

## Latest news from the Parish of Goring by Sea. 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Dear Church family

We thought you would appreciate an update on the various arrangements made for the parish during the Covid-19 pandemic. We shall try and send a communication weekly. You may receive this more than once if you are on more than one of our mailing lists. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but we want to reach as many people as possible. Please feel free to pass this letter on to anyone you think might be interested, either electronically or hard copy.

### Our Church Buildings

- These will remain open during the day for prayer and reflection. 10.00 am till 05.00 pm.
- We ask that all visitors use hand gel on entrance to and exit from the church.
- All hymn books, orders of service etc. have been removed (as instructed by the Bishops). We have however, left a small number of Bibles for single use that can be replenished. Instructions are in the church. We have also put out the weekly readings for the Sunday Eucharist and some prayers; these are to be taken away.
- Votive candles are available as normal.

### Halls

- St Mary's and St. Laurence's church halls are now closed, and all events cancelled until further notice.

### The Parish Office

- The Parish Office will be closed to visitors until further notice.
- We will continue to monitor e-mails daily
- We will check voice mails regularly (a couple of times a week) and a new voicemail message gives the number of the vicarage for emergencies.

### Services

- I am sure the news will have reached you that all church services have been cancelled. Baptisms, weddings and funerals may take place, but with a significant restriction on numbers. It is likely that many people will wish to reschedule their baptisms and weddings.

We will be Live streaming at least one service a week (Facebook and YouTube).

**This Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Fr. Keith will be Live streaming a morning service at 10.00 am using Facebook.**

If you do not have a Facebook account, you can still view the service by logging onto our Facebook page. You will of course need to have the Internet.

This is the link : <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAndStLaurenceGoringBySea/>

### Meetings and Prayer and Study groups

- We are in the process of setting up social media groups for our meetings, study groups and prayer groups.
- Be patient with us we are also on a steep learning curve. The individual leaders of the groups will be in contact with you via email or telephone in the first instance. The Friday Lent group has just hosted a successful Skype + WhatsApp meeting. Lucinda Cox has offered to provide what assistance she

can to anyone who would like to set up a Skype or WhatsApp group. She can be contacted by email: [lucinda.e.m@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda.e.m@gmail.com)

## Prayer

- Of course, we can pray anywhere and at any time to our Heavenly Father who is always there, waiting to talk with us. There is so much out there to help us. Perhaps you are making use of Live Lent and other Church of England publications. Links to these and other ideas and help can be found at:

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) and [www.chichester.anglican.org](http://www.chichester.anglican.org)

- It is good to try and pray with others. This is partly covered above, and many of you have already found ways of praying together, for example:
- If you are healthy and social distancing you could go for a walk (2 metres apart of course)
- Set up a WhatsApp or other social media group (see above for help with this)
- Telephone someone and pray together

## Pastoral visits

- All organised home pastoral visiting is suspended until further notice.
- Fr. Keith and others will be carrying out pastoral duties and contact using telephone, email, text messaging etc.
- Please let Fr. Keith or the Wardens know if you have a personal pastoral concern or may know of somebody in need.

We are sure that there is much more we can do, and will be doing, as a church. **If you have a parish matter that you would like to communicate through this weekly newsletter, please send to Gill Keevill ([gilliankeevill@me.com](mailto:gilliankeevill@me.com)).** Also, if you have a prayer group that can open to others or would like to join a group please let Gill know and she will try and match you up.

God Bless you all.