

ALL SAINTS NEWS

22nd March 2020

This Church is not closed; but this Church is changing

The Days Ahead

The Church of England is going to look rather different over the next few months! This applies to us here at All Saints too.

We are known for the beauty and significance of our worship and liturgy – as well as for our social action in the community. In these times our worship has been suspended and our ability for active social action somewhat curtailed.

But this church is not closed!

In the days ahead we will be characterised by our prayer and social support – of one another and within the community.

What does this mean?

First, Worship. Worship prayer and the reading of scripture will continue. Each day of the week (including Sunday) will begin and end with the Daily Office and a daily Mass will be said. However, none of these should be considered to be public act of worship – there is not an ‘open door’ to the public or for our congregation. This will continue until we are instructed otherwise.

Second, your engagement. From the website you will know the times of these services and, if you wish, you can use the ‘Order of Service’ and the ‘Dedicated Lectionary Readings’ at the same time as the words are being said in church. (See the links to the relevant sites below). You can also keep praying, using the Parish or Diocesan Cycles of Prayer, or the USPG cycle, and, when we have it up-and-running, the ASC video feed.

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ALL SAINTS NEWS EVENTS

Right now our prayers are for those who work in health care, those who suffer because of this virus (and, indeed, all we know who suffer for various other conditions), those who are fearful and some terrified, those who are at risk and vulnerable. Not forgetting those whose businesses are in jeopardy, whose jobs are a risk, those who are at the front line of need, and those who are dependent upon support of society. And of course, those who are alone, forgotten and at the edge of society.

Third, practical support. What are the ways in which those who can, might offer active support to others? Phone those who might be forgotten, check immediate neighbours to ensure that they have things they require as well as (socially distant) contact with others. Many food banks are low on supplies – how might we respond?

Fourth, yourselves. We will all have fears and concerns about families, friends and our own future. These are important concerns and need to be addressed – talk them through with someone you can trust and don't let such things cause you to spiral down. There are always people in our worshipping community who can provide practical help or simply listen and provide support.

Let us encourage one-another, remembering that the Church of God has depths of wisdom. We continue our journey through Lent following Jesus who isolated himself in the desert and emerged stronger from the demands of those 40 days. We know the stories of the earliest Christians living in acute political and economic uncertainty and through these times deepened their faith in the Christ who died, has risen and who will come again. Our own people have endured times of pandemic illness and have emerged from the shaking of social foundations with new life and with hope.

With my prayers and every blessing
Charles

All Saints Remains 'Open'



Despite the requirement that we do not hold 'Public Acts of Worship' All Saints will remain open for prayer, reflection and shelter.

The Archbishops' letter this week said:

"It is vital to observe strictly the protocols of hygiene and, where necessary, self-isolation and social distancing. This will not be public worship that everyone can attend, but an offering of prayer and praise for the nation and for the world. Please do of course keep the church buildings open for private prayer wherever possible as we know so many do all the time."



ALL SAINTS NEWS

EVENTS

Resources during the Suspension of Public Worship

There are a number of places on the internet which provide useful resources at these times:

- Morning and Evening Prayer: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>
- Eucharist: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/holy-communion#mm7c>
- Coronavirus Liturgy and Prayers: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

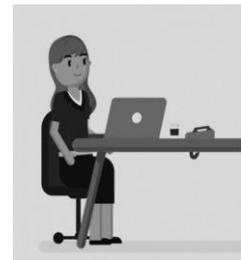
Fr Charles – Lent Retreat

Fr Charles is not taking his Lenten Retreat at Glasshampton Monastery (near Worcester) during the course of this week. The demands of the present situation, both in parish and Deanery, are such that remaining here and contactable is really important. Fr Charles says he's 'looking forward to a retreat when the sun will be shining, and the world has become more stable'.

All Saints Parish Office, Events and Groups



The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 20th March and Wendy will be working from home. If you would like to contact All Saints Office please e mail office@allsaintsclifton.org If you need support please contact Fr Charles on 0117 9078088



All events, groups and concerts will be postponed until further notice.

All the community groups in the Randall Room and concert organisers have already rebooked for later in the year or early next year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as possible.

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PRAYER

23	<p>Monday Pray for those who suffer from Tuberculosis (TB), those who care and nurse, and those who work in TB research. The majority of deaths (95% which equates to about 1.5 million people) occur in developing countries – pray for more effective health care in developing countries.</p>
24	<p>Tuesday Pray for all who suffer as a result of lung disease. Especially we think of Tuberculosis, a curable disease that goes uncured in very many parts of our world because there are not the resources. Pray also for all who are and have being suffering under the impact of the coronavirus.</p>
25	<p>Wednesday We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection</p>
26	<p>Thursday Harriet Monsell 1883 Pray for the Community of St John the Baptist (found by Harriet Monsell in 1852). Pray for the work of Ripon College Cuddesdon, the theological college where the sisters are now located, and its students and staff.</p>
27	<p>Friday Pray for those employed in the frozen food industry (techniques developed by Clarence Birdseye). Pray for those who are dependent upon simple meals frozen and stored at home because they are housebound for whatever reason.</p>
28	<p>Saturday “Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.” A A Milne. Pray for those members of society who seem to be ‘out of place’ – those for whom no one cares; those who are overlooked; those who are weeded out; those who don’t fit the plan.</p>
29	<p>Sunday</p> <p>Lent 5 Passiontide Begins</p> <p>Pray for the Christian Church throughout the world. Remember people of all denominations and of different expressions within these denominations. May we increasingly grow to understand what binds us is more important than that which separates us.</p>

