham, Kelling, Salthouse,
Weybourne, Upper Sheringham
Bulletin #1

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Dear Friends,

It is with sad hearts that we approach Easter given the spread of the Coronavirus, the recent floods, earthquakes and fires, and the state of the world in general. To this is added the suspension of church services at the most holy season of the year. However, let us take strength from our churches remaining open for private prayer and reflection, the community spirit which will prevail as we set about helping each other and our belief in God's love for us all.

This is a time for prayer and so this collection has been put together from those provided by the Archbishops and our Bishops. Please use them at home to help you through this difficult time remembering that others will be praying using the same prayers and so, in this, our unity may continue despite our being unable to worship together. I shall be saying the Morning Office at home each day at 9.30am except on Sundays when I will celebrate Holy Communion with Annette at 10am.

The readings for April and May can be found in *Link Up*. If for any reason it doesn't reach you, it can be collected from one of our four churches which remain open (bearing in mind the precautions we are advised to take). *Link Up* can also be found on our web page.

Let us then pray for each other, for those who are sick, for those finding life difficult, for our national and world leaders and for those seeking a vaccine against the virus. May we also give help to those who need us in our communities.

This bulletin replaces the usual pew sheet. My intention is that it will be reprinted with revisions and up-dated information from time to time, and will be available on line, by e mail, on Facebook and, hopefully, from our churches. Please let me have news to share across the benefice.

Church services have been suspended but we can still pray together at home and so support each other in prayer.

With every blessing, your friend and priest,
Frank

A message of comfort from our Bishops

Mother Julian of Norwich lived through anxious times with plagues and uprisings. In her anchorite self-isolation, whilst still hearing the bustle of the street outside, she had a vision of God speaking

to her.

"He did not say, 'You shall never have a rough passage, you will never be over-strained, you will never feel diseased'; but he did say, 'You will never be overcome.'"

We live in anxious times and we are conscious that many long to hear God say in our own day, "You will never be overcome."

As we enter these next few weeks and months, we are encouraging the whole Diocese of Norwich to do everything with these principles in mind:

To seek to be a Church of living hope. "Hope is love stretched into the future", wrote the Croatian theologian Miroslav Volf, and during this time we need to keep our eyes on the horizon of God's Kingdom.

To follow government and national church guidance. "We who are many are one body in Christ and individually we are members one of another", wrote St Paul, reminding us that as a series of interlinked local communities the Church receives wisdom that has been distilled and given to us for the good of all.

To continue to pray. We know that at the heart of our life as Christians is prayer and we hear the voice of the Psalmist afresh in our own time, "I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer".

To strive to keep each other safe and to practice kindness. Through our actions and the ways we will minister, we want to do all we can to protect our clergy, lay leaders, congregations and neighbours, asking God to "keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings".

To prioritise pastoral care. We love and serve our neighbours, as Christ calls us, when we reach out to the vulnerable, those self-isolating, and those who are anxious; offering them our help, support and prayers, because we believe that "The church is the Church only when it exists for others" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

We encourage you to look at the Church of England's website for regular updates in this fast-changing picture and resources for prayer.

A prayer

*God of compassion,
have mercy upon this nation and our world in this
time of fear and confusion:
we bring before you those who are suffering and
who tend to their needs;
may those in isolation know your comfort and
company
and may neighbours show your love in works of
care, kindness and prayer;*

*we pray for the National Health Service and all
engaged in scientific research
and we pray too for those upon whose shoulders
the yoke of leadership rests,
that in their conversation and communication
your still small voice may be heard;
we ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit,
through the One who stretched out his hands to
bless and to heal
even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prayers for use at home

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

From St Patrick's Breastplate

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers with Children

Before praying, it is suggested that there is a discussion with the children about the people and places they wish to pray for.

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (name of friend) is ill. They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play. I'm sad because I miss them. They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well. Please be close to them. Please be with the people who are looking after them. Please help them to get better and to know that you love them. Amen.